

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master

2015 Election - Grand Lodge Officers: I know how much work it takes to receive the honour of being elected as a Grand Lodge Officer. I know the joys of winning and the hurt of losing, but I believe experience is what you gain when you don't get what you want.

Candidates Behaviour: I believed this could not happen again, that is, having to deal with inappropriate and/or improper solicitation by candidates and/or their supporters for an elected Grand Lodge office. But it appears that is not the case. Lately, there has been an increasing tendency for candidate supporters to go beyond what is regarded as acceptable behaviour in the acquisition of support. Remember, being elected to a Grand Lodge office should be based solely upon knowledge, skills, merit and ability. It is not a popularity contest and any undue or improper solicitation will not be tolerated.

Without limiting the generality of this statement the following activities are deemed to be unacceptable if carried out by a candidate and/or his supporters: The wearing of or handing out of buttons, emblems or any other article meant to identify or encourage support for any one candidate(s); The preparation and dissemination of lists of candidates who are deemed acceptable by any person, District or region; The solicitation or procurement of monies to assist a candidate and or his supporters in seeking a candidates' election is strictly prohibited, and; The mailing (including email and social media) of personal dissemination of written material favouring one candidate over another. This "guideline" apply equally to candidates and their supporters. Failure to comply with this direction may cause the candidate to be disqualified seeking office. Brethren, please govern your conduct appropriately.

Piques and Quarrels: I am still concerned at the number of private piques and quarrels that exist within our jurisdiction. The Grand Secretary, the Deputy Grand Master and I are spending far too time addressing private piques and quarrels. Each and every complaint is preventable and solvable. It is not the role of Grand Lodge to settle private disagreements. Grand Lodge should not and will not be a mediator. Further, alleged Criminal offences will not be investigated by Grand Lodge. That is the role of your local Police Service. Obviously, Grand Lodge did not initiate or cause the dissention. Brethren involved in long disputes have tarnished the reputation of Freemasonry, both internally and externally. Do these brethren really care about

Freemasonry or just themselves? Too much self and not enough compassion!

I ask you, lodges must be places where members feel free to discuss their concerns openly, honestly and achieve a compromise. Surely charity, toleration, a little common sense and a big helping of brotherly love would produce a much better result.

Email/Facebook/Social Media: *Think! Before you press Send!* I should also like to mention here that the internet is not the place to discuss personal disputes. We all pledged to support our brethren's good names in their absence as we would do in their presence. As probably best said by Benjamin Franklin, "Remember to not only say the right thing in the right place but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at a tempting moment." Some thoughts are better when not shared. Once your email is sent, anything can happen, and sometimes, this "anything" is not necessarily good for Masonry. The main lesson that one should learn from this, every time you send an email you are putting your personal reputation into play and the repetition of all Masons.

I remind the brethren, the Standard Logo of Grand Lodge as described in Section 3.1 of the Constitution of Grand Lodge is a Registered Trademark logo. Further, we have received complaints that brethren are using some type of symbols or logos to identify themselves as Freemasons while transmitting messages over the internet, including emails, Facebook, Twitter or other social media mediums. No one really has a problem with that, as long as the message is appropriate and of good taste. The test should be, before sending a message: "Would I want this message printed on the front page of the Toronto Star?" Or, "Would I want my mother, wife, sister or child to read this message?" If the answer is no, you should not be sending the message, but more importantly, identifying yourself as a Mason.

Brethren, take the time and read Section 409 of the Constitution of Grand Lodge: A member of the Masonic Order accepts the responsibility for maintaining a mode of life and conduct that is not only above reproach but is an example of good behaviour within the community. Brethren, let's set the example and not be the example.

Donald A. Campbell
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master

Brethren as mentioned in the previous communications Seminars and Workshops are going on the road this Masonic year. As you know a number of seminars have occurred such as Lodges of Instruction and DDGM Orientations. Our first Workshop Seminar will be in St. Thomas at their new Masonic Centre on Saturday, November 29th 2014 at the Masonic Centre of Elgin, 42703 Fruitridge Line, Central Elgin (between St. Thomas and Port Stanley), registration at 9:30am. Workshops will start at 10:00am.

Four workshops will be presented twice as follows:

Officer Progression ----- R.W. Bro. Kevin Smith
Team Leader

Cornerstone Program ----- R.W. Bro. Jamie Ireland
Team Leader

Long Range Planning Tool Kit - R.W. Bro. Steven Warren
Chairman

Leadership & Development ----- R.W. Bro. Bill Bowick
Chairman

Brother to Brother ----- R.W. Bro. Leyland Muss
Team Leader

Each seminar will take one hour and twenty minutes. Lunch at 11:20 and the seminars will begin again at 12:00 noon. The presentations are intended for Chatham, Erie, London East, London West, St. Thomas, Sarnia, Wilson North, Wilson South and Windsor Districts. I encourage every lodge in those districts to consider attending to gain some valued information that will assist your lodge. The presenters have worked diligently to provide worthwhile programs that will move masonry forward. I can tell you the workshops will benefit you and your lodge, but only if you attend.

There will be other similar presentations in 2015 at other geographic areas of our Grand Jurisdiction.

Brethren, we are now very much involved in a large number of Official Visits and Installations. These are occasions when you can visit other lodges and enjoy the bonding and exchange of Masonic information and more importantly, the benefits of fellowship when meeting old friends and new acquaintances. The most important aspect of visitation is enjoying the company of fellow masons and building relationships that are often lifelong. This type of

fraternal bonding strengthens Masonry in general and extends your personal involvement, by maintaining interest in our craft beyond the walls of your own lodge.

I encourage you visit as much as your personal life will allow recognizing that job and family should be the primary focus of your actions in life's path.

To those individuals who are considering letting their name stand for DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER next July, I urge you to enroll in the Past Masters course as soon as possible. As has been announced; the course has now been revised to six modules, but that doesn't mean you should relax in the timing of enrollment and completion to ensure you are constitutionally eligible when that opportunity arrives. Brethren, these situations become less a challenge, if you make an effort to prepare early, for almost any situation in masonry as well as in life. Procrastination benefits only those who do not want to make a decision.

I also note in many lodge notices, there are district Lodges of Instruction and Masonic Education events within a number of districts. As you know Grand Lodge cannot be everywhere, every year, so having knowledgeable brethren from within your district who can offer assistance in masonic education is a luxury we should not overlook. There are a lot of well-informed masons in every district who can offer a wide variety of masonic knowledge that will be of benefit to our lodges and our members. Masonic education events can be presented at a regular lodge meeting with other lodges invited or at a district meeting specified for education purposes. Mentoring duties will always be an important aspect of Masonic education and we must continue to use those resources available to us, especially those in our own backyard. Please take advantage of such resources.

My friends there has been snow in areas of our Grand Jurisdiction so I ask you to be careful in your travels. One small err in judgment can change one's life, so to be diligent is beneficial to you and those who love you and depend on you.

John C. Green
Deputy Grand Master