

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

Well Brethren, here we are in May and we still have not enjoyed very much Spring weather as far as warmth is concerned. Fear not, I know it will be appreciated when it arrives.

We are now approaching the completion of Official Visits and getting into Installations and that dreaded BBQ season many Lodges enjoy before the summer months' recess. A time of fellowship and social time that is important to all of us and welfare of our future. The opportunity to enjoy each other's company is a valued aspect of Masonry that should not be overlooked. To know and understand our brethren on a more personal level will benefit your own lives, your Lodge membership and thus Grand Lodge in general.

Recently a number of Seminars and Workshops have been conducted in various locations of the Grand Jurisdiction. In an effort to share many of the programs, Grand Lodge emphasizes these sessions will better inform our membership of different areas where Grand Lodge can offer support to them. I have heard there was good attendance to these gatherings in Mitchell, Chatham, Sault Ste. Marie, Ingleside, Waterloo and Belleville. Timmins has yet to happen in late May. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who attended for their own interest and personal development and then conveyed the information back to their membership, mutually benefitting their Lodge. Along with these seminars and workshops, the District Deputy Grand Masters Orientation Team has completed their seminars throughout the Province. For the most part these sessions were quite well attended. I congratulate those attendees for their interest and I know that there are always items presented in the workshops that will benefit the membership, particularly, those who aspire to move forward as candidates for District Deputy Grand Masters or District Secretary.

I have had the opportunity to recently visit a number of Grand Lodge Communications in other Jurisdictions. While we have the same Principles, as our Fraternal Brethren, every Grand Lodge has their own specific manner or process of conducting business. I was recently in Connecticut and New York and found they have basically the same issues we are challenged with here in Ontario. The differences were interesting to me but when you sit back and review their efforts, the results and tactics used

to correct or remedy a situation, are only marginally different. Some of the differences center around State laws vs the Charter of Rights of Canada that relates to the governance of the respective Grand Lodges. Many of the issues are similar but the mechanisms of how we amend them are not the same. While many of our Provincial and National statutes are to be respected you can imagine the situation in the USA where they deal with over 50 legislative bodies. This was a real eye opener for me but I have a better understanding after having some discussion with our American neighbours.

Brethren, as you now know or will very shortly know which Brethren are letting their names stand for elected Grand Lodge Office. I want to remind you there are certain courtesies we need to respect leading up the elections at our Grand Lodge Communication at the Royal York on July 19 and 20. There have been times when some people who favour a particular candidate have, on occasion, openly endorsed that individual. This is generally not well received because of the respectful manner we come to expect from one another when anyone allows their name to stand for an elected office. We are fortunate to have members who wish to let names stand and hopefully serve. To openly display your particular feelings in favour one candidate over another has two possible affects. First, it may create a negative connotation for your candidate for the actions displayed. Second, it may convince some delegates to support a candidate favourably which we, as Masons, frown upon promoting in a manner when most Masons look upon as less than even playing field. This has been an issue, many times, in past years. I sincerely ask that you conduct yourselves properly as men and Masons and uphold the integrity of our Grand Lodge.

For those who are so inclined to golfing and all other outdoor activities I can assure you the better weather is coming but, like the weather man, I can't predict how soon that might be.

Brethren, never be afraid to display the pride you have of being a Mason to those around you in your daily path of life.

*John C. Green
Grand Master*

From the Deputy ...

Brethren: Spring has finally sprung here in the Ottawa Valley - that is if you don't mind a couple of days of light snow.

All Committees of Grand Lodge will by now have prepared their reports for the Preliminary Proceedings and presentation to the Board of General Purposes for acceptance and recommendation to be presented at the Annual Communication for approval.

The composition of the Board of General Purposes is described in your copy of the 2015 Constitution Section 131. The President of the Board - the Deputy Grand Master - will call the Board meeting to order on Monday July 18th at 9:00am. The Board will then begin deliberations of the reports of the various Committees of Grand Lodge. The second session of the Board will convene again on Tuesday at 10:00am.

The Board of General Purposes meetings are open to all Masons for observation and a small number of seats often described as the "peanut gallery" are provided for your listening pleasure.

Your Lodge will by now have received a package from the Grand Secretary which contains valuable information regarding: those who are allowing their name to stand for various offices; time and location of District meetings; proposed amendments to the Constitution along with other general information. Also, you are reminded, this year, there are **FIVE VOTES ONLY** for Members of the Board of General Purposes. Please ensure you are aware of the material contained in the Grand Secretary's Information Package and you will have, my Brethren, made a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

This month I had the distinct privilege of attending the 34th Annual All Canada Conference of Grand and District Grand Lodges in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

This was, of course, my first time and I am pleased to report that it was a very productive and informative Conference. Several of the attendees, particularly the Brethren from Newfoundland & Labrador, had difficulty arriving due to a snow storm in their home Province but in time all, except the representative of the District Grand Lodge Scotland of Newfoundland & Labrador, made it safely to Winnipeg.

The first day and a half was spent listening and questioning the various Grand Masters as they updated the conference with what is working well and what are the more

challenging issues they were undertaking. It was very interesting that many issues were found to be in common with all the Grand Lodges.

The Deputy Grand Masters gave their reports based on a previously provided question and I paraphrase. "In your jurisdiction, what is considered Masonic Education, Ritual or Masonic Knowledge gained from a person or literature and how does your Jurisdiction support Masonic Education?"

Your Deputy advanced the discussion that both are Masonic Education and you can only imagine me expressing just how much our Grand Lodge supports Masonic Education. However, as was the case at the North American Conference of Grand Masters earlier this year, it was the breakout sessions which proved most informative. Four groups the Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Grand Secretaries and Observers were divided into separate break out groups.

Each group designated a scribe along with a presenter and tried to answer a previously proposed question. The question for the Deputies was "What do you see as the greatest opportunities facing Grand Lodges over the next five years and how do you propose we should take advantage of them"

After much discussion, where we learned a lot about each other and our Grand Lodges, the Deputies group was ready to answer the question. We looked at "greatest opportunities" from both a positive and negative view point and, in the end, our response was both informative and well thought out.

The Ancient Charges & Regulations:

Promise a regular attendance on the communication and committee of the Grand Lodge upon receiving proper notice.

Brethren, please remember that your support is needed at a Lodge Committee of General Purposes, a Lodge meeting and at Grand Lodge each year.

Paul E. Todd
Deputy Grand Master

"Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve." ~ George Bernard Shaw