

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

With snow piled up on our balcony, windows with snow trapped half way up the glass, can there be any doubt that a true Canadian winter has settled in to our Grand Jurisdiction.

At this time of the year the sunlight is minimal, every form of precipitation is falling and for some of us the darkness and cold often gives way to the "blues". Many of us have a difficult time handling this time of year and we know that often attendance at Lodge suffers.

This month a major communication company will sponsor "let's talk" and we need to follow the advice and if necessary seek help for ourselves, however what about the low attendance at Lodge.

Some Lodges in these winter months schedule "roll call" where each member of the Lodge is given a certain number of names of members who attend regularly and those who haven't attended regularly. They then call the Brother and start a conversation about any common subjects e.g. weather, how the Leafs are doing (how about those Senators), this conversation is designed so that they know their Lodge is thinking of them.

Roll call is especially helpful to those who are shut-ins or who are prevented by poor health from attending Lodge which then leads to the question, Brother "how can we help" or "what can your Lodge do to improve your situation".

The Brethren who make the call and perhaps sometimes they will visit a Brother create a situation where each Brother of the Lodge has had contact and then to conclude the Roll Call they will at the next meeting of the Lodge give their reports and where necessary the Lodge will take action to help a Brother.

You say you never have done a roll call, then I say then let's do it this month or one of the months to come, the rewards will be many and totally appreciated by those who you contact.

Another issue that keeps Brethren away from Lodge is best summed up in the word ATTITUDE, negative attitude instead of positive attitude. A Brother makes a suggestion to improve a situation and he hears those terrible words, "You can't do that" and when you ask "why" you get the universal answer "because".

My guess is most Masons can relate to negative attitude deployed against them in Lodge or at a meeting. We all need to know that "positive attitude"

creates more involvement by a member. Examples would be small parts in the Ritual were perhaps designed to give a younger or a seasoned veteran member an opportunity to build his confidence on the floor of the Lodge.

Positive attitude with confidence creates Involvement and with more Involvement creates Commitment which then may lead to Leadership.

The key to positive Attitude is to Listen, perhaps the majority of Lodge problems could be resolved by listening to the new Mason and his ideas, to the Master and Officers with their concerns, to the senior members with their helpful ideas.

Comments like "it's too modern for our Lodge" "it's designed for big Lodges and we are small" and of course the granddaddy of them all "we don't do it that way in this Lodge or Grand Lodge" takes away esteem, self-worth and the desire to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

How many times a day COULD YOU give positive reinforcement to a member of the Craft, to a person or persons at work and more importantly at home.

After all my Brethren is that not the essence of Freemasonry of being "positive" we will then endeavour to be happy ourselves and then communicate that happiness to others.

From 100,000 members to under 34,000 members I started last month a five part Blue Print for the future, this month I would like to draw your attention to the term of the DDGMs.

With one third the members, we have for over the last five years struggled to have a complete compliment of new DDGMs each year with several DDGMs doing as much as three years before a replacement.

As part of the overall Blue Print for the future I propose that the term of a DDGM be increase to two years, same as the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master and be on the same rotation which creates unity in the message being delivered from Grand Lodge to the Brethren but especially from the Brethren to Grand Lodge.

"Lets Talk" and always remember to keep your face to the sunshine and then you won't see you grey shadows.

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

From the Deputy ...

Brethren,

Our Strategic Plan holds a vision of where we want to go and a solid plan to get there – for both Grand Lodge and individual lodges! This year we have aligned the committees of the Board of General Purposes with the pillars of the Strategic Plan.

The Communications Committee is headed up by R.W. Bro. John Hay. Under his purview are four committees: Internal Communications, Website and Facebook, Fraternal Correspondence, and Library, Museum and Archives.

The Internal Communications Committee has several teams. The Publications Review Team consists of brethren with eagle eyes and a good knowledge of grammar. They review all our publications for consistency and suitability for various audiences. When writing things for the public one must be wary of not quoting the Ritual at length, and the secrets not at all. Even in material which will only be seen by members, one must remember one's obligation. Moving electrons may be as permanent as engraving.

At the beginning of each month the Email Distribution Team sends out two digests, one with events and the other with resources. Initially these were just sent to DDGMS and they were asked to forward them to all their lodges so they could be distributed to all Masons. This year we are trying to maintain an up-to-date list of all lodge secretaries in order to take some of the load off the DDGMS and District Secretaries. If you are a lodge secretary and are not getting them directly please contact R.W. Bro. Peter Sialtsis at peter@pslawtoronto.com.

If you have an event to submit, please send it to the Grand Secretary before mid-month. He needs to review and approve it before forwarding it to Peter, and to go out the first of the month, Peter needs it a week before the month ends.

The Ontario Mason Magazine also falls under this committee. They always have a few stories from many of the Lodges and Districts in Ontario, but would like to have more stories and pictures to showcase Masonry. To that end, I encourage you to send them your District newsletters and magazines, so that they can also show the content in those publications to the rest of the Province.

Things in the digital world evolve at an incredible rate and the name of the new Website and Facebook

Committee is already outdated - Our Facebook page has been such an astounding success that we have added a LinkedIn page to our portfolio. Along with interesting articles supplied by the Education Committee and the Grand Historian, and documenting with photos the visits of the Deputy Grand Master, we have recently been able to post the video and memes which were created by the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction and customized for us. If you haven't seen them, please check one of our social media sites. (Click on an icon below.)

The committee is also working on revamping the website so it is more intuitive. They have just started so check in regularly to see their efforts. The SRNMJ video will be there soon. As will a new and improved version of the lodge locator. Things just updated are an events calendar available without logging in and a tab to find FORMS (once logged in, of course). And if you are really interested in the Deputy's travels, you can check out my blog while you're there.

The Fraternal Correspondence Committee follows the Proceedings and the websites of other Grand Jurisdictions around the world, searching for ideas and best practices which we can emulate.

The Library Museum and Archives Committee runs our library. You don't have to go to Hamilton to use it, although you can. It is open Monday to Thursday 10:00am to 2:00pm for the months of September, October, November and February, March, April, May and June, except for statutory holidays. They will also accommodate out of town Masonic visitors and non-Masonic visitors through pre-arranged appointments. You can search their collection via the excellent website which they maintain: www.grandlodgelibrary.ca. There are also photos of some of the treasures in our Museum and our Archives. It is definitely a site worth browsing.

The Grand Archivist is busily working with the Grand Secretary on a policy of what to keep when a lodge goes dark and a presentation for the Especial Communication on April 6.

That is the Communications Pillar, working hard on their Strategic Initiative: to communicate in an effective and consistent manner using the most appropriate medium to reach the target audience in a timely manner.

David J. Cameron
Deputy Grand Master





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Message from the Grand Secretary

Annual Communication of Grand Lodge: July 17-18 2019

Room Bookings:

If you are planning on booking a room at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel for the Annual Communication, reservations can be made via the following link using the Group Code provided:

Online passkey link for on line bookings.

<https://book.passkey.com/go/grandlodgeafamofcan>

Group Code is GRAN0719_001

If you are booking a Hospitality Suite you must inform them at the time of reservation.

If you have already booked a room, you must call back and provide the Group Code or change the reservation online to include the Group Code. Please pass along the link and the Group Code to any members in your District booking rooms.

Masonic Behaviour at the Annual Communication:

Regrettably last year at the Annual Communication we experienced a significant increase in unacceptable behavior by Masons attending at the FRYH. That behavior included conduct unbecoming a Mason, rude language, drunkenness and noise.

This behavior appears to be restricted to a small percentage of our members but it reflects on us all.

Over the next few months, we will be working with the FRYH to implement some measures to curtail this activity. However we will also be calling on each of you to help us act as good and upright Masons by speaking up when you encounter such unacceptable activity. Together we own this problem. Together we can be part of the solution.

I call on each of you to assist us in eliminating such embarrassing behavior.

Further details of the actions planned will be communicated to all members as soon as they are available.

D. Garry Dowling
Grand Secretary