

D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

2008/9 - 13

November 2009

Published by
Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario

From the Grand Master . . .

November is the month of grateful Remembrance. As we remember the sacrifices made and being made by the Canadian Armed Forces serving under fire, including many of our brethren, heroes in every sense of the word, the words of the General Charge come to mind: *“the man to whom property, nay, even life is not to dear for the protection of innocence and the defense of truth.”* All brethren are encouraged to attend Services of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in their community on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month. If a wreath is to be laid at any public Remembrance Day Ceremony by the lodge, the members attending may wear regalia. (Sec.143(a). The Grand Master will attend with Royal City Daylight Lodge No. 742 in Guelph to mark the 70th Anniversary of the beginning of World War II (1939–1945).

*O valiant hearts, who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.*

John Stanhope Arkwright

As a small gesture of our support for the men and women now serving under fire in Afghanistan “COFFEE FOR OUR TROOPS” has been initiated as a special project. R.W. Bro. Ted Williams (Edinburgh Lodge No. 736, Ottawa) has been named as the Honorary Patron. The Masons of Ontario are invited to make a voluntary contribution through their lodge to provide the serving military personnel with Tim Horton’s voucher/cards which may be used in Afghanistan. There are approximately 2,700 men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces presently deployed on active combat duty, many of our Masonic brethren among them. If every lodge were to ‘pass the hat’ during the Regular meetings in November and December, we should easily surpass our goal of providing each Canadian soldier with a ten dollar swipe card. Recent correspondence from the Grand Secretary has provided the following information regarding the contribution of monies collected. Bro. Allan Freedman has been authorized to establish a trust fund account where the contributed funds will be deposited until dispersed for the bulk purchase of the swipe cards for dispatch to Afghanistan early in the new year. All cheques for the total amount collected should be made payable to: “ALLAN FREEDMAN IN TRUST,” and mailed to:

Allan Freedman, 3000 Langstaff Road, Unit 15, Concord, ON L4K 4R7. Let us make this a practical token of Remembrance and gratitude for the sacrifices being made on our behalf.

During the next few months many Lodges will hold their Installation and Investiture ceremonies. This is a most important occasion in the life of the Lodge, when ‘the changing of the guard’ takes place. The guidelines ‘Preparing for Installation’ given in the “Ceremony of Installation & Investiture of Officers of a Lodge (2007)” state: *“It is expected that the Installation Ceremony will be given by the Past Master and members of the lodge.”* Only in cases of

necessity should the Board of Installed Masters rely on assistance from other lodges in the District. Therefore, the suggestion given in “Meeting the Challenge (2007)” p. 103 is strongly recommended: *“that most of the major parts of the ceremonies be assigned to P.M.s of the Lodge.”* To assign these ritual duties to a District team of Past Grand Lodge Officers, however skilled and experienced they may be, deprives the Past Masters of the Lodge of the honour and privilege which is their right. Section 248 of the Book of Constitution states: *“It shall be the duty of the Master to install his successor in office and invest the other officers or insure that this duty is duly discharged by an Installed Master.”* Every Worshipful Master should be given this learning opportunity and enjoy the experience acting as Installing Master. To encourage this, a copy of the current edition of the “Ceremony of Installation & Investiture of Officers of a Lodge (2007)” should be presented to the new Master on the night of his Installation. With a year to prepare himself he will be well able to preside with competence and confidence twelve months hence.

Worshipful Masters and Lodge Secretaries should also be reminded under the provisions of Section 221 that Dispensation must be obtained for a member to hold two offices in the same lodge, or in more than one lodge at the same time. This constitutional requirement is sometimes overlooked (either out of unawareness or for convenience). As it has become customary for the D.D.G.M. to attend many Installations throughout the District, please take the opportunity to ensure that a Dispensation has indeed been granted by the Grand Master for any brother elected or appointed to hold two offices at the same time, before proclaiming the Officers ‘legally’ installed and invested.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT . . .

Learning is finding out what you already know; doing is demonstrating that you know it; teaching is reminding others that they know just as well as you. You are all learners, doers, teachers. – Richard Bach

Raymond S. J. Daniels

GRAND MASTER’S ITINERARY

November 2009

14	Grand Lodge Especial Communication	Sudbury
18	Defenders Lodge No. 590 – WMW Medal Present.	Ottawa
21	Frederick Lodge No. 217 – 140 th Anniversary	Delhi
24	St. Andrew’s Lodge No. 62 – WMW Medal Presentation	Caledonia
26	Cope-Stone Lodge No. 373 – WMW Medal Present.	Fonthill

December 2009

2 - 8	Grande Loge Nationale Française	Paris
9	Amalgamation Clinton No. 84 & Morning Star No. 309	Carlow
11 - 14	District of Columbia Grand Lodge	Washington
16	Tecumseh Lodge No. 144 – WMW Medal Presentation	Stratford

Full Itinerary at (www.grandlodge.on.ca) under Events Calendar.

From the Deputy Grand Master. . .

As we approach winter, we have two opportunities to be especially grateful. In November many Lodges in the jurisdiction hold special Memorial Services in conjunction with Remembrance Day. This affords us the opportunity to look back and reflect on all that we have and on those who have helped preserve our way of life. In December a large number of Lodges hold their Installation ceremony. This is an opportunity for us to look to the future, and to help build a way of life that reflects the values we have inherited from those who have gone before. Let us never forget and let us plan well for the years ahead.

Last month I reported on the progress we were making in satisfying the Constitutional requirements to send a report to the Condition of Masonry Committee within 14 days of the official visit. I would again remind you that these reports must be submitted **ELECTRONICALLY**, and on the **CORRECT** forms to R.W. Bro. John Hay at jhay@nexicom.net. **One** copy goes to the Grand Lodge Office **by June 1st**.

The October statistics are:

- There were 59/70 (84%) reports submitted with two being late.
- There were 11/70 (16%) not submitted and still outstanding at months end.

Our percent of on-time completions rose significantly from 54% in September to 81% in October. Our Year to Date completion percentage now stands at 77%. Congratulations to those of you who completed your reports on time. R.W. Bro. John Hay has spoken to those who had trouble making the deadlines and he wishes to express his thanks for the cooperation he is receiving. R.W. Bro. Hay reports that the L1 Master/Secretary forms are not completed as well as the other two. Lodge Secretaries, if we can enlist your cooperation in this effort, it would be appreciated. The data on these forms provides valuable input to the direction of Grand Lodge Committee efforts.

The D.D.G.M. Orientation team has been busy in October. R.W. Bro. Green reports that the sessions have been well attended and that there is genuine interest among the upcoming potential D.D.G.M. candidates. Critiques about the presentations have also been more positive this year, presumably a reflection of some the changes made in the presentations.

The Lodge of Instruction team has finished its fall schedule and the report submitted by V.W. Bro. Crutcher indicates another successful season. District LOI sessions are increasing in number as we take to heart our Grand Master's initiative to 'raise the bar'. If your District is holding a local LOI and you wish any information or assistance, please contact the Custodian of the Work or Gordon at Gordon@Crutcher.ca.

The Lodge Resources team has completed the schedule of five presentations for District and Lodge Chairmen, and V.W. Bro. Iain Wates reports that he was particularly encouraged by the number of new Masons and Junior Officers that attended. One area of concern is the lack of knowledge of the attendees about the purpose and background of the Workshop. The team had given more priority to this situation this year and had

attempted to pass this information along through the D.D.G.M.s. It appears that in some cases the information package provided in advance did not reach the intended audience.

The fall schedule of MasoniCHIP events has certainly kept the volunteers busy around the jurisdiction. The demand was great and required countless hours of effort by those staffing the clinics. We thank each and every one of them for their effort. As I write this report, I am extremely pleased to report that this past weekend saw the processing of the 25,000th child through the system. Congratulations to all of you who have had a hand in achieving this milestone. R.W. Bro. Ray Dobbs and his team continue to look for Lodges to host these events. If your Lodge can assist, please give Ray a call – raydobbs@sympatico.ca.

Our Grand Master has returned to a full schedule of events. His itinerary for Nov-Feb can be found on the Grand Lodge website (www.grandlodge.on.ca) under the Events Calendar. When there is a visit scheduled in your area, I know the Grand Master would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and say hello.

As District Deputy Grand Master's you are now 1/3 of the way through your terms. You will likely have visited most of the lodges in your District either for Fraternal or Official visits and you will now have a much better understanding of the needs of your Brethren. Some of you have already contacted Grand Lodge Chairmen for support and I would encourage you and the District Chairmen to take advantage of the services offered by these Committees. Any suggestions for improvements in our services, that are received from the Lodge or District level are appreciated and should be submitted to the appropriate Chairman or the Deputy Grand Master for consideration.

Brethren, our travels this fall have reminded us of the fact that the delivery of our ritual is not what it should be in some areas. Our prized possession has been the subject of some neglect. Please make every effort to assist us to 'raise the bar'. Our new members will learn as they see. Do they see good work? I respect the decision of one Worshipful Master to postpone an Initiation, because he felt that the Lodge degree team was not ready for the task and because the candidate deserved better!

Brethren, we are committed to providing support to those who are interested in making the effort. Our problem lies in finding out who needs and wants some assistance. That knowledge is best acquired via the D.D.G.M.s. Please let myself, the Custodian of the Work or the Chairman of Protocol and Etiquette know if you need some assistance in 'raising the bar' again in your Lodge or District.

To all D.D.G.M.s, I trust that you are by now 'comfortable' in your role. Keep up the good work on those reports. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come forward to any Member of the Board of General Purposes. If they cannot provide the answer, they have an obligation to direct you to someone who can.

D. Garry Dowling

From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .

A Maple Leaf Square & Compasses graphic licence plate is now available from the Grand Lodge office on a **FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS**. Order forms are available on our website. A cheque in the amount of \$120 payable to "Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Canada" must accompany the order.

The Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto, as an expression of thanks to its annual customers, is offering a special room rate of \$109 during the entire month of December 2009. An ideal opportunity to visit the city, stay over, shop for Christmas, or spend time sightseeing from the pleasant atmosphere of this grand hotel.

Terence Shand