

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

Although this monthly dispatch is headed 'D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE' the information contained herein is intended for distribution and dissemination throughout the district – in particular to your District Committee Chairmen, Worshipful Masters, Lodge Secretaries and all Brethren. It plays an important role in our communications network – a medium through which the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary, and on occasion, the Custodian can provide pertinent and relevant information efficiently and expeditiously. Read it, adapt it, use it, and share it.

During the next two years, the emphasis will be focused on enlightening the minds of our brethren by encouraging them to think more deeply about the profound meaning of Freemasonry, and to explore and exploit its potential in the lives of men in the twenty-first century. It is one thing to bring a man into the fraternity – that is the easy part – it is quite another to engage his life-long interest in Freemasonry through mentoring, discussion, reading, research, and reflection. The study of our history, symbolism, and philosophy can provide many years of enjoyable recreation.

Get KNOWLEDGE; get WISDOM; but with all thy getting, get UNDERSTANDING.

In both your Fraternal and Official visits to the lodges, continue to emphasize the importance of our Ritual as the vehicle through which we transmit the essence of Freemasonry to our initiates. We should never forget that we are an initiatory order in the business of transforming men's lives by building character. It has been well said that "every man who kneels at the Altar of Freemasonry, rises a different man." Our ancient degrees are beautifully crafted and ingeniously designed to provide a progressive five-stage course in self-discipline: self-examination, self-discovery, self-analysis, self-realization, and self-fulfillment. "Know Thyself" was inscribed over the portals of the ancient temples of initiation; self-knowledge always has been, still is, and ever will be the quest of every serious Freemason.

Know then thyself, presume not God to scan;

The proper study of mankind is man.

Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

I draw your attention to the provisions of the amended Section 104(b) of the Constitution adopted at the Annual Communication that now requires the District Deputy Grand Master to submit a copy of his report within fourteen days of his official visit to the Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on the Condition of Masonry (R.W. Bro. John Hay). The quicker a problem is identified, the faster a solution may be found. All Grand Lodge Committees stand eager, ready and willing to assist.

Masonry does not have to be defended – but it must be explained. M.W. Bro. Richard Fletcher

Following the immense success achieved in Hamilton District B last year, I ask you to seriously consider holding a District-wide 'Open House Day' when every lodge building in the district is open to welcome visitors. It takes some thorough planning and preparation, advertising and marketing in the community. The interpreters on hand during the day to answer questions must be knowledgeable, competent, and confident. Advice, guidance and support materials are available from the Friend to Friend Committee (R.W. Bro. Kim McGeagh) under Lodge Resources (R.W. Bro. David Dainard).

When the experience of age and the enthusiasm of youth unite in a common cause, success is assured.

Continuing the precedent set by M.W. Bro. Petrisor, I have authorized the wearing of Masonic Regalia by the brethren attending any regular meetings and official functions of the Masonic related Youth Groups – DeMolay, Job's Daughters, and Rainbow for Girls. I urge you to invest in our young people – our future. Take an interest in these groups and encourage them in their endeavour. You will be impressed by their sincerity of purpose, their competence in ritual, and their enjoyment of each other's company.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

"Leadership does not consist only in a strong man imposing his will upon others. The true task of leadership is not to put greatness into humanity, but to elicit it, since the greatness is already there." John Buchan

Raymond S. J. Daniels

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

Sept 2009

12	Hope Lodge No. 114 150th Anniversary	Port Hope
16-18	Supreme Council A. & A.S.R.	Hamilton
19	Ivy Lodge No. 115 – 150 th Anniversary	Beamsville
21	Mystic Tie Lodge No. 279 G.M.Lodge Reception	Cambridge
22-25	International Plowing Match	Earlton
26	Wilson Lodge No. 113 - 150 th Anniversary	Waterford

October 2009

3	Riverdale J.R. Robertson No. 494 - 100 th Anniversary	Toronto
10	Elliott Lake Lodge No. 698 - 50 th Anniversary	Elliott Lake
17	Warren Lodge No. 120 - 150 th Anniversary	Sheddon
24	North Star Lodge No. 322 - 135 th Anniversary	Owen Sound
28	Scottish Rite Harvest Fest	Oshawa

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

It was indeed a pleasure to spend some time with each of the new D.D.G.M.s at the Regional meetings in August. I trust that your term as the Grand Master's Representative in your District has started well, and that having negotiated any start up 'speed bumps' that you are now ready for the fall season to begin.

I would remind you of the change to Section 104 of the Book of Constitution regarding the submission of your reports within 14 days of an Official visit. If there are any questions in this regard please contact R.W. Bro. John Hay at jhay@nexicom.net for assistance.

By now you will have received the Grand Lodge list of Officers and Committee members and as we discussed at the Regional Meetings, please don't hesitate to contact them or have the District Chairmen contact them directly. They are there to serve you and the Brethren of your Districts. I would suggest that if the District Chairmen take the initiative and submit their contact information to each Grand Lodge Chairman, then that will relieve some pressure on you.

R.W. Bro. John Green (jcgreen@sympatico.ca) and the D.D.G.M. Orientation Committee will be corresponding with you to get the names of your potential successors so that they attend the fall sessions upcoming quickly.

Those of you who attended the Lodge Resources seminar at Grand Lodge heard about the 'Cornerstone' Project, a component of the B-2-B Toolkit. We will be giving this Project a test drive in several Districts this fall and if successful, it will be made available on a much wider basis next year.

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

In an effort to reduce letters classified as "corrective correspondence" from Grand Lodge, please ensure, any advertised "function of the brethren as Masons, with or without regalia" (Sec. 143, B. of C.) listed in the monthly summons, indicates the host lodge that has the dispensation. Be it your own or another's.

Our Grand Master and Grand Lodge are receiving the lodge summons and other documentation where the lodge number is incorrectly indicated by the pound (#) symbol. Please indicate same in the proper form; Lodge **No.** ____.

Point of Clarification. At the behest of our Grand Master, District trestle boards should only contain the name of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Secretary with the Grand Lodge address, phone, fax and email for all three. The Lodge summons is to contain **name only** of the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master, together with, name and contact information of the Grand Secretary. Personal addresses **should not** be used. Only mailing of the monthly summons for both the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master are mailed to their home address.

Our Grand Master authorizes continuation of 20% of the event side of a lodge summons may contain: date, time, location and cost of concordant body events.

The Grand Lodge Committee Chairmen have met already and each Chairman has submitted his initiatives for the coming year. We are in the process of reviewing all these initiatives to ensure that first, we are working within the boundaries of our Strategic Plan and secondly that we are united in delivering on our promises.

Our Grand Master has focused our attention on three areas encompassed within our Strategic Plan: improving Masonic Learning Opportunities; placing a heavy priority (focus) on Communications; and raising the Bar in our Rites and Ceremonies. Our Committee Initiatives will therefore be targeting these areas. We will be tracking the progress on our initiatives and reporting on that progress as we go.

More information on our Strategic Plan and the specific initiatives of the Grand Lodge Committees will be forthcoming shortly.

Once again, I encourage you to have the District Committee Chairmen communicate directly with their Grand Lodge counterpart to ensure the quickest response to their needs. I trust that the District Chairmen will keep you 'in the loop', as the Grand Lodge Chairmen will keep me informed, but neither of us needs to be the bottleneck.

As we offer ourselves in the service of Freemasonry we are reminded that Freemasonry has much to offer us.

D. Garry Dowling

Terence Shand