

From the Grand Master

Why has membership attendance declined among fraternal organizations? At best we can only speculate about why anyone joins an order like Freemasonry. To find an answer to this question, Masonic Leaders have questioned their membership. There are some difficulties with interpreting the results. Nevertheless, it may be instructive to examine what these surveys show, whether or not we can directly relate to them. The reasons most frequently mentioned were: time conflict with work; no longer live in the area of their Lodge; unsafe meeting locations/buildings; inconvenient meeting times; dull, long, uninteresting meetings; and no transportation.

When asked what would entice attendance, most replied that they would like more Masonic Education. They would also like to see regular attendees be more sensitive to the embarrassment non-attendees may feel upon returning to lodge after prolonged absence. Critics from within complain that members sometimes make the ritual the be-all and end-all of Freemasonry. Others object to the requirement of evening wear.

I can say quite confidently, an active lodge is a healthy lodge. I believe a lodge that is known for its good ritual, will retain and attract new members. It takes work to be a Mason.

I support and believe in informal Masonic social clubs and or associations. Their members are united by a common interest or goal. These informal Masonic groups, for example, exist for

voluntary or charitable activities. They have a purpose to help others in need. Communities rely on volunteer charitable groups to make their communities a better place. Congratulations to all.

I believe first impressions will influence a man who is considering joining Freemasonry. "If you want to make a good impression, it is critical that it is done in person" (Jeremy Piesanz PhD). Perhaps the simplest example of the application of this rule, that everything counts, involves your image or appearance. You've heard it said that you never get a second chance to make a good first impression. The fact is that when you meet a person, he makes a judgement about you in approximately four seconds, and his judgment is finalized largely within 30 seconds of the initial contact.

It is important to know the proper dress code while in Lodge. There is no such thing as "Casual Dress" in this jurisdiction. The dress code in Lodge is under the direction of the Worshipful Master who is able to consider: 1) Business Dress, 2) Semi-formal Dress, 3) Morning Suit and 4) Formal Dress. It has become an established practice, the Worshipful Master may permit Highland Dress and or Mess Kit or likeness as Semi-formal Dress.

There is a philosophy in the way we dress while inside the Lodge, as in so many other things, and the dress proper to Masonic meetings is no exception. Its principle is good taste, its practice is to wear such dress as shows respect to the membership and expresses the dignity of the Craft.

Donald A. Campbell
Grand Master

From the Deputy Grand Master

Well Brethren we have enjoyed a wonderful September as far as the weather goes. Three weeks in succession we have experienced little or no rain allowing the agricultural community to progress with harvest and planting preparation while the rest of us can prepare our yards and gardens for the winter season.

The Grand Master and I, as well as a significant number of masons attended the International Plowing Match near Barrie. We enjoyed a beautiful day that was capped off with a Meet and Greet for the Grand Master at the Barrie Masonic Center. There were masons attending from as far away as Stittsville and Strathroy who appreciated some excellent roast beef and salads before going home. I want to offer my congratulations to R.W. Bros. Kennard Pratt and Mike Long for their effort in displaying Freemasonry to those in attendance. Ken worked very diligently and Mike provided great food.

On September 27th I also attended the Masonic Education conference at Humber College in North Toronto. I must say this function was very well organized and those who attended were quite impressed with program. There were wonderful presentations on a wide variety of topics of interest. There were presentations about Leadership, Prostate cancer, Dementia and wide variety of Masonic subjects that maintained everyone's attention. R.W. Bro. Charles Woods and his team should be proud of their efforts. It was a great day.

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS--Brethren at Grand Lodge, I announced that Grand Lodge is going on the road this masonic year to bring some seminars and workshops to the brethren in hopes that we can attract a significant number of masons to attend in an effort to provide valuable masonic information and education to a larger audience. I am announcing that the first seminars will take place at the new Masonic Center in St. Thomas sometime in November, where there will be 4 seminars presented simultaneously. Your participation in this event will be an indicator that the desire to acquire more masonic knowledge and information about our gentle craft, so we as masons can go forward with a better understanding of our fraternity. I encourage all lodges particularly in South Western Ontario to consider this event.

From the Grand Secretary

Special Attention – All Lodges within the District:

Re: 2015 Annual Communication – Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto.

Concerns were made during our 2014 Communication regarding reservations at the FRYH in 2015 versus the impact of the Pan American Games taking place in the G.T.A. at the same time. I have arranged with hotel

LODGE RESOURCES—As you are probably aware our Lodge Resources has a number of valued committees who are working in various aspects of our craft—**FRIEND to FRIEND, MENTORS, BROTHER to BROTHER, OFFICER PROGRESSION and CORNERSTONE**. Each one of these committees have resources that can assist lodges and their members with some possible solutions, to specific situations that may be a challenge for our lodges. I want to inform you these committees are not intended to interfere with the activities of your respective lodges. Hopefully they can offer suggestions to challenges, that lodges may be facing. Brethren we collectively are attempting to enhance our programs in a manner that will best be of assistance. Recognizing a situation that may require assistance is the first in solving the challenge and the second step is to call for assistance to those individuals who might be able and willing to help. These committees should not just be utilized when a situation arrives but perhaps as a preventative measure that will ensure continued improvement throughout the Grand Jurisdiction. Remember brethren Masonry is a progressive science and as we progress certain understanding is beneficial to those who will carry our flag in future years.

Brethren, in the September Communique I talked about the Past Masters Course and I substantiated that the revised course was now in effect as presented at Grand Lodge. Shortly after the Communique was sent I was corrected that the modules I stated were incorrect. After Grand Lodge the College realized that modules announced June 18th to a number of Grand Lodge officers was incorrect and it was corrected after Grand Lodge. During the hustle and bustle of activities since Grand Lodge some information was not forwarded to everyone involved. R.W. Bros. Rick Cadotte, Brian Koivu and I apologize to everyone who might have been misled or inconvenienced by last month's Communique.

THE MODULES NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PAST MASTER'S COURSE CERTIFICATE ARE AS FOLLOWS: MODULES 7, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 18.

Brethren have a Happy Thanksgiving and Octoberfest if you are so inclined. **To Live the Life of a Mason is an Honourable and Respected Way of Life.**

John C. Green
Deputy Grand Master

management for online 2015 bookings to be made available immediately.

The 2015 Annual Communication proper will take place Wednesday July 15 and Thursday July 16. Rates for 2015 have a less than 3% increase over 2014 (from \$207 to \$213 for a standard room).

You can now book via:

<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/glafam2015>

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