



# Perfection News

A CORNERSTONE LODGE 2014 - 2018

A Publication of Perfection Lodge A. F. & A. M. No. 616 GRC

Volume 5, Issue 1, August 2017

## From the Editor

A new masonic year is almost upon us. The summer this year, while not as hot and dry as last year, has been mostly pleasant. The only downside is the construction that is all around us. While this is beneficial to our economy, it also leads to frustration as drivers navigate the many detours throughout the region. DRIVE SAFELY.

The Editor

## GRAND LODGE IN REVIEW

There were a couple of constitutional changes approved at the Annual Communication this year.

The first deals with annual dues. It is now a requirement that dues be paid in advance of the masonic year. A member will be considered in arrears if the dues are not paid in advance and is suspended if they are unpaid by the end of the masonic year. This constitutional amendment was necessary because collectively throughout our Grand Jurisdiction almost a half million dollars was owed by delinquent members.

The second amendment makes it a requirement that lodges carry certain levels of insurance. This was deemed necessary as many lodges who think they are covered by a policy, usually held by the Temple Board, find out that they do not in fact carry sufficient insurance in today's litigious times.

The amendment dealing with the time between degrees was defeated. Therefore the time between degrees remains at 28 days.

Another motion that was passed at the Annual Communication was that Masonic Holdings would merge with our Grand Lodge. This merger would be finalized by April 30, 2018.

The downsizing of the Board of General Purposes which began last year was completed this year. The composition of the Board now consists of 10 elected members (five in each year), 10 appointed members (five in each year), and 5 honorary members for a total of 25 members. Prior to the downsizing the Board's size was 35 members. This downsizing also created a need to rework many of the committees.

The Grand Master also noted that a few lodges surrendered their warrants as they re-invented themselves by amalgamation with other lodges. Also, two new lodges were instituted. These are Templum Lucis Lodge in Stratford (an Observance Lodge) and Goodfellows Lodge in Parry Sound. Formal consecrations are to take place later this year.

## CORONATION LODGE No. 502 RE-CERTIFIED AS A CORNERSTONE LODGE

Congratulations are extended to Coronation Lodge who completed all the necessary requirements to be re-certified as a Cornerstone Lodge.

This is a great achievement and is encouraging to other lodges in our district who have commenced this program. Well Done to the brethren of Coronation Lodge!

## Introducing Our New DDGM

At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario, Graeme McLoughlin, a past master of St. Andrew's Lodge No. 661, was elected District Deputy Grand Master for Niagara A District.



**R.W. Bro. Graeme McLoughlin**  
**St. Andrew's Lodge No. 661**

R.W. Bro. Graeme McLoughlin was born in Paisley Scotland on March 26, 1975. Graeme moved to St. Catharines when he was just 3 years old as his Father started

working at Port Weller Dry Docks. Graeme attended Carleton Public School (where he first met his wife Tara), then went to Laura Secord Secondary School. From there, Graeme attended Niagara College for Marketing with a Post Graduate in Public Relations.

After College, Graeme started to work for Xerox and moved to Toronto in 2000. After a brief stay in Toronto, Graeme moved back to St. Catharines in 2004, continuing to work for Xerox, but in their Hamilton office.

Graeme was re-introduced to Tara in 2007 by a chance meeting one night through a mutual friend. They were married in 2009.

Graeme's masonic journey began on Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006 when he and his Brother Cameron were both initiated into St. Andrew's Lodge No. 661. Graeme served as Master of St. Andrew's in 2012 and Lodge Secretary from 2014 – 2017.

R.W. Bro. McLoughlin was invested with his regalia by R.W. Bro. Thomas Wills while Graeme's father proudly looked on.

He has selected Lincoln County Humane Society as the District Charity. The Masonic Foundation project number will be announced shortly. Graeme is the Vice-President of the society's Board of Directors.



W. Bro. Robert W.D. Young has been appointed as the District Secretary for the current masonic year.

Perfection Lodge extends hearty congratulations to both.

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## NIAGARA A DISTRICT GRAND LODGE APPOINTMENTS

At the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge the following Niagara A District members were appointed as Grand Lodge Officers.

V.W. Bro. Lawrence Johnson, Coronation Lodge No. 502, was appointed Grand Steward in recognition of his duties as District Secretary for the past 12 months.

R.W. Bro. Michael Locke of Perfection Lodge No. 616 was made an honorary member of the Board of General Purposes for a three year term and was also given the rank of Grand Senior Warden (honorary).

R.W. Bro. Graeme McLoughlin extends his congratulations to the new Grand Lodge Officers and welcomes them to travel with him throughout the year.

Regalia presentations will be made to V.W. Bro. Larry Johnson at Coronation Lodge No. 502 on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 7:30 pm.

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## Masonic Harmony

By: R.W. Bro. George Fairbairn

*This is an abridged version of a talk that was given by R.W. Bro. George Fairbairn as Grand Governor of Ontario to Seymour York Rite College. – The Editor*

The Oxford dictionary defines Harmony as “the combination of musical notes sounded at the same time to produce chords with a pleasing effect” or “a pleasing quality when things are arranged together well” or simply “agreement”.

Harmony affects the overall health and welfare of a Masonic Body. If you have good harmony, you can overcome financial and membership challenges; but, if you don't, the Masonic Body will suffer regardless of its financial and membership resources. Our new members have joined a Brotherhood, which by its nature necessitates good harmony.

The importance of Harmony is clearly exemplified in our ritual. We can recall in the First Degree, when the candidate is invested with the badge of our Order and is charged as follows: “But if, unfortunately, your differences should be of such a nature as not to be so easily adjusted, it were better that one or both of you should retire than that the harmony of the lodge] be disturbed by your presence”. My concern is that we are not always heeding these words – some of our members carry grudges, sometimes for years. The severity of the situation is compounded when these negative feelings are openly shared with our other Brethren.

### Outside the Lodge

I think that in more recent times our behavior outside the Lodge is having a negative impact on Masonic Harmony. Our behavior inside the lodge is clearly laid out in our constitutions, By-Laws, ritual, and P&E material and we strive to follow these guidelines. However, we sometimes go astray with our behavior outside the lodge; particularly with the advent of modern day technology and our ‘instantaneous’ communication with our Masonic Brethren. We must bear in mind that our behaviour towards our Brethren outside the Lodge is as important as our behaviour within it.

### Impact of Technology

Is technology too quick and easy – too dangerous? When I became Provincial Grand Prior I had lunch

with the late George Corbin from St. Catharines, a long standing and respected Knight Commander of the Temple in Sovereign Great Priory. Right Eminent Knight Corbin offered me some advice: "When I get upset with someone, I write a letter stating exactly how I feel, but I don't mail it right away – I put it in a desk drawer, sleep on it, and the next morning I take it out, read it, and I usually never put it in the mail". I consider this sound advice and suggest that we should do the same with electronic communication – we should draft it, save it, sleep on it and decide the next day rather to send it, or delete it.

Has technology had a negative impact on Masonic Harmony? A few examples of what I consider the misuse of Technology are:

- We sometimes email someone (or several people) with a question, rather than look it up. We don't take the time or have the patience to read the many sources of Masonic rules and regulations available to us.
- We distribute minutes of meetings to our members who have email and then move that the minutes be accepted as distributed, but have not considered those members who don't have email and have never had the opportunity to read them.
- We use email to 'cast a net' in seeking assistance to fill degree team positions. I recently received an email that was distributed to 45 Masons with seven lectures needing assistance. Most of the recipients of this email were not members of the Masonic body seeking assistance.

Before communicating with our Brethren, we should ask ourselves the following questions:

- Are we respecting the personal time of our Brethren? When seeking information, remember that the enquirer has an option – which process is more conducive to the enquirer learning something and remembering it – what else does the enquirer learn during his research. Is sending an email making a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge?
- Have we included everyone when we distribute important information to our members?
- When assembling degree teams, are we strengthening and growing our Masonic body when we look outside too quickly. And perhaps, more profoundly, are we taking advantage of those Brethren who are always willing to help?

Brethren, I find it disappointing when someone asks me a question that they should be able to research themselves. I feel sorry for those elderly members who are being left out because they don't use and will never have email. And as for 'casting a net' type of communication for assembling degree teams, I find it difficult to offer assistance to what I consider to be poor leadership and very impersonal communication.

### Conclusion

I once heard a church sermon on 'fairness'. We are all aware of how children behave - when one gets something and the other doesn't, you hear the phrase "it's not fair". It's difficult to understand and to accept that life is not meant to be fair; that we are dealt different hands and must make the best of what we have. As Masons, we must endeavour to settle our differences amicably with our Brethren, and sometimes we must forgive and forget in order to maintain Harmony.

Brethren, each and every time that you communicate with your Brethren, inside the lodge or outside, or vote or ballot or are in that very aloof position where your vote is paramount as acceptance must be unanimous, think about the importance of Masonic Harmony and then govern yourself accordingly.



Brethren, we are doing very well as we work towards our third Cornerstone designation. Bro. Doug Campbell is working hard in amassing the necessary paperwork. But we still have a lot of work to do and the clock is ticking down as we have to have all our paperwork in order prior to the next Grand Lodge.

This is where we are to date, and we need all of your assistance to get us to the finish post.

Mandatory Standards: Friend to Friend is completed. Our mentoring program and officer mentorship is ongoing but we need to do some more work to ensure success in these areas.

Major Standards: GL attendance is completed. Our annual budget has to be set in January for 2018 (2017 was completed last January). Masonic Education is completed and ongoing. Degree work is ongoing but has to be reviewed to ensure full compliance. Communications standard is ongoing but will be completed in time. A Lodge Survey is currently being developed. Watch your e-mail and snail mail. Masonichip is completed. The travelling gavel is something we have to work at. (note: the travelling gavel is currently in the possession of

Adanac No. 614). The same applies to lodge visitation...we need to do some work in this area.

Basic Standards: Social events are ongoing. Recognition of Masons is completed. Youth Groups is completed and ongoing. We are trying to arrange for a visit from the scouts. Assistance to others is ongoing but we do need documentation. If you help someone out, a neighbor, a brother, a widow, please document the assistance. Names are not necessary, you can use their initials to maintain privacy. A new member night has to be organized and we have several new members. Community involvement is ongoing with our food collection for Community care and our support of youth soccer. Religious worship was completed for 2017 but we have to schedule one for 2018 and this is underway. We would also like to put on a Lodge of Discussion and invite other lodges to participate. Open House was completed and District Meetings are completed and ongoing.

So brethren, as you can see, we are well underway but we do need some team captains to move some of the activities along. Bro. Campbell cannot do it alone. To this end we welcome one of our newer masons, Bro. Jason Bornell to the team. He asked if he can help out and we welcome him aboard. Thank you Jason.

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## SEASON'S GREETINGS



What?? Christmas??  
It's still Summer!

Now I've got your attention, it will soon be time for our Annual Widow's and Families Christmas Dinner.

That's right, our 5<sup>th</sup> annual dinner will soon be upon us. It is set for December 9, 2017 so please mark the date in your calendar. The reason it has a place in the fall issue of our newsletter is that we will need help again in putting this event together and the planning has to start now.

We need someone to coordinate all the various entrée's and side dishes as well as the desserts. Invites have to be sent out and arrangements made for the hall and tables set up.

We also have to personally contact each member and each widow.

If you can help out please let the Worshipful Master know.

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## NEVER FORGET YOUR FRIENDS

*Reprinted from 'The Educator'*

A newlywed young man was sitting on the porch on a hot, humid day, sipping iced tea with his father. As he talked about adult life, marriage, responsibilities, and obligations, the father thoughtfully stirred the ice cubes in his glass and cast a clear, sober look on his son.

*"Never forget your friends," he advised, "they will become more important as you get older. Regardless of how much you love your family and the children you happen to have, you will always need friends. Remember to go out with them occasionally, do activities with them, call them ..."*

"What strange advice!" Thought the young man. "I just entered the married world, I am an adult and surely my wife and the family that we will start will be the foundation for everything I need to make sense of my life."

Yet he obeyed his father. He kept in touch with his friends and annually increased their number & over the

years, he became aware that his father knew what he was talking about. Inasmuch as time and nature carry out their designs and mysteries on a man, friends were the bulwarks of his life.

After 60 years of life, here is what he learned:

- Time passes.
- Life goes on.
- Distance separates.
- Children grow up and become independent; it breaks the parents' hearts, but the children become separated from the parents.
- Jobs come and go.
- Illusions, desires, attraction, sex weaken.
- People don't do everything they should do.
- The heart breaks.
- The parents die.
- Colleagues forget the favors.
- The races are over.

But true friends are always there, no matter how many miles away they are or for how long.

A friend is never more distant than the reach of a need, intervening in your favor, waiting for you with open arms or blessing your life.

When we started this adventure called LIFE, we did not know of the incredible joys or sorrows that were ahead. We did not know how much we would need from each other.

Love your parents, take care of your children, and keep a group of good friends, too.