

# D.D.G.M. COMMUNIQUE

2010 /2011-01

Sept. 2010

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

## *From the Grand Master . . .*

Although the masthead of this monthly publication reads 'D.D.G.M. Communiqué' it is not classified information for the eyes of the D.D.G.M. alone, but is intended for distribution to all the lodges in your District. During the year it will contain relevant and pertinent information that should be shared with all the Brethren.

It gave me much pleasure to join with you in the series of Regional Meetings held during the first week of August, and I trust that the information shared with you by the Custodian of the Work, the Grand Secretary, and the Deputy Grand Master has already proven useful in the discharge of the duties of your office. Jacques a Dextrase has this wise counsel: "*Leadership is the art of influencing others to do what is required in order to achieve an aim or goal.*" I look forward to those opportunities during the coming year when I may share with you special occasions and formal events – District receptions, Lodge anniversaries, and Grand Lodge ceremonies of dedication and amalgamation.

Succession planning ought to be a major concern at all levels of administration. With the adoption of the constitutional amendment (Section 50b) at Grand Lodge, completion and certification of the D.D.G.M. Correspondence Course becomes a prerequisite for nomination as D.D.G.M. Be a talent scout: identify those Past Masters with talent and ability and encourage them to enrol in the course. It is a great way to gain Masonic knowledge and understanding. Be certain to invite all potential successors to attend the D.D.G.M. Orientation sessions being held during the fall. One cannot be too well prepared for the duties and responsibilities of this high and important office.

When attending the Ceremony of Installation and Investiture in the lodges of your District, please be vigilant that the provisions of Section 221 that require dispensation from the Grand Master for a member to hold two offices concurrently either in the same lodge or in more than one lodge have been followed. If in doubt, you should ask that the dispensation issued be produced for your perusal. When you make the final Proclamation, you must be certain that the officers have been "duly and *legally* installed and invested." Any irregularities in this regard must be reported immediately to the Grand Master through the Grand Secretary.

Canada Lodge UD established at Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan under the direction of V.W. Bro. Rick Fulford, Assistant Grand Chaplain, is providing "a retreat of friendship and brotherly love" for our brethren serving in the armed forces. We have received many expressions of thanks for the opportunity this lodge affords for fraternal association and social converse. I ask every D.D.G.M. to survey the lodges in the District to compile a list of those members who have served, are serving in Afghanistan, or are about to be deployed there with the Canadian Armed Forces. I suggest that the list be kept current and posted above the Tyler's desk in the anteroom as a reminder to keep these Brethren and their families in our thoughts and prayers. I would also encourage the members of those lodges with brethren on a tour of duty there to keep in touch by e-mail. It is but a small gesture of our respect, support and encouragement for those valiant men protecting our liberty and freedom.

As September begins, it is also "back-to-school" time in Freemasonry, the oldest and largest organization devoted to adult education in the world. The General Charge reminds us that the 'noble object' of Freemasonry is *'the cultivation and improvement of the human mind.'* It is a life-long journey of discovery. Properly considered, we are all Entered Apprentices learning our Craft. Geoffrey Chaucer, writing in the fourteenth century, stated it succinctly: "*The lyfe so short, the craft so long to lerne.*" Understanding the profound and comprehensive meaning of Freemasonry comes only from thorough study, thoughtful reflection, and forthright discussion. Bro. Albert Pike wrote in his magnum opus, Morals and Dogma (1871): "*It is for each individual Mason to discover the secret of Masonry, by reflection upon its symbols and a wise consideration and analysis of what is said and done in the work. Masonry does not inculcate her truths. She states them, once and briefly; or hints them, perhaps darkly; or interposes a cloud between them and eyes that would be dazzled by them. 'Seek, and ye shall find,' knowledge and the truth.*"

Get **Knowledge** – get **Wisdom** – but with all thy getting, get **Understanding**.

Raymond S. J. Daniels

Grand Master's full itinerary at –  
([www.grandlodge.on.ca](http://www.grandlodge.on.ca)) UNDER EVENTS CALENDAR.

## *From the Deputy Grand Master. . .*

What a pleasure to meet personally with each of our new D.D.G.M.s at the Regional meetings in August. Hopefully your term as the Grand Master's Representative in your District has started well and that having negotiated any start up concerns and jitters in the new position, that you are now ready for the fall season to begin.

**Official Visit Reporting:** Please note 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](mailto:jhay@nexicom.net) for assistance.

We mentioned that the Grand Lodge Chairmen are there to serve you and the District Teams. Use the current version of the Grand Lodge list of Officers and Committee members to contact them or have the District Chairmen contact them directly. 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.

**D.D.G.M. and Grand Registrar Course:** Another reminder, that the D.D.G.M. Correspondence Course is now COMPULSORY for all candidates for the Office of D.D.G.M. and Grand Registrar for July 2011. R.W. Bro. Tom Siemiernik ([tom.siemiernik@sympatico.ca](mailto:tom.siemiernik@sympatico.ca)), D.D.G.M. Orientation Chairman, and V.W. Bro. Iain Wates ([idwates@sympatico.ca](mailto:idwates@sympatico.ca)), Masonic Education Chairman, will be corresponding with you to ensure that no potential candidate gets missed.

**Strategic Plan:** At the Regional Meetings we distributed a sampling of wallet cards containing information about the Grand Lodge Strategic Plan and the list of strategic projects for the 2010-2011 year. Our Strategic Plan, although not new, is not well known. Please assist us in promoting our Grand Lodge Vision and our Mission.

**VISION:** "To ensure the timeless vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario."

**MISSION:** "Grand Lodge will achieve its vision by providing effective and sustainable leadership to Ontario's Masonic community and by preserving the timeless Masonic Initiatory system as a framework for

all good men to transform their lives through the ancient and enduring tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth."

We will be reporting progress on our 2010-2011 projects throughout the year.

**Communications:** At the Regional Meetings we discussed a number of points to be observed in communicating with Grand Lodge. Your help in this area would be appreciated as it makes life for our Chairmen and the Office staff much easier. A couple of common sense rules to be followed: If you, District Team members or individual Masons send an email to the Office or to a Chairman, please identify the Lodge and or District in the Subject line. If you send an attachment, please ensure the file is appropriately named. Imagine getting 44 Trestleboards files – all called 'TrestleBoard'.

Please remember that at your end, you are dealing with one – at this end, the Chairmen and Office staff are dealing with 44 or 567 – all named the same.

**Photographs:** A reminder that photographs are not to be taken while the Lodge is in session. Please be supportive in arranging a time after Lodge is closed for all the photographers to take whatever pictures may be appropriate.

**Grand Master's Priorities:** As you are aware, 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. We would ask your assistance in promoting Masonic Education in some form at every meeting and in ensuring that absolutely no books are open in Lodge.

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

## *From the desk of the Grand Secretary. . .*

For those Districts that are hosting a Grand Master's Reception this year, it is essential that a draft copy (prior to printing) of the evening's program be submitted to this office, that our Grand Master may peruse prior to his attendance. Likewise, any Lodge celebrating an anniversary at which our Grand Master is attending is expected to do the same. Any request for our First Lady Brenda to respond to a ladies toast should also be submitted well in advance.

Each Lodge received (in its August mailing) a sheet of Grand Lodges throughout the World that this jurisdiction recognizes. Any of those listed that has some added abbreviations, i.e. (Grand Orient) in addition to the country name, indicates there are more than one Grand Lodge in that country. In those cases, our Lodges are to ensure that a foreign visitor is indeed from the specific Grand Lodge we recognize.

Terence Shand