

# B 2 B FaciliFacts

Presented by the Brother 2 Brother Team of Grand Lodge

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## ESPECIAL ANNUAL COMMUNICATION EDITION



### The B2B Tool Kit – Resource Manual

*“Let’s Look A Little Closer At ...”*

#### Section 7.2 An Overview of the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario

Military lodges were active in the spread of Freemasonry throughout both the United States and Canada. A number of military lodges were warranted by the Grand Lodges of Ireland, Scotland and England, the first being warranted by the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1732. Military lodges, however, were strictly cautioned not to interfere with the Masonic jurisdiction of any country in which they were stationed. Military lodges contributed to the remarkable extension of the Order in the overseas possessions to which the soldiers were sent. Without them, Freemasonry would probably have developed at a much slower pace or not survived at all. "Travelling Warrants" are almost synonymous with the organization of military lodges, and were so called because the lodges which acted under them were permitted to travel from place to place with the regiments to which they were issued. Such warranted lodges were primarily responsible for spreading Freemasonry in North America.

The Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario was formed in 1855 in Hamilton. The administrative headquarters are located in the Grand Lodge Memorial Building, 363 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario. The building is also the home of the Masonic Foundation, the Office of Royal Arch Masonry, the Scottish Rite Cathedral and the Supreme Council Office. It is truly a Masonic block.

There have been many questions posed over the years, with respect to Our Grand Lodge: How is it composed?, How does it function?, What happens at the Annual Meeting?, or as it is called, The Annual Communication.

As the name suggests, our Grand lodge has jurisdiction for Craft Masonry throughout the Province of Ontario. That responsibility is accepted and honoured by other Masonic Grand Lodges throughout the World.

The Province is divided into Masonic Districts, each with their own representative of the Grand Master, known as a District Deputy Grand Master. Depending on its geographic size, each district may have from 7 to 25 lodges.



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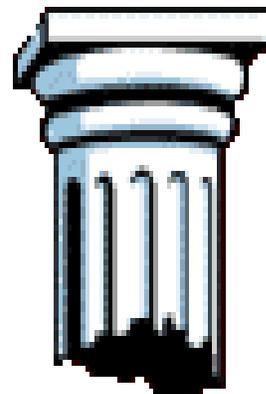
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### 7.2.1 Exactly What, or Who, Makes Up Grand Lodge?

In the answer to that question, there is no "What", There is only the "Who", because Grand lodge consists only of people. Except when referring to the people who comprise Grand Lodge, the words themselves are adjectives for things like Grand Lodge Office, Grand Lodge Publication, or Grand Lodge Annual Meeting.

### 7.2.2 Who are the People that Make Up Grand Lodge?

There are a good many, more than you probably think! First there are the Grand Lodge Officers, each of whom must be a Past Master, and then there are the Past Grand Lodge Officers. Then all the Worshipful Masters, the Past Masters, the Senior and Junior Wardens. One stipulation is that they belong to a Lodge on the Grand Lodge Registry which has duly made its return payments.

You could in fact say that any Mason entitled to "Worshipful" in his Masonic identification plus any member who is a "Warden", is a member of Grand Lodge. As you can see there are thousands of members of Grand lodge. The Masters and Wardens would total three times the number of lodges and if we estimate 20 Past Masters per Lodge, and the average is likely higher, you soon come to realize that thousands of members make up Grand Lodge.

Before looking closer at the first group mentioned earlier, the Grand Lodge Officers, let's establish that the annual Meeting is by no means for the Members of Grand Lodge only! Part of the Agenda, as soon as the meeting is opened, is to invite all Master Masons to enter. Any Mason, in good standing is not denied entrance to the meeting

Although we do not have an exact count of how many Grand Lodge Members there are, we do know that 183 of them are Grand Lodge Officers.

The Grand Master and the Deputy Grand Master head the list, followed by the Past Grand Masters. Next there are the District Deputy Grand Masters, and others who hold office quite similar to those of our Lodge Officers, i.e. Grand Chaplain, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, and so on.

In addition there are Grand Stewards appointed for the current year.

Finally we have the Honourary, Elected and Appointed Members of the Board of General Purposes, who are also Grand Lodge Officers.

The Grand Lodge Officers are either elected by the Membership of Grand Lodge or appointed by the Grand Master. Appointments are made in recognition of the performance of duties for the benefit of the Craft. **Using that same criterion is likely our best guideline in electing officers as well.**

### 7.2.3 The Positions Filled by Election Are:

- Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master
- Grand Senior Warden, Grand Junior Warden, Grand Registrar
- Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary
- The District Deputy Grand Masters, each representing a Masonic District
- 14 Members of the Board of General Purposes

Elections are held every 2 years for the positions of Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary. 7 Members of the Board of General Purposes are elected each year and all other positions filled by election are done so annually

#### **7.2.4 Who Conducts the Affairs of Grand Lodge?**

Moving on to the function of Grand Lodge, 'Who' actually conducts its affairs and how is it done?

The affairs of Grand Lodge, and of Craft Masonry are ultimately the concern of the current Grand Master. To assist him and to provide continuity for the Order, there is the Grand Lodge office in Hamilton. Our records are maintained there and the day-to-day business is conducted there by an experienced staff.

Essential to this process is the Grand Secretary who manages the Grand lodge office, but also provides a depth of experience and knowledge of Masonic affairs from which the whole Craft draws guidance.

In performing his duties the Grand Master delegates responsibilities to his Officers and must rely on his District Deputy's in particular to represent him and Grand Lodge, throughout the jurisdiction.

#### **7.2.5 The Board of General Purposes**

Next there is the Board of General Purposes, which has a major role in the functioning of Grand Lodge. The Board of General Purposes is the administrative and executive body of Grand Lodge. The President is the Deputy Grand Master. This includes the Grand Master, and all Past Grand Masters

Five other Grand Lodge Officers are Members, as are the 46 District Deputy Grand Masters. In addition, there are 3 other categories of Board Members namely Elected, Appointed and Honourary. There are 14 members elected. Their term of office is 2 years and they may be re-elected. The terms are staggered so that (7 are elected during each Grand Lodge Communication. The 2 other groups, the Appointed and Honourary Members, are placed on the Board by the Grand Master. There are currently 14 appointed Members, the maximum allowable, and seven Honourary, also the maximum allowable. A term of Office for appointed is 2 years, and 3 years for the Honourary. Terms of the Members of both groups may be renewed.

The Constitution assigns to the Board "The General Care and Regulation of Grand Lodge." Most of its work is done through a number of Committees, each with special responsibilities. There are presently Standing Committees, each specified by the Constitution, and Special Committees.

The Committee Chairman and Members are announced soon after the Grand Lodge Annual Communication. While most Committee Chairmen are drawn from the Board Membership, all Master Masons are eligible to serve.

The Board of General Purposes has two Meetings per year, two days prior to the Grand Lodge Annual Meeting on the Monday and Tuesday.

#### **7.2.6 The Management Committee**

One of the Standing Committees is the Management Committee. The powers and duties of this Committee are defined by the Constitution, as are the powers and duties of all Standing Committees.

Briefly this Committee is to act in an advisory capacity to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge in all

matters deemed to be in the best interest of, and for the better administration of the Craft. The Management Committee usually meets monthly.

The composition of the Management Committees is: The Grand Master (ex-officio), the Deputy Grand Master (ex-officio) who is Chairman of the Committee, the Grand Secretary (ex-officio), the Chairman of the Committee on Audit and Finance (ex-officio), Two Members of the Board of General Purposes appointed by the Grand Master for a term of three years, three members of the Board elected by the Honourary, Elected and Appointed Members of the Board of General Purposes from amongst their own number for a term of three years.

### **7.2.7 Advisory Group**

The Advisory Group provides a forum for communication among its members, reviews Grand Lodge Committee activities and makes recommendations to the Management Committee. It meets at the call of its Chairman, the Deputy Grand Master.

The Advisory Group is comprised of the following members: The Grand Master (ex-officio), the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, the Grand Treasurer, the thirty-five honourary, elected and appointed members of the Board of General Purposes and the Past Grand Masters.

### **7.2.8 The Annual Communication**

Constitutionally, the Annual Communication must convene "In the forenoon of the third Wednesday in July ", at a time establish by the Grand Master, and at a place determined by the Board of General Purposes. Assembly is at 8:30 a.m., but for many Members the event starts several days earlier.

The Members of the Board of General Purposes meet all through Monday and on Tuesday morning. Tuesday afternoon is devoted to Seminars on various subjects aimed at improving skills that benefit the Craft.

By the time the Annual Communication starts, the Staff at the Grand Lodge office, the various Committees, and others who plan and prepare for it, have spent many, many days getting things ready.

What about other Members who are coming to the Annual Communication, and are not involved in preparations or presentations? Many of them arrive in time to attend the Seminars on Tuesday afternoon and to register that evening. Many more are interested in the "Happenings", the actual "Business" of the Annual Communication, and for the Fellowship which is the hallmark of Masonry.

The Pomp and Ceremony on the opening of Grand Lodge, on the Wednesday morning, is an event which Masons should not miss.

There is a fixed Agenda, which calls for the Grand Master's address shortly after the Meeting convenes. This is one of the highlights of the Meeting as the Grand Master reviews the salient events and trends that have taken place in the past year. He also makes his observations on what the future holds for Masonry. The Grand Master's address is followed by any communications, petitions or appeals that are to be presented. Then the reports of the Auditor, the Grand Treasurer and the Grand Secretary. The District Deputy Grand Masters' reports are referred to, and then the Chairman of each Committee of the Board presents his report to the Membership for discussion, if any, and for acceptance. The next order of business is Notice of Motions followed by General Business.

### **7.2.9 The Election and Investiture of Grand Lodge Officers**

The Wednesday meeting adjourns in the afternoon in time for Members to attend their own District Meeting at which they elect their District Deputy Grand Master for the ensuing Masonic year.

Wednesday evening is highlighted by the Grand Master's Banquet at which Masonic Fellowship and Pageantry are at their finest. In addition to an entertainment program, this event is enhanced by a guest speaker who provides a memorable and meaningful message to those assembled.

The Grand Lodge Meeting reconvenes Thursday morning, starting from where it adjourned on Wednesday afternoon. Highlights of the second morning session include election results and special appointments, as well as the Installation and Investiture of the new Officers of Grand Lodge.

### **7.2.10 The "Proceedings"**

Everything that is said or done at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, plus a wealth of other information, is published in the annual "Proceedings". The "Proceedings" provide information from the Grand Masters' Address, to Committee Reports, to Fraternal Correspondence from Grand Lodges throughout the World. Overall this provides a record of all aspects of Masonry. This invaluable 'aid', may be purchased from the Grand Lodge office, usually in November of each year, or better still, borrow it from your Lodge Secretary.

## **Thoughts To Ponder**

*The following is an excerpt from a publication on the website of the Grand Lodge of Illinois; Volume I, Issue 3a, Leadership Chips from the Quarry, Lodge Leadership—Membership Part 1*

A successful membership program is built on the satisfaction and the enthusiasm of the current membership. Naturally, if the members are having a good experience, it is easy for them to jump at the opportunity to share that with others. This doesn't mean the lodge has to be perfect, so long as there is a feeling of excitement or progress—an attitude that "Things are going in the right direction." *That* is something the members can believe in and sell!

Everyone wants to be associated with something successful, so before anything else is planned, take a couple of moments and evaluate the experience being provided by the lodge and try to gauge the lodge's attitude. Is it positive? Is there good participation in meetings and events? Does the Ritual mean something to the members? Is the lodge clean? Is the lodge prominent in the community?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, then a planning meeting is in order to find solutions first. The members' ability to sell the lodge is based on having a positive view of the services being provided and of the direction in which the lodge is heading.

Henry Ford once said,

***"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is SUCCESS."***