

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

Even though our January weather has been the coldest in some time, I found much Masonic warmth in my visitations. The Deputy Grand Master and I and a small contingent of Masons from Ontario attended three Lodges in Bermuda, one being Hannibal Lodge No. 224 (I.C.) of which he and R.W. Bro. George Hinds (M.B.G.P.) are members. The ritual may be slightly different, but the friendliness of the brethren and the fellowship are a constant throughout the world. Hannibal brethren were present at my Installation as Grand Master and have visited Ontario Lodges many times prior.

Brethren, please avail yourself of the opportunity to view the DVD "Mozart Decoded." As there have been several inquiries about the availability of the recent program on Mozart, and in view of the fact that on the 27th of January the musical world celebrated his 253rd birthday (born 1756), perhaps the following information might be of interest. "MOZART DECODED" – The Man, the Music, the Masonic Mystery" – Sullivan Entertainment Inc. (www.sullivanmovies.com) DVD 24242. The DVD is also available on line from Amazon.ca. A copy has been placed in the Grand Lodge Library, at the Grand Lodge Memorial Building, in Hamilton. R.W. Bro. Raymond Daniels, Deputy Grand Master is the principal person interviewed about Mozart's masonic connections which forms a large part of this documentary on Mozart's life. Upon viewing, I am sure you will proudly agree with me that our Deputy Grand Master represented Masonry masterfully.

A visit to Primrose Assembly of Rainbow for Girls in Brampton found a full lodge room with many Masons in attendance for their installation. Because of the many young people involved, officers change every six months rather than every twelve. My wife, Mary, and I enjoyed the afternoon, and I might add that I am always impressed by the quality of the work. Please take the time to attend one of the youth group meetings either Demolay, Rainbow or Job's Daughters if near you.

Vienna Lodge No. 237 celebrated this month a significant 70 years a Mason milestone in the lives of two brothers, V.W. Bro. Donal Emerson and R.W. Bro. K. C. Emerson with a reception held in their honour with the Grand Master in attendance. R.W. Bro. K. C. Emerson is also a 55 years P.D.D.G.M. for Wilson District and a charter member of my mother lodge, Mercer Wilson Lodge No. 678. Congratulations to both!

All D.D.G.M.s., by now, have received a copy of the reports given at the interim feedback session held on January 10, 2009. The minutes contain results of the

breakout sessions, one of them being on the topic, "What constitutes a successful Lodge?" as follows:

1. Secretary, Treasurer and Master possessing leadership, communication and organizational skills and being fully knowledgeable regarding their respective duties.
2. Supportive lodge members, fully active, participating and cooperating.
3. Sound working finance committee utilizing a budget.
4. Active – socially and in the community.
5. Members – 'Work together with Love and Harmony' – minimizing personal objectives.
6. Lodge maintains the standard of the work as set out by Grand Lodge.
7. Committee of Inquiry (investigating committee) should be functional and knowledgeable.
8. Program content of meetings should be diverse, not just degree work all the time.
9. Good fellowship during banquets and meetings.
10. Quality and proper maintenance of lodge building so the members can be proud of their surroundings and feel good about bringing in new members.

I trust the many lodges in your several districts compare favourably. Brethren, I thank you for your participation.

Safe travels,

Allan J. Petrisor

Prostate Snippet:

A joint research in London, funded by the Prostate Cancer Research Foundation of Canada, a 3D prostate biopsy system is being developed that enhances the current biopsy procedure by adding 3D mapping of the prostate to improve the accuracy the efficiency of prostate cancer detection. "Man 2 Man," Newsletter . . . London.

GRAND MASTER' S ITINERARY

February 2009

13 – 17	North American Conference	Anaheim
20 – 21	Strategic Planning	Hamilton

March 2009

7	Niagara A & B District G.M. Reception	Niagara Falls
13	Chatham District G.M. Reception	Ridgetown
14	Windsor District G.M. Reception	Windsor
17	St. John's Lodge No. 21a 165 th Anniversary	Vankleek Hill
20	Sudbury Manitoulin District G.M. Reception	Sudbury
21	Algoma East District G.M. Reception	S.S. Marie
26 - 29	All Canada Conference	Winnipeg
31	Toronto and York Districts G.M. Reception	Markham

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

The reports presented by the D.D.G.M.s at the mid-term session last month indicate that many active lodges are enjoying an increase in the number of initiates being admitted. It takes but an hour to bring a man into Masonry ritually (when he takes the Obligation) and legally (when he signs the By-laws). Then the life-long work of making a Mason philosophically begins. The responsibility of sponsors is clear. As the Junior Deacon acted as 'a friend and guide' to the candidate during the ceremony of initiation, every Master Mason is charged to 'afford assistance and instruction' to the brethren in 'the inferior Degrees.' The Past Masters of the lodge have a particular role to play as mentors. The experience, knowledge, and wisdom they possess provide a sound basis to mentor and instruct a neophyte Mason in the 'usages and customs' of the Craft. Who better to answer his questions and stimulate his interest and curiosity? If every Past Master attached himself to one new Mason, bonded with him as Master and Apprentice, to provide guidance and encouragement, to introduce him to the world of Masonry beyond the limits of his own lodge by visiting other lodges in the District, we would ensure that the new Mason would quickly become an integral part of the lodge. "*He who teaches often learns much.*" The Past Master stands to gain as much as, if not more than, the candidate from this close fraternal relationship.

The Grand Lodge website contains many programmes to assist Worshipful Masters, District and Lodge chairmen www.grandlodge.on.ca. Yours to discover – and it's all there for the taking!

The **Committee on Masonic Education**, R.W. Bro. David Cameron, Chairman, has posted a course of study for the Entered Apprentice Mason on the Grand Lodge website. It is an excellent learning tool to thoroughly prepare the new Mason for advancement to the Second Degree. From the home page, go to G.L. Education > Education Manuals > Entered Apprentice Manual.

The **Lodge Resources Committee** has a **Mentor Programme** that provides a sound basis and an outline of topics to be covered as the candidate progresses through the three degrees. The lodges in your District that have no candidates on the Master's trestleboard are urged to plan and

organize a **Friend to Friend** Open House to raise the public profile of Freemasonry in the community. This may be a project for an individual lodge, or may be a district wide event when all the lodges are opened to the public on the same day. Properly presented, interest will be aroused and petitions are guaranteed to follow. Both these programmes are administered by R.W. Bro. John Hay, Team Leader. Everything needed is readily available on the Grand Lodge website. From the home page, go to Friend to Friend and Mentor Programme and Help Files.

Section 102 of the Constitution gives the District Deputy Grand Master authority to grant dispensation for holding a **Lodge of Instruction** in his district. These instructive sessions are most informative. One such was held on Saturday morning, January 17, 2009, in St. Thomas District and was attended by 72 brethren including 14 Worshipful Masters. Topics addressed included The Masonic Memorial Service, The Mechanics of the First Degree, Proper Balloting Procedures, and a Board of Trial for a Visitor, Reception of Grand Lodge Visitors, and Banquet Hall Protocol. The members of the Grand Lodge of Instruction Team are always willing to assist the D.D.G.M. and his District Chairmen. Contact V.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher, Team Leader, Protocol and Etiquette, Lodge Resources Committee gordon@crutcher.ca for assistance and further information. It has been truly said, "The biggest room in the house is the room for improvement."

In the month of February we observe and celebrate Valentine's Day when our thoughts turn to the ladies we love. Our ladies play a crucial role in and are an integral part of the extended family of Freemasonry. A Mason's Lady is his greatest asset. The patience, respect, and encouragement in our Masonic activities that our ladies afford can neither be fully appreciated nor adequately recompensed. So here is a Toast to our ladies in the words of Bro. Robert Burns, that great admirer of the ladies:

*Go fetch to me a pint o' wine,
And fill it in a silver tassie,
That I may drink before I go
A service to my bonnie lassie!*

Raymond S. J. Daniels

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

With the ever increasing use of record keeping and storage by means of the computer, it is important, for historical purposes, that the lodge secretary ensure the provisions of Section 298 (a) B. of C. and related Form 4 are complied with.

Even if the computer generates and stores the minutes they **must also be printed and kept in a bound minute book (glue or stitch backed)** and produced as per Form 4. I am advised that any Staples store can provide glue backing of paper materials up ½ inch and a few of them up to 1 inch. A number of printing houses can provide affordable binding also.

Please ensure the provisions of this section are adhered to, "in order that the brethren of the future may know and appreciate the past."

Terence Shand