

# THE COMMUNIQUE

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## ***From the Grand Master ...***

Brethren:

With Daylight Savings Time just around the corner and now with earlier sunrises and the sounds of the returning birds, it must be SPRING! Okay not yet but soon, I hope.

On the third Monday in February, the Grand Masters and many Deputy Grand Masters of all the Grand Lodges of North America (Canada, United States and Mexico) gathered to be part of the Conference of Grand Masters in North America. Many Canadian Lodges attended this event. This year was no exception with 7 Canadian Grand Masters, along with several Deputy Grand Masters, in attendance.

This year, the annual get together was on the Saturday before the Conference began. It was a "Tail Gate" party with over five hundred in attendance wearing their home team, baseball, football, hockey sweaters, Olympic sweaters and yes Lady Gloria and I proudly wore our Ottawa Senators sweaters. Sadly there were those in our party who, for reasons that are not known, showed up in fierce rival shirts. Sad really!!

The opening day, on Sunday, began with a personal Religious Observance, followed by the Conference Call to Order at 10:00am. After introductions, and three national anthems, several committees of the Conference gave their annual reports, the last one being the nomination committee. As result of that report only one office was contested. The election then took place for the Conference Executive Secretary-Treasurer with Michael A. DeWolf, PGM from Wisconsin, being successful. Grand Masters and their Ladies, Deputy Grand Masters and their Ladies along with Grand Wardens and their Ladies attended separate luncheons on Monday giving the individual groups an opportunity to meet new friends and discuss activities related to their offices.

After lunch the Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Wardens met separately to continue discussions, while the Grand Masters received reports from the George Washington Memorial Association, the National Masonic Foundation for Children and the Confedeacion Masonica Interamericana (CMI). The rest of Sunday afternoon was taken up with three groups and went into breakout sessions: Data Base Management with Database suppliers; The Reality of Lodge Finances with M.W. Bro. Lorenzo E. Tibbitt GM Utah; Millennial Apprentices - The Next Revolution with Samuel Friedman.

Monday was a special day for more than 100 Ladies, who attended the Conference with their husbands. It was an all day tour of three wineries and according to the Ladies the tour was an outstanding success. Monday also was the start of the Grand Secretaries Conference of North America which runs at the concurrently each year with the Grand Master's conference. This year's President is our own M.W. Bro. Terence Shand. After the Monday Call to Order, several reports were received. The Masonic Renewal given by M.W. Bro. Patton R. Hart, PGM

Kentucky and from this year's President of Masonichip International, M.W. Bro. Casey L. Hood, GM Tennessee. The rest of the morning were breakout sessions: Lodge Security - W. Bro. Deputy Sheriff Duane Burgess; Social Media - DGM R.W. Bro. William M. Sardone, New York; Generation Differences & Expectations - Matthew R. Nelson, Utah; Youth Organizations - Youth Leaders.

The lunch speaker was the Grand Secretary of California, Bro. Allan Casalou. He presented a very interesting talk on the Philalethes Society, a Masonic research group and spoke of generational comparisons ,of how and where we have met over the years and perhaps returning to earlier years.

Monday afternoon session reports were received from the Masonic Service Association – MW. Bro. Simon LaPlace PGM Executive Secretary followed by talks from several Youth Leaders.

The Deputy Grand Masters, along with the Senior Grand Wardens and Junior Grand Wardens, then met in peer group sessions, which was followed by social hour for all and a banquet in the evening.

Tuesday at the Conference always begins early with the Shrine International at the Frank S. Land Shrine Breakfast. This year we celebrated 99 years of DeMolay with Imperial Sir Bergenske and an excellent talk by the Master Counsellor International.

Tuesday Session Call to Order we heard the report of the Time & Place Committee of which I am a member. We reviewed applicants for February of 2022 and unfortunately due to perhaps cost, size and the time of the year, two applications, who were received, withdrew. However all is not lost. At the end of the main conference a new applicant came forward and we will consider his proposal at next year's convention in Rapid City South Dakota. When the Committee on Recognition Report was received, unfortunately I was busy at my meeting and missed the results. They will become known once the report is received at our Grand Lodge.

Final breakout session filled in the rest of Tuesday morning - Temple Associations – M.W. Bro. Scott Thomas GM Arizona; Re-Districting/Consolidation and a Grand Ladies Panel Discussion with Janice Yankey and Debbie Dreier. Shortly after these sessions there was a Benediction and Closing of the Convention. An excellent banquet concluded the Conference.

Your Grand Master certainly advanced his Masonic Knowledge.

I leave you with this:

***If You Are Not Willing To Learn, No One Can Help You,  
If You Are Determined To Learn, No One Can Stop You  
~ Anonymous***

***Paul E.Todd  
Grand Master***

## ***From the Deputy***

Brethren,

A decade ago M.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels had a vision to create a Centre to encourage research into the significant impact fraternalism in general and Freemasonry in particular have made on our society here in Canada and throughout the world.

The Centre was mandated to achieve its purpose in three phases:

Phase 1 To initiate a series of annual lectures by world renowned and local Masonic scholars with an option for periodic multi-day conferences

Phase 2 The establishment of an endowed fund to financially assist students in the study of Masonry

Phase 3 The establishment of an endowed Chair for Masonic studies at Brock University

The first fruit of this dream was an annual lecture series, named in honour of R.W. Bro. Charles A. Sankey (1905-2009). Dr. Sankey served as Chancellor of Brock University from 1969 to 1974. A renowned Masonic scholar, his extensive collection of rare Masonic books and papers is in the Special Collections of the James Gibson Library at Brock, providing a rich resource for research scholars and students.

Several attempts were made at running a multi-day conference but unfortunately they all fell through. We have now negotiated with Brock University to establish an endowed fund to provide scholarships to assist graduate students in the study Freemasonry and fraternalism. Through a government program, Brock has obtained matching funds to double the value of the endowment.

Although we are far from establishing a Chair, progress has been made on that front as well, as due to our involvement with the University, they have established a course on Freemasonry and fraternalism.

This year's Sankey lecture will be given by Dr. William D. Moore of Boston University. Like M.W. Bro. Daniels, Prof. Moore is a Renaissance man, having researched not only Masonry and fraternalism but also

the history of surfing, the Shakers, folk art, and vernacular architecture.

He has been Executive Director of the Enfield Shaker Museum in New Hampshire, a private, non-profit museum village complex consisting of eight historic structures, woodlands, fields, and gardens. I have actually visited that museum and found it to be fascinating.

Dr. Moore has also been Director of the Chancellor Robert R. Livingston Masonic Library and Museum of the Grand Lodge of New York, on West 23<sup>rd</sup> Street in Manhattan.

Two of his prominent publications are: *Masonic Temples: Freemasonry, Ritual Architecture, and Masculine Archetypes* (University of Tennessee Press, 2006). Paperback edition released 2014. William D. Moore and Mark A. Tabbert, eds. *Secret Societies in America: Foundational Studies of Fraternalism* (Cornerstone Book Publishers, 2011).

This year's Sankey lecture will be given on Sunday April 15, 2018 at 3 p.m. in the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre at Brock University. Dr. Moore will speak on Catechism, Spectacle, Burlesque: American Fraternal Ritual Performance, 1733-1933.

Tickets are required, but to enable university students to be exposed to this exemplary speaker program, they will be free. Tickets are available at <https://sankeylecture2018.eventbrite.com>.

More information on the Sankey Lecture Series can be found at [www.sankeylectures.ca](http://www.sankeylectures.ca).

***David J. Cameron  
Deputy Grand Master***