

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

*I have just three things to teach:
Simplicity, patience, compassion.
These are your greatest treasures.
- Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching*

Brethren,

I had written a Communiqué message only a few weeks ago with suggestions on re-opening, however as of the time of writing, the Province has paused the exit from the Roadmap to Reopen and we remain in Step 3. I don't know when we will resume the exit plan and be able to lift the moratorium on in-person meetings, so it doesn't seem appropriate to publish that message at the moment; I will save it for later.

There however are some simple things you can still do:

I ask that you continue to reach out and greet your brethren, by phone, by email, or even by post. Call your mentor and have a chat. Lodge officers should divide up the membership list and call EVERY brother so they know they are remembered and appreciated. Keep the list so you can call them again to invite them to lodge when we do return to labour. Call the men on your waiting list. Call the widows of your lodge.

Continue to sign in to videoconferences. There are many that occur regularly. Check the events calendar on the Grand Lodge website to find an interesting one. If you are planning one, make sure it gets on that calendar by contacting the Seminars and Workshops Committee at Rickcadotte@hotmail.com.

Form a column of mutual defence against the pandemic by following all the provincial, municipal and Masonic guidelines. Please don't try to bend the rules/get around them. Look to the spirit of the law; it is there to protect us all.

Keep your brethren in your thoughts and prayers. Extend compassion to those who are lonely and those who are overworked, those who are suffering and those who are trying to relieve it, those who are at high risk and those who are vaccine hesitant. As M.W. Bro. John Green has often said, "In a world where you can be anything, be kind".

Think twice before posting on Social Media. Name calling and vicious "discussion" does nothing to uphold a brother's honour, nor that of the Craft.

Have Patience. We will rise up again. Make the best of the present. Stay safe.

*David J. Cameron
Grand Master*

*As torrents in summer, Half dried in their
channels,
Suddenly rise, tho' the sky is still
cloudless.
For rain has been falling.
Far off at their fountains;*

*So hearts that are fainting Grow full to
o'erflowing,
And they that behold it, Marvel, and know
not
That God at their fountains
Far off has been raining!
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

From the Deputy ...

My Brethren:

The last time we were preparing The Communique, I was hoping the next one would be able to scream WELCOME BACK!!! – speaking of our Lodge meetings. It is now looking like we will have to settle for welcome back to The Communique and our Lodge virtual meetings.

What we need to be doing now in preparation of going back to Lodge is to communicate the expectations and what we can each do in preparation for that happy day.

One of the most important jobs during this period falls on the Grand Lodge Mentoring Committee and the new class of District Deputy Grand Masters. The task of the Grand Lodge Mentoring Committee has not changed in the last two years and that is to assure every Lodge has the properly trained Mentors and the tools so that every level of the membership has the proper training to perform his job – from the Worshipful Master to the man off the street who has shown an interest in Masonic membership.

One of the key instructions to the new DDGMs is to be the lightning rod of this objective in every District. They have been asked to meet with the outgoing DDGM to obtain all his knowledge of the District Mentoring that has taken place in the previous two years. This will include the work of the District Mentor and the Roving Mentor(s). It will also include an update on the mentoring endeavours of each of the Lodges in his District.

They will be compiling a list of all the Lodge Mentors in the District by Lodge with their contact information and adding to this list any brothers in the Lodges who would seem to have the qualification and interest in Mentoring.

If the previous District Mentor is continuing, there is to be a discussion with him about the plan and procedures for the coming year. If he is capable and performing in the role, he has been asked to continue in the role. It is important that the appointment of Mentors is well considered and not just given to a friend with a passing interest or future ambition. If the former District Mentoring Chair was not wanting to continue, every attempt is to be made to find the best qualified replacement in the District, and to consider any others who could serve as Roving Mentors for the region.

The first and most important task of the District Mentor is to liaise with his Roving Mentors and as

quickly as possible get to work with the Lodges. The District Mentor is to ensure that every Lodge in their District has a capable and active Mentor(s) appointed and that he has their contact information to communicate directly with the Mentoring Material (including previous copies if he is new to the job) and be advised of District Mentoring and Mentoring Committee events that he ought to attend. If you are a part of this team, you have probably already been in touch with W. Bro. Joe Johnson, Mentoring Committee Communications, (joej@ca.ibm.com) who has been charged with communications for the Grand Lodge Mentoring team. Please rest assured that the protection of your contact information is in good hands and you can trust with confidence that such information will only be used for Mentoring communication.

You need to keep in mind that the role of the Mentoring Committee is to Mentor the Mentors at every level in our structure – Candidates and Officers. The Mentoring Structure can only achieve that with the DDGMs on board. And they will only be successful with your support and cooperation.

The success of our return to Lodge and the future of the Craft lies firmly in the hands of how well the Enquirers, Candidates, Officers and in fact, entire Lodges are Mentored.

V.W. Bro. Stephen Maizels (mentorgrc@gmail.com) has been a work horse since assuming the Chairmanship of the Grand Lodge Mentoring Committee, regularly producing communications to assist the team in their task. The team has had regular Mentoring communications and Mentoring Structure virtual meetings to keep the team informed and engaged. The virtual meetings are not lecturing but rather are open meetings with some very good exchange of ideas. The Grand Lodge Mentoring Committee is available to assist Districts and Lodges by conducting or providing material for virtual presentations which are always highly entertaining and informative. They can be a District Event or for a Lodge that can assemble a reasonable attendance (including other Lodges or Enquirers to Freemasonry).

All you have to do is ask and we will help you be a success!

*Thomas W. Hogeboom
Deputy Grand Master*

From the Grand Secretary ...

Brethren,

Resumption of labor:

A repeat of the August 11, 2021 directive that is still in force:

“The moratorium on indoor meetings will end if and only if we go into the Provincial Exit Step, or September 01, whichever comes LATER.”

As of this writing it appears that the Provincial Exit Step will NOT happen by September 01.

Thus, with the continuance of the Masonic lockdown there are several important reminders.

Outdoor Masonic Events:

The Province is presently permitting outdoor gatherings of larger numbers.

However, please be aware that ALL health regulations must be observed – over and above masking and social distancing.

You are encouraged to read the information found at this link:

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200364>

We suggest that you pay particular attention to Schedule 1 items 2.(3)(a) [signs] and 3.3(1)[Safety Plan], and Schedule 3 item 1[numbers limit].

Contact tracing should also be a key factor in holding any such event at the present time.

Finally, **dispensation is required** for outdoor gatherings of Masons (with or without regalia).

Book of Constitution: Sec.143. Except at Masonic Memorial Services, no public procession or function of the brethren as Masons, with or without regalia, shall be allowed to take place, without a dispensation from the Grand Master.

Masonic Memorial Services:

Please remember that, regrettably, the holding of Masonic Memorial Services is still not permitted.

Long Service Pins:

Our office staff will once again start to receive requests for long service pins. Appropriate care must be taken to obey all local health regulations if these pins are to be presented in-person. Please remember that presently indoor Masonic gatherings are not permitted.

Fraternally, Garry

*D. Garry Dowling
Grand Secretary*