

THE COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master ...

... Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi estⁱ.

Brethren,

Caritas is a word that is translated as charity or loving-kindness. Whether going by the name of *Maitri* in Sanskrit, *Chesed* in Hebrew, or *Agape* in Greek, the concept is a pillar of many faiths. It is also something that naturally occurs when one takes to heart the lessons inculcated in our Ritual.

It is customary for the Grand Master to choose a charity which Masons may support, should they choose to. I have decided to expand upon the project started by M.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels. He had a vision to establish a university centre for the study of Freemasonry and fraternalism. He envisioned a relationship that would include lectures, courses, conferences and scholarships, and the opportunity for cross-pollination between academics and Freemasons. From his efforts, there is now the largest public lecture that Brock University has, an undergraduate course, and a scholarship for a promising student to study at the Master's level. His vision has not only borne fruit, but seedlings are starting to germinate at other universities.

And so my charity is called University Partnerships and has the charity number of 2937 with the Masonic Foundation of Ontario. It will continue with the same high aims, but will also allow for similar endeavours elsewhere.

Benevolence was once one of the most important facets of Freemasonry. It comes from the Latin for "well" and "wish" and is very close to loving-kindness. A look through the minute book of my mother lodge from the 1930's and 1940's shows that not only did we donate money to the local orphanage and the sanatorium, we also actively did things for others. We arranged burial for a Mason from New York who died here without any family; we sent cigarettes to the troops overseas (perhaps not such a good idea in retrospect). Up until the 1960's, we not only supported our lodge widows with money, but we raked their lawns and put up their storm windows. When government social security came in, the money we regularly gave them was clawed back so we stopped sending it. Unfortunately, we also stopped visiting. Time and physical aid are invaluable gifts to the elderly and shut-in.

There is also a tradition among Masons of gifts to the Grand Master and his wife when they visit. Although we appreciate the thought, you should know that Jill and I do not have much room for "things". We would be happy to accept a gift to the charity of your choice.

Maimonides (1135 – 1204 C.E.) described a ladder of charity, in ascending order:

8. When donations are given grudgingly
7. When one gives less than he should, but does so cheerfully
6. When one gives directly to the poor upon being asked
5. When one gives directly to the poor without being asked
4. Donations, when the recipient is aware of the donor's identity, but the donor still doesn't know the specific identity of the recipient
3. Donations, when the donor is aware to whom the charity is being given, but the recipient is unaware of the source
2. Giving assistance in such a way that the giver and recipient are unknown to each other. Communal funds, administered by responsible people are also in this category
1. The highest form of charity is to help sustain a person *before* they become impoverished by offering a substantial gift in a dignified manner, or by extending a suitable loan, or by helping them find employment or establish themselves in business so as to make it unnecessary for them to become dependent on others.ⁱⁱ

Thank you.

David J. Cameron
Grand Master

ⁱ Ancient Christian antiphon

ⁱⁱ <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/eight-levels-of-charitable-giving>

From the Deputy ...

My Brethren:

Thanks for tuning back in for an update of the second chapter on the renewal of your Board of General Purposes and the Grand Lodge programs of which they are responsible for the delivery thereof.

As I mentioned last month, the renewal process started at our first short Board meeting on the Wednesday night, after the Grand Master's Banquet, at the last Annual Communication. A week later, the Management Committee members were told what Pillar they would have responsibility for and which other members of the Board would be on their Committees to assist them. Shortly after, all of the Board members were informed as to which Pillar they would be serving under this year and who would be responsible for the nine Standing Committees listed in Section 135 of the Constitution.

The next assignment of the Pillar Chairmen was to meet with the members of their respective Committees with the same renewal objectives in mind and to make a case for each Committee staying as such or shutting them down as unnecessary to meet our strategic goals and objectives at this time. Each pillar was charged with working out a business plan for their Committee, a budget to complete that plan and provide a list of any additional Committee members they would need to execute these plans.

These plans and budgets were then presented to the Management Committee in mid-August to decide how to move forward. At this time, the following Committees and the assignments of the twenty-five Elected, Honorary and Appointed members of the Board of General Purposes were confirmed:

Craft Stewardship Pillar – R.W. Bros. Jamie Ireland (Chair); James Wark (DDGM Preparation), Dale Graham (Masonic Education – including College of Freemasonry and Book Sales), Terrance Van Horne and James Broomhead

Membership Pillar – R.W. Bros. John Hay (Chair); Michael Locke (Condition of Masonry), David Armstrong (Cornerstone), Leyland Muss (Seminars and Workshops) and Robbie Manz (Mentoring)

Communications Pillar – R.W. Bro. Tom Siemiernik (Chair); Michael Locke (Web Master)

Operations Pillar – R.W. Bro. Richard Kaufman (Chair); Jim Sutherland (Audit and Finance), Iain Wates (Benevolence), Jim Sercombe (Strategic Planning), Syd Schatzker (Lodge Finance Advisory) and Darren Byrne (Lodge Buildings Advisory)

Community Outreach Pillar – R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco (Chair); Barry Burchill (Youth Initiatives), Charlie Woods (Public Awareness), Les Armstrong and Ray Borland

Constitution and Jurisprudence – R.W. Bros. Fred Halpern (Chair); Peter Sialtsis

Discipline – R.W. Bro. David Jacklin (who has since passed to the Grand Lodge Above)

Management Committee – M.W. Bros. David Cameron (Grand Master), Garry Dowling (Grand Secretary), R.W. Bros. Tom Hogeboom (Chairman, Deputy Grand Master and President of the Board of General Purposes); Ed Standish (Grand Treasurer), Jamie Ireland, John Hay, Tom Siemiernik, Richard Kaufman, Art Di Cecco, Jim Sutherland and Lou Domjan (Chief Operating Officer)

For those with a keen eye and are saying 'that's only eight of the nine Standing Committees in the Constitution,' you will be glad to hear that R.W. Bro. Lanny Salmon will be returning as the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Library, Museum and Archives reporting to the Management Committee through the Communications Pillar.

The Pillar Chairman received the approval for all the Committee members that were requested by their respective teams as above but of significant importance were three additional chairmen that were brought in to lead the following three committees:

Leadership Development chaired by R.W. Bro. Graham Tait under the Craft Stewardship Pillar

Email Distribution chaired by R.W. Bro. David Neave under the Communications Pillar

University Partnerships chaired by R.W. Bro. Howard Adams under the Community Outreach Pillar

On Saturday, September 7, this team of Grand Lodge Chairmen and the working Board of General Purposes members, all met in Ajax at the beautifully, renovated Quaker Meeting House to detail how the work of their respective Committees supported the Strategic Plan of our Grand Lodge and present their objectives. At the conclusion of this meeting, all were sent back to their Committees to develop the action plans necessary to implement the objectives that were approved.

Now, I know you will want to tune in next month to continue with the development of your new Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes, so be sure to look for the next edition in November!

***Thomas W. Hogeboom
Deputy Grand Master***

From the Grand Secretary ...

Voluntary Surrender of Warrant

There are a significant number of Lodges in our jurisdiction that are considering a Voluntary Surrender of Warrant. There are many reasons but the primary one seems to be due to the inability of the Lodge to meet because of a lack of quorum of members.

I wish to point out to any Lodges in this situation that the Lodge cannot simply “stop meeting”. The Book of Constitution, Section 179, articulates the requirements for the Voluntary Surrender of a Lodge Warrant.

Should a Lodge get itself into the situation where it cannot on a regular basis attract enough members to get a quorum for a meeting, it should immediately consider a Voluntary Return of Warrant, contact the Grand Lodge Office and initiate the proper procedures. It is an obligation on the remaining members to ensure, as part of those procedures, that a Terms of Reference document is created that outlines how all the assets (physical and financial) of the Lodge are to be disposed of.

Should the Lodge be unable to satisfy the Constitutional requirements for a Voluntary Return of the Warrant, then the Grand Master has no option but to suspend the Warrant. Suspension of the Warrant has an immediate impact on the Masonic rights and privileges of all members of the Lodge. The members’ status becomes one of ‘Masonic disability’ and that status prevents them from attending ANY Lodge meetings in the jurisdiction (even though they may be affiliated elsewhere). It also impacts their status in any appendant and concordant bodies (e.g. Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shrine, etc.). Relief from ‘Masonic disability’ can be obtained from the Grand Master, but Loss of Service could result for the member.

Thus, Brethren, I encourage those that are having difficulty getting a quorum for their meetings to act appropriately before it becomes necessary for Grand Lodge to act on your behalf.

***D. Garry Dowling, PGM
Grand Secretary***