

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

Brethren, the months of May and June, in many parts of our Grand Jurisdiction, is the time of Installations where each Lodge thanks the Masons who have conducted the business of the Lodge be it the ceremonial or business side and to that end your Grand Master also thanks them.

However, this is not a time for the “new” Past Master to step aside. He has spent a year in charge and he knows what works well in his Lodge and what doesn't work well and probably has ideas on how to fix what doesn't work well. So, with a little diplomacy, he can make himself available to the new Master and give him a heads up on what needs improvement and also what is working well.

The worst thing that could happen, in my opinion, is that he leaves office and disappears with all his knowledge.

At the District level, we also begin the process of ending the year of service of the District Deputy Grand Masters. The District Deputy Grand Master, who only a few short months ago, may have been wondering if he could ever make it through the Masonic year, now has much information.

He had seen the good, the bad and perhaps the ugly in his District. He has written reports summarizing the work of his District, has tried to help those Lodges needing help and has praised those who have done outstanding work.

Your Grand Lodge is also preparing to hold its Annual communication soon, it is an opportunity for those eligible voting Brethren to exercise their democratic right however such is not always the case.

“My vote means nothing,” says a Brother. My response as a Brother, who has faced many elections in Masonry, for close to twenty years, be it to be Master of the Lodge, District Deputy Grand Master of the District, Deputy Grand Master and then Grand Master is simply to say your **vote counts. All votes count!**

It is your chance to shape Masonry in Ontario at all levels, I urge you to exercise your responsibility and vote.

My remarks to the outgoing District Deputy Grand Masters are exactly the same as to the outgoing Master with this notation, your knowledge is perhaps more important since it involves the

management and direction of this Grand Lodge via your District.

You **MUST NOT** walk out the front doors of Grand Lodge with all the knowledge of what works, what doesn't work. You **MUST** keep involved with Masonry.

Shortly you will sit across the table from the several Committee Chairman of this Grand Lodge, pick a Committee you would be interested in and then go and talk to that Chairman, tell him why you want to be part of the Team. Yes, it's true he may not pick you for his Committee this year but believe me there is a pretty good chance the Chairman may be looking for new members.

To those Brethren who are eligible to vote - remember - if you are annoyed with the way Grand Lodge works and you have a better idea; well then, this is your opportunity to make a change. Perhaps, a change for the better.

Make yourself acquainted with those Brethren who have allowed their name to stand, for the different positions, and go to the Grand Lodge website where those same Brothers have written pieces for you to read. You will find out who they are and what they will do to make our Grand Lodge better.

My travels this month have given me an opportunity to witness how other Grand Lodge Jurisdictions conduct an Annual Communication. It also gives me an opportunity to hear how they are solving issues, similar to ours. I can tell you our problems are very much the same as theirs, however our successes in my opinion are far ahead of some Jurisdictions.

Brethren enjoy this time of renewal in Lodge, your District and Grand Lodge. Please attend Grand Lodge and if eligible, please vote and remember the following.

“The difference between democracy and dictatorship is that in democracy you vote first then take orders, in a dictatorship you skip the vote” ~ Charles Bukowski (German-American poet)

***Paul Todd
Grand Master***

From the Deputy ...

Brethren,

What can you learn at the Annual Communication?
Lots!

On the afternoon of Tuesday, July 17, 2018 starting at 1:30 there will be a series of seminars which are open to all.

Do you ever encounter conflict in your life? In your Lodge? Learn how to better deal with this from the Leadership Development Committee as they do a presentation on Conflict Resolution.

Want to learn more about the Cornerstone Project? If last month's Communique piqued your interest, come hear the Cornerstone Team expound on this excellent activity.

Do you have children or grandchildren? Do you have young people in your neighbourhood? Masonry has organizations for them, which the Youth Initiatives Committee can tell you about. Better still, young people from these organizations can fill you in. You will be amazed.

What are these L forms and this report card? And what has Grand Lodge learned about the Condition of Masonry in Ontario? The CoM Committee will explain all!

Is your Lodge financially sound? Are you sure? Do you know how to tell? Does Grand Lodge have any tips for you? Of course! The Lodge Finances Committee will give a seminar and answer your questions.

Okay, what about insurance? Is your Lodge covered? Is your Temple covered? Are you covered? Many think they are, but they're not! What is non-owned auto insurance and is it important? Bro. Dayle Semple will explain.

So, your Lodge is lucky enough to have a lot of investments. Are they in the bank or GICs? Can you do better? Marcia Wisniewski, the advisor of Grand Lodge's investment portfolio, will show you how your Lodge or Temple can take advantage of professional money management with Grand Lodge's new Investment Account.

What exactly is the Role of the Worshipful Master? The Seminar and Workshops Committee have developed a new presentation that they will be premiering at the Tuesday seminars.

Have you heard about the Five Steps to Application? How should we deal with applicants whom we don't know? The Brother to Brother Team will go over this guideline with you.

And there will be an on-going seminar on Computer Resources which are available free of charge for your Lodge.

And don't forget all that you will learn from your brethren in the break times and hospitality suites. Sharing stories from across the province, and if you are lucky, from across the world.

But there's more! What more? Want to know how the Board of General Purposes works? Come and watch us on Monday and Tuesday mornings. There is a gallery for interested Brethren. Be the first to know who wins the awards and which Lodges have qualified for the Cornerstone designation. And what about the Masonic Foundation and MASONICH.I.P.? They have their annual meetings there too.

Have you ever seen the parade of officers, guests and visitors at the opening of Grand Lodge? I can tell you that on my travels the foreign Grand Masters rave about the pomp and circumstance of our opening. If you can, get there early on Wednesday to watch the parade. Then stay for the Grand Master's address. Well worth it. (wear a jacket and tie and bring your apron. If you are a Worshipful Master, make sure to bring your collar and get there before 8:20 am so you can be in the parade!).

On Wednesday evening, the guest speaker at the Grand Master's Banquet will be W. Bro. Andrew Hammer, a force for renewal in Masonry in Canada, the United States and Britain. He is a wonderful speaker and if you haven't heard him, it is well worth the price of the dinner. Even if you have heard him, it's still worth the price. Get your tickets from your DDGM or the Grand Lodge Office.

And the final day, Thursday, what is there to see? Well, the investiture of your new District Deputy Grand Master! You'll want to be there for that.

Come on down and enjoy yourself and learn something in the process!

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