

# D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

2011 / 2012-11

Sept 2011

Published by  
Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario

## *From the Grand Master . . .*

Greetings Brethren for the first time this year from this monthly communication tool for D.D.G.M.s. Please note that although messages and information contained in the Communique will be directed to the D.D.G.M., it will contain information relevant and pertinent to all Brethren and should be shared.

Thank you for your attendance at the Regional Sessions in August. It was a pleasure to be with you and we trust that the information communicated at that time will be of use during your term. I trust that you are settling into your new position and that you and the District Teams are coming to grips with your accountabilities and responsibilities. I remind you that the services of the D.G.M. and the Grand Lodge Committees are available to you and you should not hesitate to contact them.

I would draw your attention to a couple of housekeeping items that need to be addressed. Some items bear repeating from year to year and I would ask for your support with the following matters:

**William Mercer Wilson Medal Submissions:** It must be noted that these submissions are considered confidential and the nominee must not be told that a submission has been made in his name. This can lead to tremendous disappointment later if the Committee is unable to honour the request.

**Lodge Officers holding Multiple Offices:** The D.D.G.M. must ensure that at Installation, any or all required dispensations have been obtained. Please note the constitutional requirements (section 221) for holding Office and contact the Grand Secretary if you have any questions.

**Contact Information for District Team Members:** You will receive many requests from Grand Lodge Committee Chairmen regarding contact information for the District Chairmen. Please attend to these requests as soon as possible so that the District and Grand Lodge teams can get active early.

**Casual Attire:** A reminder to the Lodges in your Districts that there are no 'dress down' lodge meetings. Unless specific dispensation has been received, dress code in our Lodges is shirt and tie – preferably a business suit or at least blazer and slacks.

**Photographs:** No photographs are to be taken while the Lodge is in session. Presentations, etc. can be accommodated by those involved remaining immediately after Lodge for as long as the photographer requires.

**Looking Ahead:** There is a full fall schedule of Receptions and Anniversaries and we are looking forward to meeting with as many of you as possible on these occasions. In particular, these Lodge Anniversaries offer us an opportunity to rejoice in the legacy which we have been given and also to take time to contemplate the path that, not only our Lodge is following but also the Masonic path along which we are personally travelling.

Our focus at Grand Lodge this year will be in three areas:

**Communication:** simply put, making an effort to get better at it.

**Education:** educating not only the great number of new masons joining us these days, but rededicating ourselves as experienced Masons to re-energizing our thirst for Masonic knowledge

**Condition of Masonry:** utilizing our D.D.G.M. reports and our survey results to get the best picture we can of the real condition of Masonry in our jurisdiction, in order to focus our planning and initiatives on being responsive to those real needs

Great things are happening in Masonry in Ontario these days. Our Brethren are enthused and energized. It is up to us as leaders of the Craft to do whatever we can to support and encourage that enthusiasm and to channel our efforts as Grand Lodge Officers into ensuring that the programmes, the tools, and whatever else is required, are available in a timely, effective and efficient manner.

**Our Vision is “To Ensure the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry In Ontario.”**

**I Believe in Freemasonry,** and I am confident that with your support and the leadership of the Members of the Board of General Purposes under the direction of our Deputy Grand Master, we can make measurable strides towards achieving that Vision.

As we offer ourselves in the service of Freemasonry, never forget that Freemasonry is dedicated to ensuring that as we pursue our life's journey, we afford the best example for the conduct of others.

D. Garry Dowling  
Grand Master

Grand Master's full itinerary at – [www.grandlodge.on.ca](http://www.grandlodge.on.ca)  
UNDER EVENTS CALENDAR

## *From the Deputy Grand Master...*

Some may hold the opinion that Grand Rank marks the summit of attainment in a Masonic Career. Don't be under the mistaken idea that the task of working for the Craft is finished by the attainment of that high rank. You now wear the regalia of a District Deputy Grand Master. You have worked hard to reach this office, and now you must continue to work for the benefit of the Craft as a whole.

Provincial Grand Master, Lord Amptill at the meeting of the United Grand Lodge of England, April 27, 1932, when addressing the new Grand Lodge Officers said, "Each and everyone of you has a definite and constant duty, and that duty is to maintain the honour and dignity of your rank. The badges with which you will be invested is meant to not only point out your superior rank, but also to remind you that it is our particular duty to afford assistance and instruction to all those below you."

M.W. Bro. Raymond Daniels reminded us in his many talks – it is our responsibility as Grand Lodge Officers, to *serve and to protect*. We are here to serve the brethren and protect the Constitution.

When you hear the Grand Master or other Grand Lodge Officers speaking of the Members of the Board, they are referring to the 35 elected, appointed and honorary members of the Board of General Purposes. In total, 14 are elected and 21 are appointed by the Grand Master. We are very fortunate to have assembled a team of knowledgeable and well skilled Chairmen, Team Leaders and Committee members.

If a lodge or brother in your District needs information or assistance, whether it is for financial advice, Masonic Education, Long Range Planning, or even help in keeping their Lodge going, I urge you to contact the Grand Lodge Chairman. It won't be a surprise to them when they receive your call and/or request. They are expecting it.

As an example, your District Blood Donor Chairman needs to be in contact with Grand Lodge

Blood Donor Chairman, R.W. Bro. David Dainard ([drd-dd98@cogeco.ca](mailto:drd-dd98@cogeco.ca)). Further, Grand Lodge Chairmen, when holding a meeting in your area, will be inviting your District Chairman to their meeting. That's why it is imperative that W. Bro. Eric Lakien ([eric@lakien.com](mailto:eric@lakien.com)), has an electronic copy of your Trestle Board, who will forward them to the Members of the Board.

These brethren are a great resource to you. They are there to assist you and serve you. Likewise, the Grand Lodge Chairmen need you to be knowledgeable about their committees or the various programs they can offer you and your District Team, and where those programs might have a place in the Lodge or in your District.

### **Publishing Review Committee**

As you start to write your messages for various news letters in your District, or reviewing articles submitted by the brethren, you should be aware there is a policy on publishing articles.

In the application of this policy, due diligence is the level of judgement, care, prudence, determination, and investigation that a Mason would reasonably be expected to use when authoring a Grand Lodge publication.

- (1) Ensure that the ritual is not quoted at length, and the secrets not at all.
- (2) Current political and religious references are to be avoided.
- (3) Subject matter supports a positive image of Grand Lodge.
- (4) Subject matter is authenticated and properly authored.
- (5) Material is consistent with and supportive of Grand Lodge publications.
- (6) Information supports the unity, civility, and harmony among the members of our Craft.

The Board of General Purposes passed these guidelines to ensure that no inappropriate articles are published. Our intention is to prevent embarrassing situations to our membership.

Donald A. Campbell  
Deputy Grand Master

