



105th Annual Communication

The 105th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M., will be held in the Deerfoot Inn & Casino, 1000, 11500 – 35 Street SE, Calgary, AB, commencing on Friday, 11 June 2010 at 09 30 h and continuing on Saturday, 12 June 2010. Brethren are encouraged to be in place at 09 00 h in order to receive Special Dignitaries, Representatives of Concordant and non-Masonic groups, etc.

AGENDA: The Annual Communication under provision of the Constitution and Regulations R1.1.4 will be conducted by **MWBro Brian Shimmons**, from the agenda (see page 3), governed by the Rules of Order as per the Constitution and/or those listed in the Preliminary Report. The Grand Master reserves the right to revise the Agenda, R1.1.4.

NOTICE OF MOTION: The Notice of Motion to amend the Constitution and Regulations is on page 4.

REGISTRATION & BALLOTING shall begin at **08 00 h, 11 June 2010 and continue until 18 00 h**. Registration and Balloting resumes at **08 00 h, 12 June 2010** and closes at **10 00 h**, as per Section R1.2.9.

ACCOMMODATIONS: All reservations are on a first come basis: **Deerfoot Inn & Casino, 1-403-236-7529 or toll free at 1-877-236-5225**. The cost of a room is \$169.00. Prices in effect until 10 May 2010.

FUNCTION TICKETS: Can be ordered through the Grand Lodge Office (form on page 5). Ticket orders (with payment) **must** be placed before 21 May 2010. Tickets after 21 May 2010 will be increased by \$5.00/ticket. **Only tickets ordered by the Lodge Secretary will be mailed out.** Any individuals ordering tickets will retrieve them at the registration desk at the Annual Communication. Payment will be expected at the time of pick up if not previously paid for.

INSTALLATION OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS: Immediately following the business before Grand Lodge, MWBro John Hart will be the Installing Grand Master with the assistance of Past Grand Masters.

DRESS: Grand Lodge Communication — Business Suit/Regalia. Grand Lodge Banquet — Dark Business Suit, Semi-Formal, except Grand Lodge Officers to wear Tuxedos at Grand Master's Banquet, Grand Lodge Banquet and at the Installation of Officers.

Regalia must be worn at all sessions

Master Masons are very welcome to attend the Annual Communication.

Elections for 2010–2011

Grand Master

Automatic as per section C7.2.2

RWBro Gerald D.R. Waldern
North Star Lodge No. 4

Deputy Grand Master & Grand Master Elect

By Acclamation

RWBro Peter J. Dunlop
Sherwood Lodge No. 183

Senior Grand Warden

By Acclamation

RWBro David A. Roth
Commercial Lodge No. 81

Grand Treasurer

By Acclamation

MWBro John D. Hart
Perfection Lodge No. 9

Junior Grand Warden

One to be Elected

RWBro Martin Bumstead

King George Lodge No. 59

RWBro Martin G. Bumstead was

born in England on 20 May 1945.

A teacher and private contractor specializing in wood, he received an Institute of Education Teaching Certificate from the University of London in 1966 and a Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Calgary in 1975. He lives in Calgary with his wife Darlene, and they have two children, Stephanie and Eric.



See **Bumstead**, page 2.

RWBro John G. Cameron

Crescent Lodge No. 87

RWBro John Cameron was born

10 October 1943 in Ottawa, Ontario. He spent his early years on a farm at Navan, before the family moved to London and then Wood-



stock, Ontario. John served in the Canadian Army in the Signal Corps before joining his father in the family jewelry business. The untimely death of his father in 1966, at 50, resulted in

See **Cameron**, page 2.

Bumstead, from page 1.

RWBro Bumstead was initiated, passed and raised in King George Lodge No. 59 in 1977, was its Worshipful Master in 1986, and has been its Secretary since 1999. He was appointed to the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee in 2004 and has been an elected member since 2005. He has served in the capacity of Committee Secretary since that time.

He was appointed Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Alberta for 2004–2005. In 2006 he was elected District Deputy Grand Master for Phoenix District. He was awarded Honorary Life Membership in Irricana Lodge No. 137 in October 2009.

RWBro Bumstead has taken an active role in Job's Daughters International. He served as Associate Bethel Guardian of Bethel No. 1 from 2002 to 2005 and was appointed to the Grand Guardian Council, serving as Senior Custodian in 2003–2004 and Inner Guard in 2004–2005. In 2006 he received the Alberta Wild Rose Award.

Candidate Essays

At the Grand Lodge of Alberta Annual Communication held in Medicine Hat in 2005, a resolution was passed to amend Regulation 1.2 of the Grand Lodge of Alberta Constitution and Regulations by adding a subsection that would read:

Candidates for the position of Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden and Junior Grand Warden shall be required to publish, in a regularly published and distributed Grand Lodge of Alberta communication, when their nominations are published, an unedited article of approximately 1000 words, but not less than 500 words, outlining their vision for Freemasonry in this Grand Jurisdiction. This article shall focus at least, but not exclusively, on (a) the candidate's description of current issues in Alberta Freemasonry, (b) his proposals for dealing with such issues during the ensuing four years should he progress to the office of Grand Master and (c) his ideas for leading the Craft in Alberta in the future.

This year's essays are presented here in an **unedited** form.

RWBro Bumstead Essay

Charting a course for the future is a task that is not to be taken lightly. There is an adage that states "When all was said and done, a lot more was said than done". This does not apply in our jurisdiction as much is being done in Lodges to affect change. Over time it is hoped that this will benefit the Craft as a whole.

Masons by now, are aware and familiar with the Strategic Plan which the Grand Master, together with Senior Grand Lodge Officers, produced and circulated last year. When fully implemented this will be of lasting benefit to all Lodges in the jurisdiction. While the strategic plan has, for the most See **Bumstead Essay**, page 6

Cameron, from page 1.

the sale of the jewelry store. John ventured into manufacturing with Link Belt Speeder and Timberjack Machines, where he worked his way up to be head expeditor in production control. John moved to Calgary in 1968 and switched into sales, finally settling with Mr Fireplace, where he spent 30 years. John established and maintained a dealer network in Alberta and British Columbia, including working one week of the month out of their Surrey office for a year and a half. Most of his efforts in his later years were spent dealing with the new home construction industry and looking after the volume home builders and multi unit projects.

John and his wife Dorothy have no children, but have a Sheltie named Riley and a 22½ pound cat named Boo. John and Dorothy moved to Chestermere in 1991. They both retired in 2003 to work (with limited success) on their golf game and to travel. They both are active as hosts with the Mac's Midget Hockey Tournament during the Christmas Holidays every year.

John served as DDGM for Phoenix District for 2007–2008. He was elected to a three-year term on the Board of General Purposes in 2009. He was appointed to the Grand Lodge Finance Committee through 2011. John was initiated in Crescent Lodge No. 87 on 26 February 1992, passed 23 April 1991 and raised 25 June 1991. He served as Master once in the last century and once this century, 1997 and 2004 respectively. John also is a member of Strathmore Lodge No. 53, where he serves as Director of Ceremonies, and is an Honorary Life Member of Carstairs Lodge No. 20. John is also the Chairman of the Strathmore Temple Board. John is active in the Al Azhar Shrine and was president of the Vintage Car Unit in 2007. He is also a member of the Tuscan Benevolent Society.

RWBro Cameron Essay

In reviewing my May 2008 Vision on Masonry, it hasn't changed. When visiting Boston a number of years ago it was pointed out that they had 40,000 Masons while Alberta had approximately 7,800 at that time. Why were we only able to attract or retain 20% of their numbers despite our parity in population? MW Bro Bob Drury had made a point that we in fact had 40,000 members, we had just let a number of them go. Where have we failed? That is the conundrum.

There are many reasons why. To quote Tony Bobbins "If you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten". Demits, boring meetings, poor festive boards, lack of mentoring, poor floor work and poor communications just to name a few. No one person can do it by himself. It takes a Lodge working together to pull it off. I must give kudos to MW Bro Brian Shimmons for his "Strategic Plan for the Grand Lodge of Alberta". He has seen the pitfalls and has taken on the task of inspiring the Lodges to tackle these problems within See **Cameron Essay**, page 7.

Provided to Freemasons of Alberta and the Northwest Territories west of the 4th Meridian who are members of
The Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M.
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Grand Master	MWBro Brian Shimmons
Deputy Grand Master	RWBro Gerald Waldern
Senior Grand Warden	RWBro Peter Dunlop
Junior Grand Warden	RWBro David Roth
Grand Secretary	RWBro Jerry W.Kopp


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Deputy Grand Master & Grand Secretary
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Program for the 105th Annual Communication

10, 11 and 12 June 2010

Deerfoot Inn & Casino — Calgary, Alberta

Thursday, 10 June 2010

Grand Master's Banquet (by invitation)

- 17 00 h Social
- 18 00 h Dinner (**Chrome Room**)
- 20 00 h Social Gathering, No Host Bar (all attendees)
Chrome Room — Casual Dress

Friday, 11 June 2010

- 08 00 h Registration/Balloting Opens under the direction of the Grand Registrar
Outside **Sundance B & C**
- 08 00 h Board of General Purposes Meeting (members only and invited observers) — **Sundance A**
- 09 15 h Formation of Grand Procession
- 09 30 h Grand Lodge Procession
Reception of:
 - Past Grand Masters
 - Visiting Grand Lodges
 - Concordant Bodies
 Presentation of the Colours
Excuse non-Masonic guests
Opening of the 105th Annual Communication (Tyled)
Motion of Loyalty
Confirmation of the Proceedings of the 104th Annual Communication
Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving — Grand Chaplain
Rules of Order
- 11 30 h **Lunch** (Ticketed, **Midnapore A & B**)
- 13 00 h Reconvene the 105th Annual Communication
Presentation of the following reports:
 - Block A — Operations
 - a) Jurisprudence
 - b) DGM's Implementation
 - c) Committee on the Condition of Masonry
 - d) Masonic Higher Education Bursary
 - Block B — Information
 - e) Grand Librarian
 - f) Grand Historian
 - g) Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin
 - h) Public Awareness & Communication
 - i) Masonic Spring Workshop
 - Block C — Financial
 - j) Grand Treasurer
 - k) Finance Committee
 - l) Auditor and Financial Statements
 - m) Board of Benevolence
 - Block D — Administration
 - n) Fraternal Relations
 - o) Publication and Forms Committee
 - p) Grand Secretary
- 14 30 h Grand Master's Address
Correspondence and regrets
Recognition of Grand Representatives
- 15 30 h Adjournment
- 18 00 h Balloting and Registration suspended

Evening Program

Grand Lodge Banquet (**Sundance A,B & C**)

- 17 30 h Reception
- 18 45 h Seating
- 19 00 h Dinner
Toastmaster: Junior Grand Warden
- 20 30 h Entertainment
- 21 00 h Presentation of Ross Sheppard Memorial Bursary

Saturday, 12 June 2010

- 08 00 h **Balloting and Registration resumes**
- 09 00 h **105th Annual Communication reconvenes**
Any reports not completed from Friday's session
Block E — Legislation
 - q) Committee on the Work
 - r) Board of General Purposes
 - 1. Appointment of Auditor 2010
 - 2. Approve 2011 Capital & Operating Budget
 - 3. Confirm Grand Secretary Appointment
 - 4. Notice of Motion
- 10 00 h **Balloting and Registration Close**
Report of the Credentials Committee
Report on the Elections
Other Masonic Awards
- 11 00 h General and Unfinished Business
Election of Grand Tyler
Any unfinished business of Grand Lodge will be tabled to next Communication
Grand Master's Comments
- 12 00 h **Lunch** (Ticketed, **Midnapore A&B**)
- 13 30 h 105th Annual Communication Reconvenes
Installation of the Grand Master and Investiture of the Grand Lodge Officers for 2010–2011, under the direction of MWBro John D. Hart
- 15 30 h Grand Lodge Closes
- 15 45 h 2010–2011 Officers' Pictures
- 17 30 h Incoming Grand Master's evening — BBQ

** Ladies' Hospitality **Bridlewood A&B**

NOTE: There will be an enjoyable Ladies' Program (details to be forwarded to the Lodge Secretaries).

NOTE: Tuxedos to be worn by Grand Lodge Officers at the Grand Master's Banquet, Grand Lodge Banquet and Installation of the Grand Master and Investiture of the Grand Lodge Officers.

Regrets of the Ages

The rapid progress true science now makes, occasions my regretting sometimes that I was born so soon... O that moral science were in a fair way of improvement, that men would cease to be wolves to one another, and that human beings would at length learn what they now improperly call humanity.

Bro Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)

Masonic Higher Education Bursary Committee

(By Acclamation)

RWBro Martin G. Bumstead
King George Lodge No. 59

Board of Benevolence

(By Acclamation)

RWBro Russell Phillips
Mountain View Lodge No. 16
VWBro Roger Anderson
Carstairs Lodge No. 20

Board of General Purposes

(Five to be elected for a three-year term)

RWBro Keng-Wei Chiew
Perfection Lodge No. 9

RWBro Keng-Wei Chiew, a native Malaysian, was born in 1942. From 1960 to 1989 he was attached to Boustead Limited, a London based company with substantial holdings in Malaysia. He immigrated to Canada in 1989, and since arrival has happily operated a franchised restaurant. He is a Past President of the Malaysian, Singaporean, Bruneian Community Associations and also the Past President of the Rotary Club of Calgary East.

RWBro Chiew was initiated, passed and raised in Perfection Lodge No. 9 and was Worshipful Master in 2005. He was appointed Grand Steward in 2007 and elected DDGM of Alpha District in 2009. In May 2009 he was elected Grand Principal Sojourner of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alberta. He holds membership in several of the other concordant bodies.

RWBro Norman E. Downs

Bow River Lodge No. 1

RWBro Downs was born 24 April 1945 in Calgary. He worked for Telus for over 30 years in various Management positions.

RWBro Downs was initiated in Unity Lodge No. 51 on 21 April 1970, passed 19 May 1970 and raised 2 June 1970. He affiliated to Bow River Lodge No. 1 on 1 April 1998. He is also an Honorary Life Member of Perfection Lodge No. 9 and Ashlar Lodge No. 28. He served as Worshipful Master in 1982 in Unity Lodge.

RWBro Downs served as Junior Grand Deacon in 2001-2002, DDGM in 2003-

2004, Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2007-2008 and on the Board of General Purposes 2002-2004.

RWBro Richard W. Hopkins

Canada Lodge No. 165 and Crescent Lodge No. 87

RWBro Hopkins was born 9 July 1933 in Liverpool, England. He was initiated in Transcona Lodge No. 123 in Manitoba on 15 September 1973, passed 18 October 1973 and raised 27 November 1973. He was a member of Khartum Temple in Winnipeg 1976-1993; 1977, Past Z, Transcona Chapter No. 16, GRM; 1990, Grand Superintendent, RAM, GRM; 1980, Worshipful Master, Transcona Lodge; 1984-1998, Secretary Treasurer, William Douglas Lodge No. 176, GRM; 1992-1998, Secretary Treasurer, Mount Sinai Lodge No. 136, GRM; 1992-1998, Secretary Treasurer, Fidelity Lodge No. 134, GRM; Worshipful Master, William Douglas Lodge No. 176, GRM, 1990, 1991; and Past Preceptor, King Edward No. 24, Winnipeg. He affiliated to Canada Lodge No. 165, GRA, in 1998 and to Crescent Lodge No. 87 in 2006, and was Worshipful Master of Canada Lodge No. 165.

RWBro Hopkins was Senior Grand Deacon 2003-2004 and DDGM of Phoenix District 2005-2006. He was also a member of the Board of General Purposes 2000-2004 and currently serves as Secretary Treasurer of Crescent Lodge No. 87.

WBro Peter J. Proudlock

Canada Lodge No. 165

WBro Peter Proudlock was born in 1950, and has lived in Calgary since 1978. He is married to Wendy and they have two daughters, Evelyn, a teacher, and Sarah, General Manager of a tea warehouse and retail stores. Peter grew up in the mountains of British Columbia at Pemberton (next door to Whistler) and started in the building trade, working in building inspection, and then worked in the mining industry in BC and NWT. He went to UBC and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1976, worked with mining companies and the Federal and Provincial Governments, and published a review of the Atlin gold placers in 1977. He then moved to Calgary with Pacific Petroleum, managing a large coal exploration project, then moved into coal gas research which brought Nova to be the world leader in the field, designing programs in Hungary (where he worked for a year), Vancouver Island (two years) and New Zealand

(design). With the downturn in the mid 80s he started CH4 International Ltd as Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Control, to be Canada's representative in a Washington DC science symposium to draft and recommend methane emission strategy for 40 countries for the Rio Summit. Peter has published many articles on Coal Bed Methane R&D and atmospheric methane emissions.

Since then he has worked back in the building industry, operating Proudly Canadian Renos. Peter has been a member of All Saints' Anglican and has served on its vestry for over 20 years. He and Wendy are members of Pacific Assistance Dogs Society, and over the past five years the house has had kids replaced with puppies being raised for PADS and fundraising paraphernalia. His other love is as a professional clown and Santa – he can be seen volunteering in parades and events, and is the "official" clown for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

WBro Proudlock has been a member of Canada Lodge No. 165 since 1987, and served as Worshipful Master in 1996. He is a member and SE (Secretary) of Strathmore Chapter No. 21 RAM, was First Principal in 2000 and served as Grand District Superintendent in 2003-2004. He is Past Associate Guardian of Job's Daughters, and is a member of a number of York Rite bodies, Al Azhar AAONMS, Red Deer Shrine Club and a Charter member of Wildrose Shrine Club. He is a tireless fundraiser for most of these bodies, PADS, and a number of other organizations.

RWBro James R. Ratchford

Rockyford Lodge No. 123

RWBro Ratchford was born 3 September 1956 in Kentville, Nova Scotia, and now resides in Calgary, where he owns and operates a Tax Consulting company. He holds a Business Degree and has been a licensed Insurance Agent, specializing in Accident and Sickness coverage. He also was a paid member of the Certified General Accountants Association of Alberta. He has been working in the tax industry for the last 17 years, advising a variety of businesses, from construction to the manufacturing industry. His knowledge of the tax act has assisted many companies in minimizing their taxable liabilities. He maintains his knowledge by taking two upgrade tax courses each year. As well, in his business he works with clients to optimize

their business growth and assists in succession planning issues with the original founders of the company. James guides clients through the rollover of their companies from sole proprietorship to corporation, and is able to draw on the talents of his experienced staff to ensure that his clients receive the most current information that will affect their companies as they grow.

He has been married to Lorna for twenty-seven years and they have two daughters, Melissa and Heather. He has volunteered at Colonel Irvine Junior High School, serving as chair for the band parents association. He has also served on the band parents association at Diefenbaker High School. His readiness to serve as a volunteer has also been extended to working with the Girl Guide organization by assisting in maintaining their campsites, driving for cookie sales and performing year end reviews. As well he assists with the Church youth group when needed.

RWBro Ratchford received his three Degrees in Rockyford Lodge No. 123, initiated 6 June 1996, passed 4 July 1996 and raised 1 August 1996. He served as Worshipful Master in 2001, 2004, 2005 and 2006. He was elected DDGM, Dinosaur District, for 2005-2006. He received an Honorary Life Membership from Drumheller Lodge No. 146 and is currently Dinosaur District representative for the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund.

RWBro Ratchford has been a member of the Royal Arch Masons of Alberta since 26 November 2003 and is currently IPZ of Otuskwan Chapter No. 9. He was elected to the Grand Executive Committee in 2008 for a two year period and is serving as a member of the Fraternal Relations Committee. He is a member of Cryptic Rite and of Cyprus Preceptory of the Knights Templar, where he is currently Sub-Marshall. He joined Al Azhar Shrine in May 2008. He is Second Lieutenant, Tin Lizzie Corps; Treasurer, Hill Billy Club; Treasurer, Calgary Shrine Club; member of the Director Staff and member of the Alpine Shrine Club.

WBro William G. Sheppard Crescent Lodge No. 87

WBro Sheppard was born 16 October 1949. He was initiated in Crescent Lodge No. 87 on 28 February 1978, passed 25 April 1978 and raised 23 May 1978. RWBro Sheppard affiliated with Loyalty Lodge No. 197 in 1988 and is an Honorary

Life Member of Carstairs Lodge No. 20. He served as Master of Crescent Lodge in 1985 and also in 2005.

RWBro John Slade

Temple-Centennial Lodge No. 167

RWBro Slade was born in Amersham, England (35 miles North of London, England), on 17 February 1949. He began his Masonic career in London when he joined Unity Lodge No. 183, where his degrees were completed in 1982. On immigrating into Canada in 1990 he affiliated with Baseline Lodge No. 198, located in Spruce Grove, and served as Worshipful Master in 1994-1995. RWBro Slade was elected to the Board of General Purposes in 1998 and elected as DDGM for the Yellowhead District for 2007-2008. He is a noble of Al Shamal Shrine Temple AAONMS and a member of Areme Chapter No. 11, Order of the Eastern Star. On completion of his year as Master of Baseline Lodge he commenced working with Edmonton Chapter, Order of DeMolay, and has been Chapter Advisor, Chairman of the Advisory Council, and Northern Deputy. He presently holds the office of the Executive Officer for Alberta, and President of DeMolay Canada and is an active member of The International Supreme Council Order of DeMolay. He was awarded Honorary DeMolay Legion of Honour in May 2003.

He served in the British Army and was awarded the General Service Medal (1962) Northern Ireland Clasp. Prior to completing his engagement in the British Military, he qualified with his degree in Chiropractic (the study and medical treatment of disorders of the foot). Following his qualification he set up a private practice in South East London until the time of his emigration to Edmonton where he set up another successful private practice.

RWBro Slade and his wife Barbara live in Edmonton and have five grandchildren. They are members of The Alberta St. George of England Society, for which John served as treasurer for 15 years. He is also a member and treasurer of the Royal Commonwealth Society and a member of the Edmonton Churchill society. In his spare time he volunteers with the Symphony under the Sky and Shakespeare in the Park. For his volunteer involvement he was an honored recipient of the Alberta Centenary Medal in 2005.

RWBro Larry R. Watson

Gleichen Lodge No. 36

RWBro Watson was born on 2 February 1942 and grew up on a farm/ranch in southern Saskatchewan. His working life was spent in the Canadian military and as a civilian employee of the Department of National Defence for more than 34 years.

RWBro Watson was initiated in January 1971 and made a member of Brandon Lodge No. 19, GRM. He was posted to Germany in 1972 and joined BlackForest Lodge No. 901, a member Lodge of the United Grand Lodges of Germany, and became Worshipful Master of that Lodge in 1983-84. He then joined Canada Lodge No. 165 in 1988 and has served the Lodge as its Almoner for many years. He served as Worshipful Master in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 and since that date has served the Lodge as its secretary.

RWBro Watson is a member of Strathmore Chapter No. 21 of the Royal Arch Masons of Alberta and currently is the Chapter's First Principal. He was DDGM of District 16 in 1991-1992, secretary of the Calgary Masonic Board of Relief for the past 10 years and a member of the Board for over 20 years. He has also been District Secretary of Dinosaur and Phoenix Districts for 4 PDDGMs.

Addendum to Honour Roll

The name of Gordon M. Leadbeater, a member of Gleichen Lodge No. 36, was omitted from the list of those receiving 50-year jewels published in the April 2010 issue.

Grand Master's Itinerary

- May**
- 1 Jasper Park No. 143 & Meridian No. 129, Annual Outdoor Degree; Jasper National Park; Tyle 13 00 h; Prime Rib BBQ 16 00 h
 - 8 Royal Arch Masons of Alberta, Annual Communication; Norseman Inn, Camrose, AB
 - 10 Evergreen Lodge No. 166, Western Night Lodge; Edmonton Freemasons' Hall; Western Attire; 19 30 h
 - 15 Drayton Valley No. 182, 50th Anniversary Celebrations; Drayton Valley Lodge Hall; Tyle 16 00 h; Banquet at Max Centre 18 00 h
- 28-30 Grand Lodge of Québec Annual Communication; Montreal

Bumstead Essay, from page 2. part, been well received, some individuals and even some Lodges have had reservations. Many may find the total plan overwhelming but as the plan will be implemented in small steps this shouldn't be a problem. One possible place to start is assessing the condition of our Lodges. Every Lodge has its own strengths and weaknesses and making a determination of these is the first step.

Internal Lodge surveys, consultation with respected senior members and discussions with the District Deputy Grand Master are all avenues that may be followed to determine the state of the Lodge and where to start.

I had the distinct pleasure of visiting a Lodge recently where the Worshipful Master handed out a plan for the future of the Lodge to each of the members. This had been created in consultation

with the Lodge Officers and was a plan for the next three and five years. This kind of activity is in keeping with the Strategic Plan and is a valuable exercise for all Lodges to undertake. A plan is simply a set of ideas set to paper which gives all who read it a clear indication of the direction intended to be taken. No plan is set in stone. It may be changed and modified as circumstances dictate. This planning activity achieves a number objectives. In addition to getting everyone on the "same page", it causes members to think on a larger scale than just the next meeting. If it contains a calendar of events, including practices and social events, then the brethren and officers, in particular, may begin to work this into their own schedules. It might hopefully improve attendance at the practices and Lodge meetings. A further effect is making other Lodges aware that this particular Lodge is well organized and has a clear idea of where it is going in the future.

Retention of members has been identified as an area of concern in this jurisdiction. Specifically of great concern to me is the care and retention of our most senior members. We have all heard instances where a family member or relative, completely unaware of Masonic principles, writes to the Lodge and requests that the person's name be "taken off the list". This, as we know, has had some very regrettable results. The options that are available to Lodges that receive requests like this are well known and should be implemented.

One jurisdiction in the mid-western United States will not permit any member, who is over eighty-five years of age and who has been a member for over twenty-five years, to be suspended or given a demit without the written permission of the Grand Master. Close to home, in the Province of Saskatchewan, members are no longer required to pay dues once they reach ninety years of age.

Last fall, an elderly brother came into the Grand Lodge Office to pay his subscription for the Alberta Freemason. This got my attention as I was under the impression that all the members in the province received a copy of the publication with the monthly notice. In talking to this Brother I discovered that he no longer belonged to a Masonic Lodge. He was ninety-five years of age and the Lodge he had attended had surrendered its Charter some ten

The Grand Lodge of Alberta, AF&AM 105th Annual Communication Ticket Order Form

Mail to: Grand Lodge of Alberta, 330 – 12 Avenue SW, Calgary AB, T2R 0H2

Will you please determine your Ticket needs for the Grand Lodge functions at the **Deerfoot Inn & Casino**, Calgary, AB, and other venues, as outlined below.

Once you have determined the number, please complete the bottom portion of this form and return to the Grand Lodge office by **21 May 2010, enclosing your cheque in payment**. No refunds will be given on tickets returned later than 21 May 2010.

Lodge orders will be mailed to the Secretary, but individual orders will be retrievable only at the registration desk at the Communication.

----- Please return portion below -----

(Please Print)

Name: _____ Office held: _____

Address: _____

Event	Number	Total Cost
Thursday, 10 June 2010		
Grand Master's Banquet		
Cost — \$50.00/person	_____	_____
After 21 May, cost — \$55.00/person		
Friday, 11 June 2010		
Men's Luncheon		
Cost — \$25.00/person	_____	_____
After 21 May, cost — \$30.00/person		
Friday, 11 June 2010		
Grand Lodge Banquet Officers: Formal		
Cost \$50.00/person	_____	_____
After 21 May, cost — \$55.00/person		
Saturday, 12 June 2010		
Men's Luncheon		
Cost — \$25.00/person	_____	_____
After 21 May, cost — \$30.00/person		
Saturday, 12 June 2010		
Grand Master's BBQ at Calgary Freemasons' Hall		
Cost \$25.00/person (Only 125 tickets available)	_____	_____
After 21 May, cost — \$30.00/person		
Ladies' Program TBA		
Total Payment Enclosed:	=====	=====

years previously. When this occurred he was handed a Demit and found himself without a Masonic home. In discussing the problem with some Past Masters in my own Lodge, it was decided to make him an Honourary Life Member which was duly done as we all agreed that a Mason should not find himself without a Masonic Lodge through no fault of his own. The question now arises: how many other Masons have been abandoned in this way? While we are initiating many new members, we must not lose sight of the fact that the number of elderly members is increasing and we have a responsibility, as Masons, to find a solution.

We have to clarify in our own minds what direction we are going to take and what our priorities are going to be. We have been given a set of guide lines which might be described as a road map. A start has been made, much has been accomplished, much is yet to be done. By following this map we now have the tools needed to make some very impressive things happen.

Cameron Essay, from page 2.

each Lodge. This plan can't be done in one year and must be carried on by the Grand Lodge Line to make it successful. They have bought into the program to help ensure it's success. I support this program.

Demits, suspensions for nonpayment of dues and deaths account for our losses. We can't control the deaths but we can control our losses due to demits and suspension for NPD. I am a firm believer

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution

Resolution from the Grand Master:

Whereas deaths and resignations can result in vacancies in Grand Lodge Boards and Committees and these vacancies can have an adverse effect on the operation of these Boards and Committees, be it resolved that in C10.3, the following subsection be added as C10.3.5

“authority to appoint members of Grand Lodge to fill vacancies on Boards and Committees created by deaths or resignations” and the current C10.3.5 be re-numbered C10.3.6

in reducing the number of demits. Often a demit is granted without an investigation into the reason why nor taking into consideration the years of service the Brother has given to the Craft and his Lodge in particular. All demits should be investigated to ascertain the reason why. It is a shame to see a life long Brother be granted a demit when there were extenuating circumstances that could have easily been resolved avoiding a demit. Also, if it is of a financial reasons, then there are programs in place to provide him with assistance.

Boring meetings can be improved on by proper planning, improving ritual and floor work, informative Masonic Education and interesting guest speakers. This can be realized by attending the Leadership Training Programs as they are instituted. I am fortunate to belong to one of the top five Lodges in Alberta. Part of Crescent Lodges success has been honed over the years by visiting with other Lodges and bringing back new ideas to the Lodge. The Officers would buy into the program and give it a try, some were successful, some were not. Visiting is one of the backbones of Masonry and it affords a wonderful opportunity for some Lodges to see what has proven to be successful for others. Take those ideas back to your Lodge and give it a try. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Lack of mentoring has led to a large number of demits. Some Lodges have proven very successful in attracting new members but have experienced trouble with retention. Too often the mentoring has stopped once the Brother has completed his Master Masons degree. Mentoring does not stop once he has

become a Master Mason. His sponsor or mentor should sit in Lodge with him until he bonds with other Brethren in Lodge. Once you see he is comfortable with his peers he is not likely to become a statistic.

Poor festive boards is a tough one especially if you cook like me, I burn water. This is where a Lodge can pitch in and help as with a little effort from everyone a poor festive board can become a great festive board. The most common complaint is time constraints. There are a number of Lodges who manage to put on a great festive board yet they face the same problems. The difference is their commitment to their Brothers. Having a festive board prior to the meeting works for some Lodges. For those who work they can go straight from work to Lodge and not miss supper. You can change at Lodge if necessary, Some can't eat late or the festive board makes for a late evening. A number of Lodges have switched this year to early festive boards with surprising success. You will have greater success in bringing in non masonic speakers as they can speak after the meal and not have to give up a large part of their evening waiting to speak.

Poor floor and ritual work will not keep the Brothers interest or pride in his Lodge. You will reap what you sow.

Lack of communication can cut the number of demits by practicing the COMELY program. By keeping in touch with the members you will likely reduce your demits and keep the dues current.

As the Dalai Lama said “Open you arms to change, but don't let go of you values”. This is a good motto for Masonry to follow.

2010 Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America

MWBro Brian Shimmons, Grand Master

“Inspired by our History... Embracing our Future” was the theme of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America (GMNA) for 2010. The Conference was hosted by the Grand Lodge of Virginia (MWBro William E. Rorer, Grand Master) and held in Arlington, Virginia from 21–23 February 2010. Sixty of the sixty-four jurisdictions attended the three-day Conference, as well as observers from around the globe. The Grand Lodge of Alberta was represented by MWBro Brian Shimmons, RWBro Gerald Waldern and RWBro Peter Dunlop.

Over the course of the Conference,

reports were received from a variety of committees and associations serving the Craft and its many charities, demonstrating how the Craft is contributing to community initiatives as wide ranging as child identification programs and providing health care and shelter for the elderly.

The Conference featured a number of “break-out” sessions to afford attendees the opportunity to learn about and discuss topics ranging from Membership Retention to Selective Invitation. These provided many different ideas and viewpoints that could be applied

to benefit any jurisdiction. The Grand Lodge of Alberta representatives came back with some new ideas that will be helpful in this jurisdiction.

This year's Conference coincided with the 100th anniversary of the formation of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, whose purpose was/is "to erect and maintain a suitable memorial temple to George Washington the Mason." The fruit of their labour is the awe-inspiring George Washington Masonic Memorial (GWMM) in Alexandria, Virginia. Paid for entirely by American Masons, the GWMM was dedicated in 1932 and contains much of George Washington Masonic memorabilia as well as information on Freemasonry and its many concordant and appendant bodies. To mark the 100th anniversary, a photograph of all attending Grand Masters was taken on the steps

of the GWMM, which is a re-enactment of a 1956 Life magazine picture.

As part of the proceedings, the Grand Lodge of Alberta was honoured by having RWBro Peter Dunlop elected as a director of MasoniChip.

Associated with the GMNA was the

Grand Secretaries of North America (GSNA) Conference. The Grand Lodge of Alberta was represented by RWBro Jerry Kopp who was elected First Vice President of that body and will be its President in 2011, when the GMNA and GSNA are held in Atlanta, Georgia.

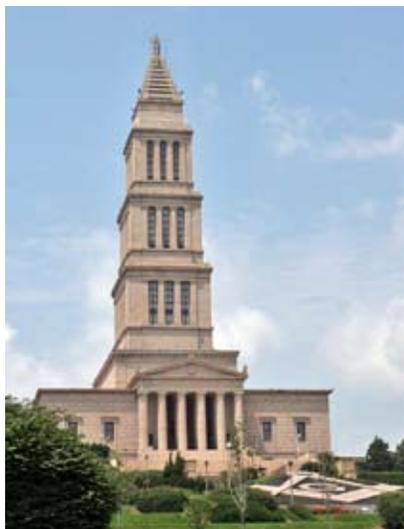


Conference of Grand Secretaries of North America

RWBro Jerry Kopp, Grand Secretary

Once again, I had the opportunity to attend the Conference of Grand Secretaries of North America, this year in Arlington, Virginia on 20–23 February 2010. This year's Keynote Speaker was Wisconsin's Attorney General. He pointed out that Freemasonry played an important part in the formation of their country, and he sees a greater need today for Freemasonry to shape our society. Citizens, whether Freemasons or not, must uphold our moral standards to create a better society throughout the world. Our Creator or God must be part of our daily lives, not part of government. He stated politics and religion must be part our Craft, as it is tied into the Craft.

He suggested that politics and religion should be discussed in Lodge, but with a small "p" and small "r." The Attorney General, MWBro J.B. Van Hollen, is a Past Grand Master of the State of Wisconsin. MWBro Van Hollen was offered a position as US Attorney General, but declined the offer, as he was asked to resign his affiliation with Freemasonry, which he refused to do. He said his reason was that



George Washington Masonic Memorial, site of the conferences.

Freemasonry has principles that should be practised throughout society and in government processes.

Criminal Records Checks

The Grand Lodge of Florida has implemented a requirement that all petitioners for Initiation must have a criminal background check done before submitting their petitions. These checks protect the Lodge and the Grand Lodge and the policy must be complied with, with no exceptions. A fee of \$15 is added to the initiation fee; if the check comes back negative the Lodge is obliged to return the fee. Florida gives seminars for Lodge Secretaries and Treasurers in order to ensure the proper procedures are followed.

Digitizing Historical Records

Concern was expressed that many of our Lodges and Grand Lodges have important documents such as index cards, roster books, minute books, annual returns and registers which are subject to deterioration, as most paper used in them is acid based. It was also pointed out that retrieving information from these documents is a very long process.

A presentation was made on digitizing records, including scanning of documents that need to be preserved.

Computer Conferencing and Communication

Many Grand Lodges are still travelling to a central location for their various committee meetings, however some Grand Lodges are now using web conferencing and online meeting software.

Golf Tournament Prior to Grand Lodge

Arrangements have been made for a Golf Tournament prior to this year's Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

Date: Thursday, 10 June 2010
 Location: Lakeside Greens Golf & Country Club
 Time: Tee times starting at 10 00 h
 Cost: \$115.00 + GST = \$ 120.75. Price includes 18 holes of golf, power cart, driving range, meal, prizes & gratuity.
 Payment: Must be dated and received by 27 May 2010. Cheques are to be made payable to "Lakeside Greens Golf & C.C."

Contact:
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