

**GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF CANADA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
Ottawa District 2**

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D.D.G.M.'s Monthly Message

April 2009

Brethren, we are nearing the end of the Masonic year and although the Installation of the Worshipful Master and Investiture of the other Elected and Appointed Officers is one of the most prestigious meetings of a Lodge, one of the most important meetings during our Masonic year is the regular meeting in April. This is meeting at which the Lodges of Ottawa District 2 elect their Worshipful Master and Principal Officers for the ensuing Masonic year. At the present time, the average attendance of most Lodges is less than 30% of their membership with some even below 20%. That means that come election time less than 1/3 or even 1/4 of the members are deciding who should be responsible for the running and well being of their Lodge.

During the past few Civil Elections (Federal, Provincial and Municipal) there has been a great deal of consternation on the poor turn out at the polls of less than 50%. When you look at the attendance figures in our Lodges for their April Regular Meeting we in the Craft don't even come up to the average percentage of the general population that take the time to vote.

Brethren, being a Mason means more than just paying your dues to maintain an up-to-date dues card. We need to take an active part in the running and governing of our respective Lodges. It is important to attend the Lodge and support the Worshipful Master, Officers and Members of the Lodge. Back in my February Monthly Message I provided a number of Masonic Resolutions, the first of which was to resolve to go back out to Lodge.

Spring has begun a new growing year, so why not use April as a perfect opportunity to initiate this resolution and get back active within your Lodge. I encourage the active members of the Lodges to get in touch with a brother or brethren who don't attend and encourage them to come out and participate in the Lodges activities. Offer to pick them up and drop them off; if they are unsure of themselves, due to a long time away, offer to go over the signs tokens and words to make them feel comfortable; even strike up a bond by inviting them out to coffee a week or so before Lodge.

We can make a difference if we all take part. Just think if every attending member brings out one non-attending member our average attendance will quickly exceed 50% or greater. The long term viability of our Lodges is our own responsibility, so let's get out there and make a difference.

Until next month, yours sincerely and fraternally,

R.W.Bro. Peter G. Harbert
District Deputy Grand Master