

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

Brethren,

Thank you for electing me as your Grand Master. It is a great honour and I feel a great responsibility to deliver on what I have been preaching for the last few years.

My motto for my term is going to be "Freemasonry: the once and future thing", or in Latin, as all good mottos should be "Res quondam resque futurus". I have adapted this from Sir Thomas Mallory's book about King Arthur, published in 1485. I just changed a couple letters, in each language.

I thought about using "Back to the Future" but that is copyrighted and evokes visions of DeLoreans and flying skateboards. And it is not what I mean. While we should, indeed must, embrace it, technology alone will not save us. We must look back to what our forefathers did when Freemasonry was smaller but growing.

In 1905 we had 35,000 Masons in 386 lodges. We had 22 districts, a Board of 20, and nine Grand Lodge Committees. We now have less than 33,000 Masons but we still have a superstructure built for over 100,000.

During this cold winter of disillusionment, we must prune before we can grow strong again. We need to prune Grand Lodge, Districts, Lodges, even our individual activities. We cannot continue to burn ourselves out trying to be all things to all people. We must concentrate on the quintessence of Freemasonry.

We have a template for achieving this. It's called the Strategic Plan. It surprises me that it is so relevant because it was first written almost a decade ago, or maybe I shouldn't be surprised. The four themes still apply: we want to ensure the timeless vitality of Freemasonry; we need to reaffirm the Lodge room as the dynamic centre of Masonry; we will rebuild our Craft one man at a time; and we must align Freemasonry's timeless value to today's modern culture.

One of my favourite quotations is from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the aviator, philosopher, and yes, children's author: "When you want to build a boat, don't start by collecting wood, cutting planks and assigning tasks, but instead awaken in the hearts of men a desire for the great and vast sea."

In my speeches, including this one, I hope to achieve this. But we also have to continue the actions started by my predecessors.

Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the famous organist who became a physician and then went to Africa as a medical missionary, once said: "Example is not the **best** way to influence others; it's the **only** way."

So we're setting an example by *restoring* Grand Lodge to the right size.

This year we will further reduce the number of Committees. The core pillar committees will be chaired by members of the Management Committee and made up predominantly of the members of the Board of General Purposes. They will, using the Strategic Plan, decide what activities and programs we will use, share them with Management, and only then start to recruit the Brethren with the skills needed to implement them. We are going to put the horse in front of the cart.

Those are *my* goals for Grand Lodge – the practical and the inspirational - to lead by example, and to awaken in your hearts a desire for the great thing that Freemasonry was, and can be again – the once and future thing.

Let's make it happen.

David J. Cameron
Grand Master

From the Deputy ...

My Brethren:

It is with the greatest of pleasure and pride that I greet you for the first time as Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in the Province of Ontario! My sincere thanks to each one of you who attended our last Annual Communication to confirm this election. It is a great responsibility that I humbly except and, with your continued support and encouragement, feel confident that we can continue to make Freemasonry the greatest experience that men can share. I want to thank every Brother who has mentored me over the last thirty-nine plus years of my Masonic career and especially those who were there for Cheryl and I over the last year.

As President of the Board of General Purposes and with the support of our Grand Master, the first task we have as a Management Team and, in cooperation with the Management Committee of your Board General Purposes, is to put a Committee structure in place to deliver the programs of our Grand Lodge with the proper manning as needed.

For the coming year, all Committees have been grouped under the five pillars of our Strategic Plan, each headed by a member of the Management Committee: Craft Stewardship and Masonic Education by R.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland; Membership by R.W. Bro. John Hay; Communication by R.W. Bro. Tom Siemiernik; Operations by R.W. Bro. Richard Kaufman and Community Outreach by R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco. It is an excellent collection of very dedicated Masons and a good mix of veterans plus the latter two new Management Committee members. The Strategic Plan is on the Grand Lodge web site and I would highly recommend it for your review.

The Grand Lodge Committees are divided into two groups – the Standing Committees are the nine which are detailed in the Constitution under Section 135 and their powers and duties under Section 136. The second are the Special Committees that have been created over time to facilitate special programs for the support of Masonry in Ontario. This number has mushroomed over the years to the extent that at one Board meeting we heard thirty-eight different reports from a dedicated line-up of Chairman and Team Leaders.

This year will continue the recent trend in downsizing with the Grand Lodge Committees too.

We have asked the Pillar Chairman to review all of the Grand Lodge programs with the exception of the Standing Committees listed in the Constitution and decide if they should continue as is, be revised or dropped if their time has passed and to continue them would not assist us in achieving our strategic goals and objectives.

The renewal process started at our first short Board meeting on Wednesday night after the Grand Master's Banquet at the last Annual Communication when the Board of General Purposes was asked to look at the 'big picture' of Grand Lodge Committee structure with a direction to think about downsizing. A week later, the Management Committee received Pillar responsibilities for program execution and reporting. At the same time, they were told which other members of the Board would be on their Committees to assist with the brainstorming and then delivery of the same. Shortly after, all of the Board members were informed as to which Pillar they would be serving under this year, including the Chairmen of the Standing Committees.

Then the Committees all met with the same renewal objective to make a case for each of the Committees staying as such or shutting them down as unnecessary to meet our strategic goals and objectives at this time. Just because we have run a program for years, does not necessarily mean we should continue. If it has not been productive, perhaps it should be stopped. And we are sure there are some new ideas we should try. Each pillar has been charged with working out a plan and a budget to complete that plan of which the Management Committee will be meeting to decide how to move forward.

We are planning on fewer Committees than in years past but exactly how it will look will be determined after the Pillar Chairman have met with their respective teams and the Management Committee meets in mid-August.

Now I know you will want to tune in next month to follow the renewal of your Committee of General Purposes and the Grand Lodge programs so be sure to look for the next edition!

***Thomas W. Hogeboom
Deputy Grand Master***

From the Grand Secretary ...

Congratulations!

Brethren, I offer you sincere congratulations on helping to create a successful Annual Communication this past July.

Because of past incidents, we needed to establish several new policies related to Hospitality Suites this year. I am extremely pleased to report that those Brethren in attendance at the Annual Communication took those new policy guidelines seriously and wholeheartedly supported them.

The number of incidents reported to hotel security was significantly reduced from prior years and the Fairmont Royal York was very pleased with our efforts. This year, the Fairmont Royal York Hotel was glad to have welcomed the Masons of Ontario to downtown Toronto. We turned things around this year. Let's make those efforts permanent.

The Group Booking Code for the FRYH for July 2020 is GRAN0720_001.

***D. Garry Dowling, PGM
Grand Secretary***