

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

Dorothy: A man made out of tin!

Tin Man: mhmm.

D: Did you say something?

TM: owil kn

D: He said "oil can".

Scarecrow: Oilcan what?

D: Oil can. Oh, here it is. Where do you want to be oiled first?

TM: Ma mth

S: He said "his mouth".

TM: Ma, ma, ma, my goodness. I can talk again.

D: How did you ever get like this?

TM: Well, about a year ago, I was chopping that tree when suddenly it began to rain. And right in the middle of a chop, I rusted solid and I've been this way ever since.

[His companions apply oil and move his joints around until they start to work.]

Dorothy: Well, you're perfect now.

- The Wizard of Oz, MGM

Brethren,

Two years ago we were all hit by a sudden, unexpected change: the COVID pandemic and the need to suspend our Masonic ritual work. We had been so smooth and practiced. And then suddenly, it all stopped. Although there were some who, during the time off, got out their books and rehearsed by themselves, most of us did not speak a lick of ritual for almost two years.

I'm sure L. Frank Baum did not have a pandemic in mind when he wrote *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. And he was not a Mason. But his grandfather, John P. Baum, was a member of Syracuse Lodge No. 102 (now 501), Grand Lodge of New York. So were his great uncles, Daniel and Isaac. His cousin, Artemus, was a charter member of Centerville Lodge No. 648. And his father, Benjamin Ward Baum, owned a bank which was a tenant in the Syracuse Lodge building.

So he had contact with Masons. As for the movie, Louis B. Mayer (the final "M" in MGM) and Bert Lahr, who played the Cowardly Lion, were Masons. And so was Frank "Buddy" Ebsen Jr., the actor first cast to play the Tin Man until he had an allergic reaction to the makeup.

Dorothy (from *doron* = gift and *theos* = God) brings together three imperfect creatures to help each other improve themselves. They go on a quest together and in the end each finds the treasure they sought. Courage, Wisdom, Brotherly Love, and as in the English Tyler's toast "a safe return to their native country, if they so desire it."

It was with the help of his fellow travellers that the Tin Man is able to speak and move again. And so it is with us. We are rusty. We will need to say our lines out loud and go through our paces with our brethren before we can become perfect again.

It's okay to be rusty – it's an opportunity to tune up your work. If you haven't gotten the new edition *Book of the Work* yet, order one as there are some changes in the first degree. Learn a new piece so you can be a back-up in case the brother who usually does that feels sick and stays home until better (the new normal). Encourage the brother you mentor to learn a piece too.

Brethren, with practice and each other's imperfect help, we will all become proficient again. This is a road we now need to follow. Let us walk it humbly with our brothers.

David J. Cameron
Grand Master

From the Deputy ...

My Brethren:

As we begin our preparations for the next Annual Communication, I noticed that once again, the biggest part of the 'April Mailing' from the Grand Lodge office is the Report of the Committee on Constitution and Jurisprudence – or more succinctly, the list of the twenty-two proposed Constitutional amendments. My dear friend and colleague, R.W. Bro. Fred Halpern, who so ably chaired this Grand Lodge Committee for several years, used to lament that we were always changing our Constitution. Others have argued that we have too much in our Constitution and that all but the key elements should be moved to a Grand Lodge Administration/Operating Manual of some fashion. That is a debate for another day, but many these proposals can be linked to your Grand Lodge delaying some of these proposals (with the proposer's agreement) that were deemed non-essential until we could deal with them on the floor of Grand Lodge rather than electronically voting.

Most of these proposals are just administrative corrections or adjustments needed for the functioning of our Grand Lodge and are straight forward. Please take the time to read them. Revisions and changes are often a response to the changing times and indeed to the requirements of our membership who propose them. The proposal of key importance to the functioning and good management of your Grand Lodge is the \$10.00 per capita assessment increase to Grand Lodge.

I have had members say, 'why does Grand Lodge need more money from us when they already have so much in reserve?' The answer lies in a further breakdown of the Grand Lodge Funds that are found every year in the Grand Lodge Proceedings as part of the Independent Auditor's Report that is sent to each Lodge Secretary and posted on the Grand Lodge web site shortly after each Annual Communication.

We have five separate Funds of Grand Lodge financial assets:

- 175th Anniversary Reserve Fund which is earning interest on the original segregation after the 150th Anniversary year. The reason for this Fund is to bear the cost of our next Anniversary celebrations in 2030.

- Special Retirement Fund which is simply the funds that will be needed for the retirement of the Grand Lodge office staff.

- Commutation Fund is not dissimilar to a Lodge Life Membership Fund. If there is enough money earned in that account each year, it is transferred to the General Fund to cover what would have been received if a Life Member was a dues paying member and part of the Lodge assessment to Grand Lodge.

- Memorial Fund is the fund from which the Grand Lodge Benevolence Committee operates. We

have been fortunate over the last few years and have been able to follow the Fund guidelines to spend no more than the Fund will earn in interest each year.

- General Fund is the annual operating account from which the general business of Grand Lodge is conducted. Over the last several years, the annual interest income from this Fund has been utilized to offset our losses from Grand Lodge operations. This enabled us to maintain annual membership costs without an increase for a long period of time. It is simple math. As our membership declines, so does our revenue. With rising costs, inflationary times and economic uncertainty, we have no choice but to raise the per capita assessment.

As you can see, four of the Grand Lodge Funds have predetermined use and are not accessible for our operating expenses. The annual investment income from the General Fund is used not only to maintain the Grand Lodge assessment as low as it traditionally has been; but in recent years, to cover operating losses.

Last month at the virtual All-Canada Conference of Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries there was a discussion on Grand Lodge assessment fees. Each Province reported what their current per capita fee was. Again this year, Ontario – your Grand Lodge – has the lowest assessment of its members in Canada. If the proposed amendment to raise our assessment by \$10 per year, collected at two \$5 intervals, passes, we will move up to a tie with The Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island for last place on the list. The remaining Provincial Grand Lodges collect between \$36 and \$75 per member with the District Grand Lodge of Scotland in Newfoundland topping the survey at 77-pound sterling which is converted to \$123.52 CDN as I write this.

The hope of all our Grand Lodge communications is to assist you in making an informed decision on all Grand Lodge business, including our proposed Constitutional amendments. I hope these few words give you a better understanding of the financial structure of your Grand Lodge and a better understanding of where your assessment increase – less than \$0.03 a day – is going to be directed. If you should have any further questions regarding the proposed Constitutional amendments for the next Annual Communication this July, please don't hesitate to give me a call or drop me a note.

Thank you Brethren!

*Thomas W. Hogeboom
Deputy Grand Master*

From the Grand Secretary ...

Brethren,

2022 Election of District Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Lodge Officers:

As you are aware voting for the DDGM and the elected Grand Lodge officers will again be held electronically this year.

Many lodges have held elections and installations on dates other than normal this year. It is extremely important that the Lodge secretary submit the Return of Officers form after the elections so that the Grand Lodge database can be updated.

If your lodge does not have the new officers listed some of the them may be ineligible to vote in the elections.

Grand Representatives to other jurisdictions:

If you are a Grand Representative from our jurisdiction to another jurisdiction you must either attend in person at our Annual Communication for the Grand Representative roll call or you must send regrets to the Grand Secretary prior to the meeting. Failure to do so for three consecutive years will result in the loss of your appointment.

Grand Master's Banquet:

July 20, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Guest Speaker: Bro. Robert L. D. Cooper, Curator for Museum and Library, Grand Lodge of Scotland

Individual Tickets \$75

Tables of Eight (8) \$580

Tickets must be purchased online

[Click here to purchase](#)

Cutoff Date is Friday July 8, 2022

There will be no tickets for sale at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge

This year at the Sheraton, we are able to offer you a 4-COURSE DUO STEAK & SALMON DINNER

Please refer to the details provided in the separate Banquet Notice distributed to all lodges in the April mailing

Fraternally, Garry

*D. Garry Dowling
Grand Secretary*