

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

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From the Grand Master . . .

Someone said to me earlier this month, how did I feel about my term winding down. I replied, my time may be getting shorter but the business of the Grand Master is picking up steam with many District Receptions, long service pin presentations and William Mercer Wilson Medal presentations, as well as gearing up for the Annual Communication in July.

I will have occasion to represent our Grand Lodge outside of the province at the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Quebec and England at their Communications. I sincerely thank each and everyone of you for this continued opportunity to serve. I shall place on the website a short speech about Responsibility and Commitment which I have used at some of my receptions. R.W. Sirs – as your term of office winds down you, too, do have several responsibilities to complete. Watch for notification of the Thursday (July 16th) morning breakfast with your successors at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

Safe travels,

Allan J. Petrisor

Prostate Snippet:

I chose Prostate Cancer Research as the G.M.s project because I have seen too many great Masons brought down by this illness along with other good men within my community of Woodstock.

You have indicated, by your collective actions from across the province, that this is no longer a topic that we will ignore. Some may say it leaves us open to the accusation of self-interest. Perhaps, yes, but not narrow-mindedness. I am not saying that masonry should pursue this charity at the exclusion of all others. We do have other areas of concern such as our long involvement with blood donations and encouraging others to do like wise, our support for hearing research in several locations in our province along with an array of local projects at the district level. These must be maintained. The Masonic Foundation, the *Masons Charity of Choice* has definitely taken up the challenge of Prostate Cancer by sponsoring a new Public Awareness program through a major donation to Prostate Canada (name change May 1, 2009).

The medical profession does not know, at the present time, how to cure prostate cancer, but there are various treatment modes. What is known about prostate cancer is that early detection significantly affords the patient the very best outlook for a long and productive

life. If the cancer is contained totally within the prostate then the outlook for living a long and productive life is at its greatest. This gives rise to the statement, *you are more likely to die with it, than of it.* If one complains about lower back pain, slow urination or difficulty walking then the problem is much further advanced and the prognosis becomes less favorable.

Currently the best chance for early detection is by use of annual PSA screening test and DRE (physical test), starting as early as age 40. The PSA test is a non-invasive blood test which does not require fasting. Results taken over several years can give an early indication of any changes. It should be remembered that PSA screening does not, on its own, diagnose prostate cancer but may indicate if further tests are required or whether watchful waiting is appropriate. Please remember that any form of cancer affects not only the patient but also the rest of the family especially our ladies.

Brethren the time for action is upon us. Let us act! I do expect to turn over to Prostate Canada a significant sum of money on the Tuesday of Grand Lodge. I sincerely thank you for taking up the cause. Your efforts will *Make a Difference* to the good health of many in the future.

GRAND MASTER' S ITINERARY

May 2009

1	Prince Edward District G.M. Reception	Belleville
2	Ottawa Districts 1 & 2 G.M. Reception	Pembroke
5	W.M.W. Medal Present. Dereham Lodge No. 624	Mt. Elgin
6	W.M.W. Medal Present. Central Lodge No. 402	Essex
9	Algoma District G.M. Reception	Thunder Bay
11	Grey District G.M. Reception	Arthur
23	Bruce District G.M. Reception	Tara
24	Camp Trillium - Recognition	Waterford
28	South Huron District G.M. Reception	Kirkton

June 2009

6	Consecration Templum Fidelis No. 746	Bath
18	H.L. Martyn No. 696 50 Yr. Pin Presentation	Toronto
20	Ashlar No. 701 50 th Anniversary	Tillsonburg
26	The Electric No. 495 100 th Anniversary	Hamilton
27	Maple Leaf No. 119 150 th Anniversary	Bath
29	Hanover No. 432 Steak Fry	Hanover
30	Muskoka No. 360 W.M.W. Medal Presentation	Bracebridge

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

When four London lodges met together at the Goose and Gridiron Ale-house under the shadow of St. Paul's Cathedral on St. John the Baptist's Day, 24 June 1717, their object in creating the first Grand Lodge was to enable their lodges to achieve things working in concert that could not be accomplished separately. In the 292 years since that momentous day, hundreds of Grand Lodges have been constituted throughout the world based on the English model. The purpose of mutual support remains unchanged. The Preamble to our Constitution states: "*in order to form perfect fraternal union, to establish order, to insure tranquillity, to provide for and promote the general welfare of the Craft.*" The standing and special committees of Grand Lodge exist solely for the benefit of the lodges, and all the programs they produce and administer have been devised with '*the general welfare of the Craft*' foremost in mind. As the current Masonic year draws swiftly to a close and year end reports are being written, success and failure being honestly evaluated, it would be a profitable exercise to review how the programs available from the Committees of Grand Lodge might be advantageously utilized and implemented: membership, education, finances, ritual, protocol, fraternal environment, etc. You are urged to take full advantage of the many presentations being made by Committees in your region during the next few weeks.

On occasion the question is asked, "Why is our Grand Lodge not more open and transparent in its workings? Freedom of information in all levels of government is the order of the day." The real question is 'Why are our Brethren not better informed of the published documents that are readily available to them?' The annual Proceedings of Grand Lodge is published in December each year, and a copy is sent to every lodge in the jurisdiction clearly marked, "*The*

Proceedings should always be available for use by all members of the Lodge." (emphasis added) Statistics, complete financial statements, reports of all Committees, summary reports from every District, and Fraternal Reviews of other Grand Lodges are all included. Yours to discover! Section 240 of the Constitution requires the Master to: "*read or cause to be read at one or more regular meetings such portion of the proceedings of the last annual meeting of Grand Lodge as in his opinion will prove most instructive and beneficial to the membership of the lodge.*" Personal copies may be purchased from the Grand Secretary's office.

It was recently my privilege and pleasure to meet and talk with W. Bro. John A. Braun, the young and enthusiastic Worshipful Master of Atlas Pythagoras Lodge No. 10 F. & A.M., Westfield, New Jersey. The Master's Message in the April Summons contained this 'thank you' note addressed to the Brethren of his lodge: "*YOU are the reason I am having so much fun as Master. YOU are the reason more Masons are coming to the Lodge. YOU are the reason our Lodge is flourishing. YOU are the reason I love Masonry more each day.*" Many lodges across Ontario will hold the annual Ceremony of the Installation of the Worshipful Master and Investiture of the Officers in the coming weeks. Do not forget to share the credit for the success you have enjoyed during the year where it is due – with the Brethren in the lodge. Also, those Brethren that are now 'heir apparent' or Master-elect should seriously consider the necessity for good team work in the officer line. Best wishes for a successful, rewarding and satisfying year in the Chair of King Solomon.

Raymond S. J. Daniels

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

We are saddened to report the passing, peacefully at his St. Catharines residence, Dr. Charles Alfred Sankey (Eighty-two years a Mason) in his 104th year. A Memorial and Celebration of Life Service is to be arranged.

As of this writing seven DDGM's have not submitted recommendations regarding the District Secretary. Please attend to this matter. Also, the semi-annual returns of the following 15 lodges in 10 districts have still not filed their July to December 2008 return. No's. 31 – 113 – 486 - 499 – 522 - 524 – 537 – 541 – 547 – 618 – 668 – 689 – and 733. Lodges No. 181 and 451 have sent cheques but no return. Avoid losing your voting privileges at our Annual Communication by submitting the return forthwith.

Special Attention - District room voting at the Annual Communication

Thoroughly familiarize yourself with Sections 65 (a) and 66, Constitution of Grand Lodge. The former specifies that only those eligible and present are to be counted. Proxies are only ONE vote when voting for D.D.G.M. Regardless of ballot colour, the ballot itself specifically states, "1 Vote." Section 66 instructs that all ballot papers shall be deposited with the Chairman of scrutineers, R.W. Bro. K. Schweitzer, for retention by the Grand Secretary for three months, prior to destruction. There are no exceptions. D.D.G.M. Reports are due prior to June 1st. One copy only is required.

Terence Shand

