

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master:

Although the winter solstice, on December 21, 2018 at 5:22 pm., marks the beginning of winter, Your Grand Master must declare that here in the Ottawa Valley, with temperatures at -16C with a wind chill of -22, it's **Winter** today!

When you became a Mason, you were challenged to advance your Masonic knowledge daily. As you moved forward through the several degrees, you communicated with Brethren, of a higher degree, in order to advance that knowledge. When you became a Master, you communicated with your past Masters to assist you in gaining more Masonic knowledge. Then, as a District Deputy Grand Master, you communicated with senior ranking Grand Lodge Officers to increase your Masonic knowledge even further.

Your Grand Master increases his Masonic knowledge by several means. His Management Team, his Past Grand Masters, his visitations to other Grand Jurisdictions and attending different Conferences. This was the case last week, while attending the 16th Session of the World Conference of Regular Grand Masters, taking place in Panama, a city of contrasts, with a population 2.2 million residents.

I, along with Lady Gloria; the Grand Secretary Emeritus M.W. Bro Terry Shand and the Deputy Grand Master R.W. Bro. David J. Cameron (who was there on his own dime) with his Lady Jill; attended the three day Conference.

Chaired by the Grand Master of Panama, M.W. Bro Roberto Cueto Cisneros, with the Honorary President of the World Conference, R.W. Bro. Thomas Jackson, Past Grand Secretary of Pennsylvania, presented an interesting and somewhat challenging conference under four topics which encouraged papers, interventions and discussions.

Please note that all papers are being made available to each Grand Lodge and once they come to our Grand Lodge they will be made available via the Grand Lodge website.

Topic One: “The Role of Freemasonry and the Freemason Individually in Society”

Papers presented by the Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington, Past Grand Master of the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia, Grand Chancellor of the National Grand Lodge of Romania, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel.

Topic Two: “The Masonic Way towards the Internal Transformation of the Individual”

Papers presented by Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Swiss Alpina, Scientific Secretary of the World Conference, Grand Master National of the Grand Lodge of Romania, Executive Secretary of the World Conference, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Madagascar.

Topic Three: “Masonic Action against Inequity”

Paper by Past Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Germany and presented by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Swiss Alpine.

Topic Four: “Attitude of the Mason in the Face of the Violation of Human Rights”

Papers by Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Israel, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Panama.

All topics created good discussion, however the fourth topic created the most responses and was most educational to your Grand Master for the passion and informative discussions by Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mato, Secretary General of the Confederation of Symbolic Masonry of Brazil, Grand Master of Bolivia, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Guatemala.

Summary:

It was a very informative and an educational experience for your Grand Master, both at the daily sessions and at the social hours, as most of you can attest to. If you have ever attended a conference, it is the exchange of information, at the social gatherings, where communicating with my Brothers has advanced my Masonic knowledge.

Two observations: as Canadian Masons, we are very fortunate to be able to gather, discuss and enjoy Masonry with no concern about interference from outside the doors of our Lodges. My final observation, is what it is like to attend a three day conference with Masons from all over the world, of different creeds, religions and skin colour with a common purpose of friendship, brotherly love and all for the good of world-wide Masonry with never a raised word in all of the discussions. I was proud to be a Mason and proud to be your Grand Master.

To most Ontario Masons, December is a time of great enjoyment. To most, it is a time of re-union of families; an exchange of gifts; a renewal of old and the creation of new friends. Unfortunately, there are many Masons who will be alone or cannot, for many reasons, enjoy the feeling of the Holidays. Please take a moment and think about how you can help these Brethren and their families.

Blessed is the Season, which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of Love

***Paul E. Todd
Grand Master***



From the Deputy ...

Brethren,

I have received several e-mails over the past few months about automatic external defibrillators (AEDs). Here are some excerpts:

On Tuesday evening I was in the _____ Lodge building. ... Bro. _____ while pushing his walker to the dining room before lodge fell to the floor and his heart stopped. One of the younger members grabbed the defibrillator and followed the instructions. He was able to keep chest compressions going until the ambulance arrived. The ambulance attendants were able to get a pulse before they took him to the hospital.... Without the defibrillator he would not have survived.

Apparently the same thing happened at the lodge in _____ ... with similar results. I think it is time for Grand Lodge to acknowledge these incidents and commend the Lodges who have had the foresight to install defibrillators. Hopeful you can find a way to convince all the lodges to purchase a defibrillator for their building. Having witnessed this first hand, I will be convincing my own lodge to invest in a defibrillator. Who knows, it could someday be me.

On this past Thursday, we had a visitor go into cardiac arrest. Thanks to the skills of the brethren present as well as our AED, our brother is currently in _____ Hospital awaiting surgery to replace a heart valve.

We are so thankful that a few years ago, we decided to purchase an AED and that we had replaced the batteries in it 20 minutes before Lodge. The ability of this machine to monitor the patient's system and direct us to continue CPR, etc. assisted us in providing what our brother needed.

Brethren, this is a far cry from what we used to see. Both the Grand Master and I can relate stories from the past when, despite having emergency service personnel right there in the room, our brethren could not be saved. Defibrillators make a huge difference.

Our research has shown that these devices cost about \$2000 and some training is involved, but what price do you put on your brother's life? There are some agencies around that donate them to public facilities so this is an avenue you can explore. A good idea is to contact your local emergency service provider, as having the equipment they recommend can facilitate a quicker transfer once the ambulance arrives.

Once you have an AED you should tell everyone where it is. Several lodges make this announcement just before lodge is opened:

Brethren, at this point, please silence all cell phones. Please be aware that the fire exits are located _____. In the event of a fire, proceed to one of these exits and make your way to _____ (the marshalling point) immediately. The Tyler will bring the register so that we can ensure that everyone has exited the building.

The AED is located _____.

Should there be an emergency, Bro. _____ will take control. Please listen to and follow his direction. The Secretary has his phone and will be responsible for contacting emergency services if needed.

As the holiday season for many faiths draws near, let us seek what good we can do for others. And let us remember those who must work during these family times: the paramedics and nurses, the police and firefighters, our military personnel, and all others that keep the wheels of our world running, even cowboys.

*Tall in the saddle we spend Christmas Day
Drivin' the cattle on the snow covered plains.
All of the good gifts given today,
Ours is the sky and the wide open range.*

*Back in the cities they have different ways,
Football and eggnog and Christmas parades.
I'll take the blanket, I'll take the reins
Christmas for cowboys and wide open plains.*

*A campfire for warmth as we stop for the night,
The stars overhead are the Christmas tree lights.
The wind sings a hymn as we bow down to pray,
It's Christmas for cowboys and wide open plains.*

*It's tall in the saddle we spend Christmas Day
Drivin' the cattle on the snow covered plains.
So many gifts have been opened today,
Ours is the sky and the wide open range,*

It's Christmas for cowboys and wide open plains.

- written by Steve Weisberg, sung by John Denver

In this wondrous season, Jill and I wish you all the best for the holy days, however you spend them.



David J. Cameron
Deputy Grand Master