

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

Deputy Grand Master and I have just returned from the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America, held this year in Denver, Colorado. The theme of the conference was, "Facing Today's Challenges." Seventy Grand Masters from the United States, Canada, and Mexico, together with their Grand Lodge Officers and observers from other Masonic Orders and organizations met to share ideas and common concerns. The Conference of Grand Secretaries is held in conjunction with that of the Grand Masters. The break-out sessions at these conferences always produce new insights that benefit our Grand Lodge. Three of these were of particular interest and relevance: Lodge Experience – Practising and Growing Freemasonry, Strategic Plans – Top Down or Bottom Up, Membership – Generational Leadership. A few concepts and questions that were generated: Does Freemasonry meet members' needs today? What are the key issues facing the fraternity today? What is the value of membership? What are the Brethren looking for? If only 10-15% of our members are active, what would bring the others back? These are questions that could form the basis for your addresses to the Brethren at Official Visits. Something to think about – How does Freemasonry work? "Do not think about how it works – Just do it!" M.W. Bro. Shand, Chairman of the Commission on Information for Recognition, presented the Report of the Commission. This information is considered by the Committee on Fraternal Relations.

The Honorary, Elected, and Appointed Members of the Board of General Purposes met for a productive six-hour session on Saturday, 26th February in Hamilton. The Deputy Grand Master, as President of the Board, adopted a refreshingly different format for this mid-term meeting. Free and open discussion was generated by three topics introduced by the Deputy and two young brethren from Eastern Ontario: The Five-Year Strategic Plan (Deputy Grand Master), Minorities in Masonry (W. Bro. Adam Nesrallah), and Symptoms of a Voluntary Organization in Decline (W. Bro. Russell Staye). Lively discussion produced thoughtful insights into the role Members of the Board play in the exercise of their duties and responsibilities as leaders and role models in the Craft.

The second Annual **Charles A. Sankey Lecture** will be given at Brock University on **Sunday, March 20, at 3 p.m.** in the David S. Howe Theatre by **Dr. Jessica Harland-Jacobs**, Associate Professor in the University of Florida, Department of History. Dr. Harland-Jacobs, is the author of *Builders of Empire: Freemasonry and British Imperialism, 1717-1927*, and the lecture will address the topic: *Global Fraternalism: Ontario's Freemasons and the Study of World History*. This lecture series is the first phase of the Partnership Project between our Grand Lodge and Brock University to promote the study of the impact of fraternalism

in general and Freemasonry in particular has had on Canadian society during the last three centuries. Dr. Harland-Jacobs has thoroughly researched the history of the several provincial Grand Lodges in Upper and Lower Canada prior to the formation of our Grand Lodge, and her lecture promises to provide new insights into that colonial period when Freemasonry was established in the New World. Tickets may be obtained from the Brock Centre for the Arts box office (905) 688-5550 x3257. Tickets are free, but a tax-deductible donation to Masonic Foundation of Ontario **Project 2937** is respectfully invited. This is a unique opportunity to gain deeper insight into the origins of Freemasonry in Ontario. I would be grateful if you would promote this event in your District.

With all the interest in the film, "The King's Speech," generated by the 83rd Academy Awards (Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Original Screenplay), we are reminded that His Majesty King George VI was an active Freemason. As Prince Albert, he was initiated in Navy Lodge No. 2612 EC in 1919. As Duke of York he was appointed Senior Grand Warden and subsequently Provincial Grand Master in Middlesex, an office he held until he ascended the Throne. He also affiliated with the Lodge of Glamis, No. 99 SC, and was installed as Grand Master Mason of Scotland. The King was invested as a Past Grand Master of England at an Especial Grand Lodge held on June 30, 1937, in celebration of his coronation. As King, George VI set a precedent by participating in Masonic ceremonies, acting as Installing Master for three successive Grand Masters of England. Toward the end of his reign, the King said that he had always regarded Freemasonry as one of the strongest influences in his life.

The challenges of producing a Website for Grand Lodge posting current information appear to be insurmountable under present working conditions. Your role, therefore, as communicator to the Lodges and Brethren in your District has taken on a new and heightened importance. Please use every opportunity and any means at your disposal to inform the Brethren of current events, especially presentations by Grand Lodge Committees scheduled in your neighbourhood. Circulating this Communiqué to all the Lodges in your District would be helpful.

"Words in the absence of action are meaningless. Nobody is perfect, not in this life; but we have to show, by example, how to manage imperfection."

Raymond S. J. Daniels

Grand Master's full itinerary at –
www.grandlodge.on.ca UNDER EVENTS CALENDAR

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

R.W. Sirs,

As the Grand Master and I read the summons from across the jurisdiction, we are noticing significant increases in the number of men petitioning to join and in the number of candidates awaiting degrees. We are reminded that many of those joining our fraternity today are extremely well versed in Freemasonry before they even apply. We must therefore ask ourselves if the expectations of these new men are being met. Many of these Brethren are being left on their own to explore the meaning and symbolism of Freemasonry. What was told would become clear to them as they pass through their degrees, does not!

Brethren, many of us confuse mentoring with coaching. Especially when we have a backlog of degree work to perform, we sometimes find it difficult to spend time with our new members on anything else but coaching them in the work of the degrees. I encourage you to ensure that mentoring and education are not set aside because of the rush to advance the new Brethren. We need to be careful of this catch 22 situation and may even have to take a night off to ensure that we spend some quality time with our candidates at a meeting without degree work.

In this regard, I would also ask for your support and the support of the District Secretaries in the completion of the LI forms, especially the section on the Mentors programme. When you tick the 'Mentors Programme' box, do you know if the Lodge is actually mentoring versus coaching or instructing?

Our Condition of Masonry team is finding that some reports are not being completed in their entirety and that some individual responses leave much to be desired. While it may take a few minutes more, your assistance in submitting a complete and accurate report would certainly help us with our objective of measuring the 'worth' of these programmes. Your input is the key measurement for success and continued upgrading.

D.D.G.M. Correspondence Course: An update of the progress of potential candidates for election in July 2011 will be distributed to all D.D.G.M.s this week. Please check the progress in your District.

Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada Strategic Plan: This month we focus on the third strategic initiative from our Grand Lodge strategic plan, that is, **Communication**.

Strategic Initiative: Communication: We will communicate in an effective and consistent manner using the most appropriate medium to reach the target audience in a timely manner.

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

Would the D.D.G.M.s of the following, ensure the noted lodge Semi-annual Return is completed and submitted to the Grand Lodge office expeditiously. Please confirm your contact with the respective lodge by email to office@grandlodge.on.ca (As per list below by District):

Hamilton A
663 Brant

London West
358 Delaware Valley

Ottawa 2
564 Ashlar

Don Valley
316 Doric
676 Kroy
696 Harry L. Martyn

Humber Valley
65 Rehoboam
537 Ulster
547 Victory

664 Sunnylea

Toronto West
727 Mount Moriah
738 Chinguacousy

Wilson South
181 Oriental

Windsor
642 St. Andrews

York
220 Zeredatha
481 Corinthian

Strategic Goal 8: Provide a set of communication standards for use in all Grand Lodge communications.

Strategic Goal 9: Establish channels of communication to ensure effective dialogue and feedback between Grand Lodge and the constituents within the jurisdiction.

Strategic Goal 10: Make it easier for our members and potential members to communicate both internally and externally through the utilization of both internet and intranet resources.

Rationale:

- Existing modes of communication do not meet the needs of providing information to our membership and to those non-members seeking information about the fraternity.
- Delivery of member services suffers because communication to members is mostly one-way and often does not reach the target audience. The one-message-fits-all solution is not effective in achieving our desired results.
- Present modes of communication are failing to make the needs of the Brethren known to the Craft leadership that provides the services required to meet those needs. To learn more about our *Grand Lodge 2010–2016 Strategic Plan*, please contact the chairman of Long Range Planning, R.W. Bro. Wes Libbey (w.libbey@unb.ca) for information.

District and Lodge Websites:

As the number of Lodge Websites continue to increase, I wanted to remind you of a couple of simple requirements. The following is only an excerpt:

- No personal contact information should be included without the consent of the Brethren.
- There should be no duplication of information already found on the Grand Lodge Website.
- The official Grand Lodge of Canada Square and Compasses, as identified in Section 3.1 of the Book of Constitution must be used (Graphics may be found on the Grand Lodge Website).
- Links to other Masonic sites must be carefully researched.

In all of the above, the webmaster, the W.M. or the D.D.G.M., as appropriate, must ensure that the Grand Lodge Publishing policy has been applied.

Change?

Ever wonder why a car's windshield is so large, and the rear view mirror is so small? Because our Past is not as important as our Future. So, look ahead and move on.

D. Garry Dowling