

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

2010 /2011-03

November 2010

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

From the Grand Master . . .

Masonic activities around the province are in full swing. It is the season when many Lodges hold their annual Installation and Investiture ceremonies. During September and October, several Lodges have observed significant anniversaries – 50, 100, 125 and 150 years of continuous service in the community – at which it has been my privilege to be Guest of Honour, and to convey congratulations on behalf of Grand Lodge. In October, Grand Lodge was summoned to dedicate two new Masonic buildings housing Percy Lodge No. 161, in Warkworth (Peterborough District) and Glengarry Highland Lodge No. 418, in Maxville (Eastern District). The month of November begins with a much-anticipated visit to the far north-western parts of the jurisdiction for special events in Thunder Bay and Fort Frances, Algoma and Western Districts respectively.

The Especial Communication held last month in Ottawa for the five Eastern Districts was most successful. It was gratifying to meet so many of the Worshipful Masters and Officers of the lodges in Eastern Ontario. The stated theme of this Communication was: *“Learn to Listen – Listen to Learn.”* The many Grand Lodge Officers present enjoyed the opportunity to have informal conversations with many young Masons in attendance that this event provided. The afternoon session, *“Masonry in the Round”* during which five topics were introduced and discussed was stimulating and thought provoking.

The 2010 round of presentations by the Lodge of Instruction Team under the direction of the Custodian of the Work, M.W. Bro. Donald H. Mumby has just been completed. Brethren in those Districts visited during this year’s schedule had the opportunity to observe first hand demonstrations of the rites and ceremonies authorized under the Constitution of our Grand Lodge. This important exercise provided instruction for a total of 532 brethren. Those brethren will take the knowledge and skill they acquired back to their Lodges where the details of accurate working in our rites and ceremonies will be shared with all the brethren. Like the grain of mustard seed in the well-known parable, the lessons learned will increase and flourish, and enable the brethren to raise the

bar as we strive not merely for proficiency, but for excellence in the performance of our Ritual. It is through the Ritual that we transmit the ideas and ideals of Freemasonry to our initiates. I express my personal gratitude and commend the Custodian and all members of the Lodge of Instruction Team for the time, energy, and effort expended in this great and invaluable work.

During November we observe the solemn act of Remembrance. I urge all brethren to attend the Services being conducted at the local Cenotaph on November 11. These moving lines from, ‘For the Fallen’ written by Laurence Binyon in 1914, express the gratitude we all feel for all those valiant men and women *‘fallen in the cause of the free.’* The freedom we enjoy as Canadians and as Masons was won and maintained at great cost. We remember, especially the more than 150 Canadians killed in the current war against terrorism in Afghanistan.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to th battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Raymond S. J. Daniels

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

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

What Halloween brings is the end of the first quarter of this Masonic year. On the one hand, as the fall season of Official Visits is well underway, we are excited about the ongoing activity in each of the Districts. On the other hand, we only have three quarters of the year left to accomplish what we set out to do. Are we executing our plans?

Last month, I mentioned that our Strategic Plan activities were starting to take shape for this year and that we were working on deliverables and plans. This month, I would like to update you on the work of several of our committees.

The Lodge of Instruction team under the direction of the Custodian, M.W. Bro. Mumby, completed its fall schedule this past week and in so doing bid a fond farewell to the Custodian who will retire from that position next July. We thank him for many years contributing both his talents and his time to the continuance of these great learning sessions.

As V.W. Bro. Crutcher notes in his final report this year, 33% of the overall attendees were line Officers and 13% were brethren other than Masters, Past Masters and Grand Lodge Officers. These figures show a keen sense of desire to learn and the team did not disappoint. Those attending the sessions leave armed with quality information that will assist them in 'raising the bar.'

R.W. Bro. John Hay reports that we had a few bumps in the road getting going with the Official Visit forms, but hopefully the October reporting will smooth out. Please be reminded that all reports, including the L1 and L2 (Lodge) forms go **directly to John in electronic format. None** of the Condition of Masonry reports are to be sent to the Grand Lodge office. Please contact John if there are still questions.

Exciting news from the Blood Donors Committee. R.W. Bro. Lloyd Hammell and his team have orchestrated a **"Provincial Masonic Donor Week" December 27 - 31, 2010.**

This will be a joint venture between our Grand Lodge and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge in Ontario. This week was chosen because it is a particularly low 'giving' period. The committee will be working with District Blood Donor Chairmen to host or support clinics in as many Districts as possible. The team has issued a challenge to challenge to the Districts is to **recruit at least 5 new donors in each**

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

Grand Lodge has once again made available the Veteran Jubilee Medal, 50 years a Mason, together with a 60, 70 and 75 year button. Cost of the medal remains the same, the buttons (replacing the bar) for 60, 70 and 75 year service will be provided at no additional cost to those who originally purchased the medal. A revised Order form, together with, explanation form and photograph is available from the Grand Lodge office. The medal compliments the 50 year, etc. pin and card; it does not replace it.

The **Veteran Jubilee Medal** is presented in recognition of long service to an Ontario Mason who has completed fifty years of continuous membership in good standing in his lodge, or affiliated from a lodge recognized by this Grand Jurisdiction. The medal is gilt, with the Square and Compasses within a circle with "GRAND LODGE OF A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA IN ONTARIO" in raised letters on the obverse, "50 YEARS A MASON" and the name of the recipient and the date of presentation engraved on the reverse.

The following January – June 2010 Semi Annual Returns have not been received:

Algoma District – Kenogamisis Lodge No. 656, London West District – Myra Lodge No. 529, and

Wilson South District – Oriental Lodge No. 181. Please ensure the lodges within your District comply.

District. District Chairmen should look forward to receiving more information soon. As D.D.G.M.s, your support for this initiative will mean a lot to its success.

Work has commenced on a new Lodge Resources Friend-To-Friend video. This new endeavor will be designed to present both the text and the visuals of our message in a much more up-to-date manner.

Members of our Masonic Education and Lodge Resources teams combined to present a proposal containing a number of recommendations related to enhancing the educational experience of the newer and younger breed of men who are presently being attracted to our Craft. Their proposals are under review to determine which recommendations can be acted upon as part of this year's strategic plan efforts.

The Website Management team has made some updates to the existing Grand Lodge Website. Please note, however, that we are balancing the effort to maintain information on the old site current, against effort being devoted to moving our new website ahead. Therefore, you may still see some older parts of the site that remain outdated. We appreciate your patience and if this causes any inconvenience please contact the Team Leader of the Website Management Committee, R.W. Bro. Lynn Baker.

Once again, I remind those brethren who will be allowing their names to stand for the position of D.D.G.M. in their Districts, or for the position of Grand Registrar, in July 2011 that they **MUST** complete the D.D.G.M. Correspondence Course prior to their election and confirmation. The Grand Master cannot confirm any of the new D.D.G.M.s next July unless they have been issued a certificate of course completion by the Masonic Education, College of Freemasonry Committee.

Updates on other Grand Lodge committee work will be provided next month.

In the work that you do in the service of our Grand Master, and the work that you inspire in others in your Districts, I remind you of a quote from Babe Ruth *"Never let the fear of striking out get in your way!"*

D. Garry Dowling

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