

# THE COMMUNIQUE

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

Another trip around the universe has begun with a new slate of promises made as the ball in Times Square ended its yearly trip down the pole to much celebration in Times Square.

The daily advancement of Masonic knowledge for your Grand Master continued in December with his attendance at the Communication of the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise in Paris France.

The one hundred and seven Grand Lodges of the world, mainly from Europe, Africa, South America, that were in attendance gave great knowledge to your Grand Lodge, most of which was created by meeting and exchange information with the Grand Lodge Officers of the world.

Unfortunately, our time in Paris was interrupted by what we first believed to be protesters, however as the Saturday wore on they would be better described as rioters. Our hotel was a block or two away from the scene and the air was filled with smoke and the sounds of sirens, which persisted until after mid-night.

Three buses containing the wives of the Conference delegates, including your Grand Master's wife, were on the street when the riot started and were prevented from travelling to a comic opera on other side of Paris.

The rioters used the steel grates from around the trees. They threw the grates out on to the street stopping the buses. The Ladies return back to the hotel. The organizers then decided to go by the underground Metro, however on their return trip later that day the Metro was blocked and eventually the Ladies finally returned safely, to the hotel by several Uber drivers.

The Grand Lodge Communication was not interrupted since it was a fair distance from the rioters and after introductions of the many Delegations the Installation of the new Grand Master took place without incident.

Your Grand Lodge has gained much Masonic knowledge in our visits to GLNF which I consider a doorway to the Grand Lodges of Europe. Let me give you an example of one of those benefits.

Recently, this knowledge made a significant difference to the daughter of an Ontario Mason travelling in a European country. The daughter was travelling with a friend who became very sick and was hospitalized.

The Mason's daughter immediately called her Dad back home, to see if he could help, since they were not able to understand

the language and were very concerned about the health of the sick girl. Her dad contacted Grand Lodge via his personal friend - our Grand Director of Ceremonies - and within several hours the Grand Secretary of the day contacted the Grand Master of that country, in the middle of the night, to make a personal request for assistance.

Within a few hours, a Grand Lodge officer of that Grand Lodge was at the bedside of the sick girl, with support for both travellers. He was able to interpret the Doctors health concerns to the girls and assured them that soon all would be well. Several days later when it came time to leave hospital, the Masonic Brother drove the two girls to the airport.

We all should be proud of a world-wide Masonic Fraternity whose philosophy and concern relieved the stress and worry of a Mason's daughter at her time of need in a foreign country.

In my visits to Lodges and at receptions for the last three years, first as Deputy Grand Master and now as Grand Master, I have in my talks laid out a blue print regarding the structure of our Grand Lodge which once had over 100,000 members and now has around 33,000 members.

In our Lodges, we have a model of management where each year a Brother can be elected to a position and hopefully the next year he then is elected to the next senior position and eventually, all things considered, he will be the Master of the Lodge.

The Brother may begin his journey by being appointed, so by a system of appointed and elected positions, the Lodge has a Management Team which have been together for five or six years.

Most Grand Lodges in North America use a system of appointed to begin and elected to continue so that on being elected Grand Master, he has been part of a Management Team for at least five years or more.

My first step in my Blueprint for our Grand Lodge is to create an atmosphere of consistency and continuity by creating a Management Team which works together via appointment and election for at least five years.

Let me ask you this question: If best practise tells us it works well in our Lodges, then I believe it would work well in our Grand Lodge.

***If we are willing to Learn and not Change - No one can help us!***

***If we are willing to Learn and Change -Then no one can stop us!***

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

## ***From the Deputy ...***

Brethren,

As we turn over the calendar to a new year, we are enjoined to replace the batteries in our smoke alarms. We do this for the safety of ourselves, our families and our guests. Similarly, every three years we get a fire inspection done on our Lodge buildings. This Masonic year (2018-2019) the Lodges of Districts starting with A to Ont are due. Tracking this is one of the things that the Lodge Buildings Committee does. They also advise on the set-up of new Lodge rooms to make sure they meet our requirements. And this year we have asked them to look into how the new accessibility legislation might impact us. If your Lodge is in the group that is due for an inspection this year, please get started on that first thing in the new year. If you are in the group that is not due, it's still a good idea to change the batteries.

The Lodge Building Committee is just one part of the Operations Committee. Under our Strategic Plan the Operations Committee's Strategic Initiative is to ensure that the operations and governance of Grand Lodge, Districts and Lodges are effective, sustainable and efficient. Their present focus is managing current assets and operations, but their future focus is preparing for future growth and expanded services.

The Audit and Finance Committee ably keeps track of the Grand Lodge assets and, with the Grand Treasurer, plans and budgets for the future.

The Lodge Finance Committee has expanded its capabilities this year with an impressive number of financial, legal and accounting experts. They are able to help Lodges, Districts and Temples with many problems that may arise. The Condition of Masonry Committee (in a different pillar but we all work together) is receiving numerous requests via the L forms which they pass on to this and other teams as requested. So far, some of the things the Lodge Finance Committee has helped with are Tax Filing Matters, HST, Temple Management, Amalgamations, Sale and Purchase of Properties, Going Dark, and Budgetary and Forecasting Issues. Please use their expertise. As well as responding to individual requests, they give seminars and put out newsletters.

The Benevolence Committee continues to help individuals in a private and discrete manner. If you

or your Lodge know of a brother in need please refer to the Benevolence Booklet and Application. Both are available for download from the Grand Lodge Web Site.

Although the Strategic Planning Committee has its own pillar in the Strategic Plan, we have organized it under Operations since it fits nicely there. Their Strategic Initiative is to deliver our Strategic Plan with methods and practices that will encourage harmony among the brethren while simultaneously delivering on the critical objectives of our Strategy with efficiency and precision. To that end they are developing a program to encourage.

*Strategic Action*, providing a series of intermediate steps between where we are today and where Grand Lodge envisions the Craft in the future.

Since I seem to have space still, I will touch on a few Committees which are not under the jurisdiction of the DGM and the Management Committee. Most of them are comprised of the Past Grand Masters. The Ritual Committee oversees our rituals, including not only The Ritual, but also Memorial Services, Amalgamation Ceremonies and the like. The Awards Committee reviews the submissions for the William Mercer Wilson medal. The Fraternal Relations Committee keeps its collective eye on emerging Grand Lodges around the world and recommends whom we should recognize. The Discipline Committee, chaired by our Privacy Officer, deals with these sensitive issues. And lastly, the Constitution and Jurisprudence Committee reviews any constitutional amendments to see that they are regular and in the best interest of the Craft.

This is the Operations Pillar, the Strategic Planning Pillar and the Stand-alone Committees reporting to the Grand Master. You can see how much work goes into simply "operating" Grand Lodge, and that doesn't even touch on all that is done by the office staff!

Now go change those batteries.

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