

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master

Brethren, here we are in the merry month of May, hopefully with less rain than April. May is traditionally a busy time in many Lodges as Official Visits being completed and a number of Lodges are having their Elections and Installations. The Grand Master's Receptions are nearing completion with five more in May. In March, April and May we are attending sixteen Receptions throughout the Grand Jurisdiction. We have very much enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many Brethren and their spouses. It is great to renew old acquaintances and meet a number of Masons for the first time. It is also wonderful to be introduced to so many new Masons and view how proud they are of their membership in our fraternity. I am immensely impressed with their enthusiasm and optimism about being involved in Masonic activities whether it is degree work or social events. We must encourage and compliment these Brethren for their involvement, as we all know, they are our future.

I am continuing to be impressed with the number of Open Houses various Lodges are planning for June 3rd. A number of Lodges are working collectively, within their respective Masonic Centres, to open their doors to the community and showcase the many aspects of the Masonic family. It is good public relations when we open our portals to others and it helps the general public better understand every aspect of Freemasonry and the Concordant bodies. Brethren, we should proceed with pride to inform all those interested about principles by which we conduct ourselves as a moral and honourable institution.

By now all Lodges will have received the information and invitation to Grand Lodge Communication at the Royal York, the third week of July, in Toronto. It is my pleasure to invite as many as possible to join us on July 18th, 19th & 20th. This is an opportunity to attend the Grand Lodge business meetings, join some of seminars that might be of interest, sharing fellowship with many of the Brethren you know, as well as other Masons from all over the province. Meeting Masonic Brothers for the first time is always a memorable experience. You can exchange thoughts and initiatives that might assist other Lodges and you can gain the benefit of their successes that may be suitably applied to your Lodge and District. I would encourage you to consider attending the workshops

on Tuesday afternoon. There are a number of interesting topics that can benefit Masonry. The Brethren assigned to present these workshops have gone to extensive effort to provide timely topics that will better inform you of options that could be applied to situations in your respective Lodge.

I must also remind you of your conduct when attending Grand Lodge. For the most part we are an honourable fraternity, presenting ourselves in a proper manner but every once in a while our judgement goes astray. Noise, language and beverages in the halls are situations we have been called upon in previous times and asked to keep under control. Although a particular action may seem funny at the time, we should always remember the image we want to project to the public at large and conduct ourselves accordingly. You will have received information about the voting and what brethren are letting their names stand for election. I must remind you there should not be any campaigning for any candidate. Such activities are considered improper and can cause difficult situations that could get Grand Lodge involved to resolve a particular incident.

Be proud of who you are and conduct yourself accordingly. It will benefit you and will enhance our public image as honourable and upstanding citizens who are members of an important institution that promotes good will and happiness.

Brethren, I also want to remind you that time is running short to make a personal contribution to Prostate Hope the Grand Master's project for the past number of years. I have viewed the attractive certificates you can receive for contributions of \$200 and \$1000. Brethren, anything you can do to assist those who are striving to give our researchers necessary funding to continue their efforts to hopefully find a cure and comfort to those afflicted.

Brethren, we are good people living good lives and we should be bursting with pride and demonstrating to everyone as an example how to live life in a kind and distinguished manner and respect to others.

Talk to you in June

John C. Green
Grand Master

From the Deputy

Brethren, although we have had a very wet spring with the continuous rains of April, I have no doubt it has filled the rivers and lakes which were so low after a dry summer last year.

Spring is also the time of what we describe as the "April Mailings" from your Grand Lodge and by the time you read this Communiqué your Lodge will be in receipt of it and no doubt the Lodge Secretary will send it along to the Lodge Brethren and read the necessary notices in Lodge.

In the information package you will be reminded that, as you were last year, you vote for only **FIVE** Brethren for the Board of General Purposes. This year we will complete the reduction of our Board of General Purposes to a more efficient number of twenty five members. This is down from a high of thirty-five.

Along with starting times of the various Board and Grand Lodge meetings you will find the schedule for the different seminars, room locations and start times.

The Seminars & Workshop Committee has gone 'outside the box', this year, with a Seminar called ***"Music Resources and Construction & Function of a Pipe Organ"***. Sounds to me like a 'can't miss' one.

All these seminars listed in the information package are very informative and to most Brethren who go to Grand Lodge they are a must attend event.

You will also find in the information package the starting times and location of your District Voting rooms.

The report from the Constitution and Jurisprudence Committee as it relates to the Constitution amendments is also included in the package.

This year as in previous years several Brethren have allowed their names to stand for Grand Lodge offices, once again YOU have a responsibility to make yourself knowledgeable and then vote.

You will also find three documents which will be read in full at the next Lodge meeting; Candidate Behavior; Rules regarding Hospitality Suites and finally the Annual Direction & Guidelines about the use of alcohol in Masonic Buildings.

If you make yourself aware of the information contained in the Grand Secretary's Information Package (April mailing) then you will have, my Brother, made a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

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

The composition of the Board of General Purposes is described in your copy of the 2016 Constitution Section 131.

The Deputy Grand Master, President of the Board, will call the Board meeting to order on Monday, July 17, 2017 at 9:00 am and the Board will then begin deliberations of the reports of the various Committees of Grand Lodge. The second session of the Board will convene on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 10:00 am.

Section 16: Informs the Brethren that the Annual Meeting of Grand Lodge shall be convened in the forenoon of the third Wednesday in July and there will be a Thursday morning session.

All Masters & Past Masters are aware of and have promised the following at their Installation: The Ancient Charges & Regulations: In part reads: *"Promise a regular attendance on the communication and committees of the Grand Lodge upon receiving proper notice"*.

Grand Lodge needs your support at the Annual Communication. Hope to see you there.

As the Deputy of your Grand Lodge, I have just returned from the Thirty Fifth Annual Conference of Grand and District Grand Lodges of A.F & A.M. of Canada at the Hilton Winnipeg Airport Suites in Manitoba. All Canadian Grand Lodges were in attendance with the exception of Prince Edward Island who unfortunately find it difficult to attend with such a small membership base. Since there are two Jurisdictions in Newfoundland & Labrador, the District Grand Lodge of Scotland was also represented by their District Grand Master. Grand Secretaries of the several Grand Jurisdictions were in attendance along with their Deputy Grand Masters. Grand Sr. & Jr. Wardens with succession line-ups were observers including the Sovereign Grand Commander and Sovereign Grand Secretary-General of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite.

The first day and a half was spent listening and questioning the various Grand Masters as they updated the conference about their Grand Lodges on what was working well and issues they were working on.

The following reports were also received: the Grand Masters of North America Conference, the Grand Secretaries of North America Conference and the Western Canada Conference.

It was a very informative Conference with much discussion about common issues with informative direction being taken by Grand Lodge.

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

~ George Bernard Shaw

Paul E. Todd
Deputy Grand Master