

# THE COMMUNIQUE

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## *From the Grand Master*

**Best Practices** - The success of any lodge is highly dependent on its leaders. While there is no substitute for choosing the right leaders to begin with, leaders can become more successful through the development of a sound leadership development strategy. Strategy starts with understanding what is important for the lodge and where the gaps are. With the right understanding of needs and support from the top, a leadership development model, that works, can be developed. It has been said in order to have sound management, one must first have control of time and a solid plan is the tool to tighten that control. Timing is a vital part of planning any lodge meeting and is instrumental in achieving one major goal, that of sending everyone home at a reasonable hour, satisfied that the evening was filled with propriety, dignity, perhaps a little humour, and lots of good fellowship. If you succeed, they will want to come back, and perhaps bring a friend.

Everyone has experienced meetings that took up far too much time and accomplished far too little. Unfortunately, this sad state of affairs has happened so often that you may find yourself becoming numb to the fact that your meetings aren't as good as they should be or could be. You can make your meetings better. The power is within you, whether you are the Worshipful Master or a member. Start on time and end on time. Everyone has suffered through meetings that went way beyond the scheduled ending time. That situation would be fine if no one had anything else to do.

Lodge meetings can easily get off track and stay off track. The result? Meetings do not achieve their goals. Worshipful Masters and members must actively work to keep meetings focused on the purpose of the meeting, eg. Installation of the Worshipful Master.

An example of good time management was at an Installation I attended last month, accompanied by 3 Past Grand Masters, the DDGM and numerous Grand Lodge Officers - Georgina Lodge No. 343, Toronto Humber Valley District. It was one of those special occasions where a father (R.W. Bro. George McCowan) installed his son (Bro. Kenneth McCowan). The Installation of the Worshipful Master should be a very memorable event for the Master-

Elect and his family. It was important to the Bro. McCowan to have his mother, aunt, uncle, wife and children present. It was important for the family to present the Bro. McCowan his new regalia and gavel. All presentations took place at the banquet before the Installation, allowing his young family and visitors to leave at a reasonable time prior to the Installation. Congratulations Georgina Lodge for considering others when making plans to Install your new Worshipful Master.

**The Holiday Season** - As Masons, we enjoy this time of year when we can reflect on what has been achieved during the year. There is no doubt that our membership is one of our greatest strengths. We talk a lot about how we can make a difference and we are all truly privileged to belong to a fraternity where we can make a difference in the lives of others every day. It is really important that we continually recognize and appreciate that it is indeed we, as a collective, who make the greatest difference and not any one individual.

As the day grows closer we find ourselves thinking of the past, from our childhood through adulthood. Let us remember the joy of spending time with our family, the feeling of peace that the season brings with it and the excitement of knowing that each year will be full of new memories that we will cherish for years to come. I also hope that the holidays will bring you a sense of peace within as well as a feeling of goodwill toward all, and that you will show great mercy and compassion for others who may be less fortunate.

Brethren, remember family and work obligations come first, but work hard for your lodge, as well. Live life wide and stay in balance. Cherish the things that are most important to you. I look forward to 2015 in anticipation of continued success in helping our membership achieve their goals and welcoming new members into Freemasonry to help us make a difference.

This holiday season is a time of celebration, joy and togetherness and I certainly hope that these sentiments can be enjoyed by all families over this period. I hope the New Year brings renewed hope, health, energy and success.

Donald A. Campbell  
Grand Master

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

Well, Brethren, we have had some normal autumn weather and a significant taste of winter and although it was brief it certainly reminded us of what we have to look forward to over the next few months. We have been very busy in recent weeks at a number of Masonic activities from Eastern district to St. Thomas district.

Brethren, as you know we spend a lot of time developing and presenting Grand Lodge programs and it recently came to my attention, from Lodge Resources and the Condition of Masonry, there are situations in some areas of our Grand Jurisdiction, where the programs are not being used. In fact, one very enlightening matter was some are being totally ignored. For example, the Brother to Brother program that has a large volume of examples that will assist us in the operation of lodges but we find that 75-80% of lodges are not using it. This particular program contains examples of significant pin presentations, how to consider a Rusty Mason Night, Friend to Friend events and many samples of information can be useful to any lodge with a variety of items that are educational and informative to our membership.

I know that some of our programs require a lodge to look at itself and come to conclusions that are difficult to admit. There are situations in our lodges that could be improved. If we can get to the point of admission some of our challenges could be addressed with a different approach.

**Long Range Planning** is one area that becomes a challenge to many lodges. There are those who can provide information that might correct or help provide assistance to your lodge and their membership. If you have recognized challenges, that are distracting to the operation of your lodge, perhaps consider contacting STEVEN WARREN or BILL BOWICK and their respective committees [Long Range Planning and Leadership

Development] and share your concerns to see if they might help. LODGE RESOURCES COMMITTEE which includes such programs as BROTHER to BROTHER, MENTOR, FRIEND to FRIEND, OFFICER PROGRESSION and CORNERSTONE can be of a guide and assistance in almost any lodge. The individuals who serve on these committees have committed their Masonic activity to improve FREEMASONRY in general. We should take advantage of their expertise and generosity of time and effort. Programs only work when used.

Brethren, the **Holiday Season** is upon us and we should at this time of year, in particular, think of those less fortunate for variety of reasons. In our life's experience there are circumstances that challenge, and a great many in our society would greatly appreciate company and compassion during difficult times. We as Masons, who are in a position in life to comfort others can be the best example of Masons, demonstrating the ideals of BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF and TRUE GENEROSITY.

My final thoughts are again about benevolent actions. Keep in the back of your mind there is always a need for blood at this time of year.

This is also the time of year when many are in affordable situations to make contributions to worthwhile causes. Be assured the MASONIC FOUNDATION and the GRAND MASTER'S PROJECT would be very appreciative of any contributions you might consider according to your circumstances in life.

On behalf of Barb and our family, I wish you safe and happy holidays and the best in 2015.

John C. Green  
Deputy Grand Master

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

Semi-annual returns are due January 8, 2015. Please have lodges note the provisions of Section 152 (p) B. of C.

I urge lodge Secretaries to take advantage of this waived fee incentive, for the benefit of all members

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*On behalf of your office staff; Gail Nickerson, Stacey Birks, Kathy White, Jennifer Manzer and myself, we thank those of you having Masonic business dealings throughout the year, for your cooperation. We extend to all, our very best wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Safe holiday season.*

Terence Shand  
Grand Secretary