



110th Annual Communication

The 110th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, A.F. & A.M., will be held in the Sheraton Red Deer Hotel, 3310 – 50 Ave., commencing on Friday, 12 June 2015 at 13 00 h and continuing on Saturday, 13 June 2015. Brethren are encouraged to be in place at 12 45 h in order to receive Special Dignitaries, Representatives of Concordant and non-Masonic groups, etc.

Agenda: The Annual Communication, under provision of the Constitution Part I.1.L.1 will be conducted by MWBro John Slade from the attached agenda, 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, Part II.1A.4.

Notices of Motion & Nominations: The complete list of Notices of Motion to amend the Constitution and Regulations and all Nominees for election appears elsewhere in this edition.

Registration & Balloting: Shall begin at 08 00 h, Friday, 12 June 2015 and continue until 18 00 h. Registration and Balloting resumes at 08 00 h, Saturday, 13 June 2015 and closes at 10 00 h, as per Part II.1.B.9.

Accommodations: All reservations are on a first come basis, at the Sheraton Red Deer Hotel, (1-403-346-2091). The cost of a room is (Traditional King) Thursday, Friday & Saturday, \$149. (Club Room King) Thursday, Friday & Saturday, \$189; (Jacuzzi Suite) Thursday, Friday & Saturday \$299. *These prices in effect until 9 May 2015. Please quote "Grand Lodge of Alberta".*

Function Tickets: Can be ordered through the Grand Lodge Office; the Ticket Order Form appears elsewhere in this edition. Prices and details will also be announced on the Grand Lodge Website (www.freemason.ab.ca). Ticket orders (with payment) must be returned to the Office by 28 May 2015. Ticket prices will be increased by \$5.00/ticket after 28 May. Only tickets ordered by the Lodge Secretary will be mailed out. Any individuals ordering tickets will retrieve them at the Book Store/Grand Lodge Office at the Annual Communication. Payment will be expected at the time of pick up if not previously paid.

Installation of Grand Lodge Officers: Immediately following the business before Grand Lodge, MWBro John Cameron will be Installing the Grand Master with the assistance of Past Grand Masters.

Dress: Grand Lodge Communication: Business Suit/Regalia (includes Grand Lodge Officers); Grand Lodge Banquet: Dark Business Suit, Semi-Formal, except Grand Lodge Officers to wear Tuxedos at 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 2014–2015

Grand Master

Automatic as per section Part I.1.G.2.B

RWBro Chris E. Batty

Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92

Deputy Grand Master & Grand Master Elect

By acclamation

RWBro James Ratchford

Rockyford Lodge No. 123

Senior Grand Warden

By acclamation

RWBro Gordon Berard

Lodge Renfrew No. 34

Grand Treasurer

By acclamation

MWBro John D. Hart

Perfection Lodge No. 9

Junior Grand Warden

One to be elected

RWBro Ken Cheel

Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92
RWBro Cheel was born into a very strong Masonic family, where his Grandfather, two Uncles and a number of cousins were all members of the Craft. Of course, it was a well-kept secret until he reached 21 years of age.



See Cheel, page 2

RWBro Kenn Culbertson

Evergreen Lodge No. 166
Kenn is a third generation Mason, as his Grandfather and Father both were members of West Edmonton Lodge No. 101. Early in 1971 he began his career at Canadian National Railways as a Yardman and in May 1974 he quali-



See Culbertson, page 2

RWBro Peter D. Devlin

Mizpah Lodge No. 35
RWBro Peter D. Devlin was born in Halifax, NS, in 1963. He began in the Order of DeMolay in Halifax in 1979. He came from a Masonic family, as his father and mother were involved in Masonry and Eastern Star. He



See Devlin, page 3

RWBro Kimberly Greenizan

Airdrie Wild Rose Lodge No. 2001 and Carstairs Lodge No. 20
Kimberly Greenizan was born in 1955 in Murrayville, BC. He holds a BA in Geography as well as both a Masters degree and a PhD in Psychology. He is also a Certified Infor-



See Greenizan, page 3

Cheel, continued from page 1.

He was initiated into Royal Arthur Lodge No. 523 on 6 March 1978, passed to the second Degree on 22 February 1979 and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Hastings Lodge No. 633 on 28 March 1979, all in the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario. In February 1991, he requested and received a demit from that Grand Jurisdiction.

Bro Cheel became a member of Saskatchewan Lodge No. 92 in February 1987, was its Master in 1994 and 2004 and became Secretary in 2012. He joined the Lodge of Perfection, Scottish Rite, in February of 1992, Mizpah Chapter of Rose Croix in March of the same year and the Alberta Consistory in October of 1992.

He was elected and served as DDGM for Northern Lights District for 2008–09. In January of 2010 his successor, RWBro Jack McBride, became ill. On Bro McBride's request and the Grand Master's approval, Bro Cheel completed the official parts of the DDGM's duties over the next few months.

Bro Cheel was elected to the Board of General Purposes in 2009 for a three-year term and served as President in 2010–11.

Under MWBro Shimmons, he served as the Chairman of the Leadership Committee. Starting with MWBro Peter Dunlop, and continuing under all of the Grand Masters since, he served as the Chairman of the Lodge Officers Training Committee. For the term 2014–15 he was also appointed by the Grand Master, MWBro John Slade, to serve on the Board of Benevolence.

While this accounting provides the reader with his Masonic history, it doesn't speak to who he is on a personal level. For starters, he was born and raised in Peterborough, Ontario, attending Central School and Peterborough CVS before entering Trent University to study chemistry. He met his wife, Daphne, while attending a social event at Trent University in the fall of 1978. They were married in September 1980 and moved to Alberta in the fall of 1981. They have two children, Kaitlin and Kelsey, ages 26 and 22. Ken has been employed in the computer industry for over 30 years, starting as a Programmer and then moving into Computer Operations. He has just recently retired from the work force after being the Manager of IT and he is busier than ever with Freemasonry.

As with many parents, during the years their children were young there were a number of activities that kept the family busy (over and above participating in Lodge events). Both their children were involved in sports, dance and music. From working bingos to serving on parent advisory groups, volunteerism was part of their life. Ken was on the Executive of the Music Parents Advisory Committee for six years, planning fund-raising events and providing advice on music trips with local, national and international destinations. In addition, as part of their commitment to their Church community, there were many opportunities to

serve, such as pancake breakfasts, cleaning bees, pastoral maintenance etc.

Freemasonry has been a central feature of his adult life. He has been fortunate in the mentors he has had, from his Grandfather, WBro Harry Austin, his Uncle, WBro Ken Austin, members of Saskatchewan Lodge (most specifically WBro Jack Gardener, along with many others) and other members of this Grand Jurisdiction.

During his Masonic career, Ken has also been fortunate to be able to pass along his learnings by mentoring new members of the Craft. Answering their questions definitely keeps him on his toes. It is said that education is a life-long process. Ken feels that being a mentor brings that phrase to life, as Freemasonry is a process of life-long learning and practice.

Through his Masonic journey he has enjoyed the positions he has filled, the people he has met and the friendships formed. He continues to enjoy visiting Lodges in Northern Lights District and other areas of this Grand Jurisdiction; the highlight he treasured was serving as DDGM. Bro Cheel encourages all Past Masters to consider letting their names stand for DDGM. The people met and friendships formed over the year stay with you for the rest of your life.

Culbertson, continued from page 1.

fied as a Locomotive Engineer. Kenn held this position for 32 years at Canadian National, then transferred to VIA Rail Canada, where he retired in 2008.

Kenn was Initiated in Evergreen Lodge No. 166 in June of 2005, and served as Worshipful Master in 2010. He is also an affiliated member of Baseline Lodge No. 198 in Spruce Grove, a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, an Al Shamal Shriner and a member of the Order of Eastern Star. In 2014 Kenn was accepted as a member of the Northern Alberta Veteran Degree Team.

For Northern Lights District, he served as Masonic Higher Education Bursary Representative in 2009–2010 and District Secretary from 2011 to 2013.

In June 2011 Kenn was appointed Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Alberta, serving with MWBro Peter Dunlop. He was also elected to the Board of General Purposes for a term of three years, along with an appointment to the Grand Lodge Finance Committee. In 2014 he was re-elected to the Board of General Purposes and appointed to the Benevolence Committee for a two year term.

In June 2013, Kenn was installed as the District Deputy Grand Master of Northern Lights District.

Masonry was extremely important in filling the void that came after Kenn's retirement. It was the fellowship and visitation that are cornerstones of our Fraternity that were the inspiration for Kenn's wholehearted involvement in the Craft.

RWBro Kenn is married to Phyllis, and their family includes

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 John Slade
Deputy Grand Master	RWBro Chris Batty
Senior Grand Warden	RWBro James Ratchford
Junior Grand Warden	RWBro Gordon Berard
Grand Secretary	RWBro Jerry W. Kopp



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The Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin

RWBro George Tapley (Chairman);
MWBro Robert E. Juthner, Editor emeritus;
WBro Garth Cochran; WBro Loren Kline;
Bro Trevor Morris; Ex Officio: Grand Master,
Deputy Grand Master & Grand Secretary
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four children and four wonderful grandchildren.

Outside of Freemasonry, Kenn enjoys model railroading and is a member of the Northern Alberta Garden Railroaders, where he served as President for three years. He also enjoys golf, travelling and volunteering.

Devlin, continued from page 1.

was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Coverdale Lodge No. 52, GLNB in 1984, serving as WM in 2000–2001 in Centennial Lodge No. 53 and being appointed as Grand Junior Deacon GLNB in 2002.

He is a member of both the Canadian and York Rites: Mizpah Lodge No. 35 and Medicine Hat Lodge No. 2. He was elected DDGM for Palliser District in October 2013 and was installed in June 2014.

Peter is very active in both the York and Scottish Rites and is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. He has served as presiding officer, as well as holding Grand positions, in the various concordant bodies.

Peter served 22 years with the Canadian Army and is now employed with the British Army in Suffolk.

He has been married to Kandie for 26 years. They live in the town of Redcliff, outside Medicine Hat. They have four children (ages 20 to 26): Adrienne, Gregory, Austin and Bernadette. Peter has spent three decades involved in Masonry

and has been asked several times what motivates him to continue. The answer is simple: “for the love of it!”

Greenizan, continued from page 1.

mation Systems Manager and a Certified Disaster Recover Planner.

He served in the military Reserves and Regular Forces from 1974 to 2011, retiring in 2011 with the rank of Major. Kim held many command and staff positions, including Resources Manager. As a civilian, he is a Regulatory Compliance and Security Manager for Raytheon Canada Limited. Kim owns Crossfield Storage Solutions (self storage).

Bro Greenizan was initiated in Ottawa’s Ionic Lodge No. 526 in 1991. He affiliated to Carstairs Lodge No. 20 and was its Worshipful Master for 1996–1998. He was DDGM of Phoenix District for 2002–2003. He is a Charter Member of the Internet Lodge of Research as its Junior Warden and a Charter member of Airdrie Wild Rose Lodge as its Director of Ceremonies, serving as that Lodge’s Secretary since 2004. He was Advisor, Stampede Chapter Order of DeMolay, 2003–2008; Associate Bethel Guardian, Bethel No. 19, 2004–2007 and Founder and President, Airdrie Masonic Temple Association. He was initiated into Royal Arch Masonry in 2006 and is a Past First Principal of Crescent Chapter No. 24. Kim is also Donations Chair of the Airdrie Legion.

Board of General Purposes

Five to be elected for three-year terms

WBro David N. Blue

Avon Glen Lodge No. 170

WBro Blue was born in 1962 in Edmonton. He was proud to be installed as the WM of Avon Glen Lodge No. 170 in 1997. He stayed active as a Past Master by supporting the Lodge Brothers who followed him as WMs. David was elected by his Brothers to be Treasurer and filled that office in his Lodge for a number of years. In 2010 he was elected to the Board of General Purposes and served faithfully for three years. He was reappointed by the Grand Master for the years 2013 and 2014 and served on the Finance Committee. For the year 2013, Bro David was appointed Chairman of a sub-committee tasked to consider and short list Auditors for the 2014 year end. This was successfully completed, and resulted in the recommended candidate being accepted by the Finance Committee and Board of General Purposes, and a new Auditor engaged. He was appointed Grand Pursuivant for the year 2014 by MWBro J. Slade and attended many Lodge functions.

Bro Blue operates a full service accounting practice, with a focus on corporate and personal tax. A highlight of his career thus far was when the Honourable Iris Evans appointed him to the Charitable Advisory Committee for the Province of Alberta in 1998. This is a position that he continues to hold. It is a standing committee, and whenever required he serves with his fellow committee members to review the rules and regulations in Alberta pertaining to the charitable, non-profit and voluntary sector. He enjoys using his skills and background to keep Grand Lodge up to date, aligned with best practices and using its resources effectively.

RWBro James Carswell

Cornerstone Lodge No. 19

Bro Carswell was born in 1954 in Scotland, and is married to Nanette. He was initiated, passed and raised in St. Peter’s

Lodge No. 331 in Scotland. Jim affiliated with Cornerstone Lodge No. 19 in 2004. He became WM in 2008, served as Junior Grand Deacon for 2011–2012 and as DDGM for Calgary-Highwood District for 2012–13.

WBro Wade T. Cox

Avon Glen Lodge No. 170

Wade was born in St. Catharines, ON in 1957. He lived in Toronto, where he met his wife of 32 years at York University in 1979. Wade graduated with a BA in Economics in 1981. Tricia and Wade married in 1982 and they have four children of whom they are very proud. One of his sons, Brendan, was Initiated, Passed and Raised into Freemasonry while Wade was the WM of Avon Glen Lodge No. 170 in 2010.

Wade began his career in insurance when he took a position as a Group Sales Representative with London Life in Toronto in 1981. He was made Group Sales Manager in Brampton, ON, in 1983. In 1988 Wade was transferred to Saskatoon to run the Group Sales office there. Wade left London Life in 1991 to move to Edmonton and begin a new career with Canada Life in Group Sales Management. In 2003, Wade joined Benefex Consulting Inc. and became a partner in 2004. The company specializes in Employee Benefits and Human Relations. Wade is now the President and Managing Partner of the company.

Wade has been a member of Avon Glen Lodge No. 170 since 2004 and occupied a chair in his Lodge from 2005 through to 2013. He also participates in several of the Scottish Rite degrees, having been a member of the Edmonton Valley since 2004, receiving his 32nd degree that year. He is currently a Senior Officer of the Lodge of Perfection in that Valley. Wade is also a member of North Star Chapter No. 2 of Royal Arch.

Wade has been a Director of the Edmonton Rite to Learn Foundation and the Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation Learning Centre for Edmonton since their inception several

years ago. He continues to sit on the Board doing what he can to ensure the continuing viability of the Learning Centre.

RWBro John A. Girvan

Exemplar Lodge No. 175

RWBro John Girvan was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1952, and immigrated to Canada in October 1953. He graduated high school at Salisbury Composite in Sherwood Park, and attended the Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences in Saskatoon, graduating in 1976. He later attended the University of Alberta and completed the Public Administration Program, graduating in June of 1992. In 2000 he attended the Banff School for Management, an intensive ten day leadership development training course – his strengths are strategic planning, communication, coaching and mentoring.

He has been married to Marian, his partner and friend for 36 years and they have two sons, Iain and Jonathan. Both are active Masons in Exemplar Lodge and the District.

RWBro Girvan was initiated into Exemplar Lodge No. 175 in September 1992, passed in October 1992 and raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in November 1992. He became Master of Exemplar Lodge in 1999 and again in 2011. He has served as Editor for the district newsletter, the *Athabasca Artificer* since 2011 and served as Grand Steward in 2012–13. RWBro Girvan is currently District Deputy Grand Master for Athabasca District. He a member of the Valley of Edmonton of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and a 32nd Degree Mason.

RWBro Girvan retired after a 34 year career in government service in November of 2008 as the Head, Epidemiology and Toxicology and Surveillance Support. He remains active in local government and the community as a member of two Camrose County Boards and a former board member of the Stoney Creek Natural Foods Society.

His other important interests involve travel, golf, fishing and hunting, woodworking and the operation of their berry u-pick and market garden north of Camrose.

RWBro Gordon Harris

Sherwood Lodge No. 183

RWBro Harris was raised and educated in Edmonton and has lived his entire life there. He and his wife, Shirley, have been married for 48 years. They have a daughter, Heather, and a son, Jarrad. Heather is married to Craig Dimond and they have one son, Eastyn. Jarrad is married to Tayla Wendler and they have a son, Nash.

Gordon apprenticed with Canadian Westinghouse as an electrical mechanic. After several years, he went to work with the City of Edmonton in the Transportation Department as a transit operator. He became involved with the Alberta Transit Union as a shop representative until he was elected as President. In 1977 he left the Union position and went to Special Services in Transit where he was in charge of the special events taking place in Edmonton. These events included the Commonwealth Games, University Games, the Pope's visit, Heritage Days, football and hockey games, concerts and other events. He was promoted to General Supervisor of Customer Information and filled that position until he retired after 30 years of service.

He has volunteered for over 40 years, starting out as a coach for hockey, ringette and ball. During this time, his teams were successful at the local and the provincial levels.

He has held many positions in his volunteer years. He has served as president of Area council 17 for over 30 years, has been chairperson of Lac Ste. Anne/Lake Isle Water Quality Society, chairperson of HWY 43 Waste Commission and Mayor/Councilor for the Summer Village of West Cove for 17 years. He also sat on committees for the Provincial Government including the Land Use Framework Review and the Environmental Committee.

He has received a number of awards, including the Commendation Medal of Canada in 1992 and the medal for outstanding service to the people of Alberta in 2005. He has recently been recognized by the Rotary Club at the Champions for Children Awards night for his contributions. Gordon received the Paul Harris Award, which is the highest award that the Rotary Club gives. In 2012 Gordon received the Queen Elizabeth II "Gratia Regina" award.

RWBro Harris was initiated into Freemasonry in 1977 at Edmonton Lodge No. 7. He then went on into the Scottish Rite in 1978 and received his 32nd degree. He joined the Al Azhar Shrine in 1978 and is a founding member of the Al Shamal Shrine in Edmonton. He has been the Shrine Soccer Chairperson since 1995. This program provides soccer uniforms for children He served as WM of Tawatinaw Lodge No. 71 in 2005. He was elected to serve the Athabasca District as DDGM in 2010 and was installed in 2011. He is now a member in good standing with Strathcona Lodge No. 77. He was elected to the Board of General Purposes in 2012 and is a member of the Jurisprudence Committee. Gordon is the coordinator for training in NE Alberta and has conducted many leadership courses.

Gordon was asked by the Grand Masters to review and make recommendation for insurance for both the Grand Lodge of the Lodges in Alberta.

Gordon is a member of the Scottish Rite and participates in many degrees and coordinates all the regalia for all the degrees.

As well as his volunteering and involvement with Freemasonry, he keeps busy gardening, building things, travelling, making wine and spending time with his family. He is an avid John Wayne fan and collects memorabilia and antiques.

RWBro David J. Marr

Sherwood Lodge No. 183

David was born in St. Anthony, Newfoundland in 1953 and brought up in Gondola Point, New Brunswick. He is a graduate from the Saint John Institute of Technology, 1974, with a diploma in Civil Engineering Technology.

During David's early career he worked as a Quality Control Technician and a Senior Non-Destructive Testing Inspector throughout Canada. David has done extensive international work in such areas as China, Romania, Norway and South America. He is currently employed by df Boiler Tube Industries Inc. as their Director of Quality Assurance. Previous employers include Triton Projects Inc. for five years as the QA/QC Manager, Epcor for four years as owner's inspector for the construction of a 600 MW coal fired power plant at Genesee. He also worked as a Senior QC Inspector for Babcock & Wilcox for 15 years as well as various inspection organizations throughout Canada.

David was initiated into Sherwood Lodge on 23 September 2002, passed to the Second Degree on 27 January 2003 and raised to a Master Mason on 24 March 2003. For the past

four years David has been the WM of Sherwood Lodge 183. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of Beaverhills District in 2011–12 and is currently a 32nd Degree Mason in Scottish Rite.

RWBro Jack P. McBride

Mystic Tie Lodge No. 188

RWBro McBride was born in 1946. He was initiated, passed and raised in Mystic Tie Lodge in 1993 and was their Worshipful Master in 1999–2000. Jack was DDGM for Northern Lights District in 2009–2010 and Grand Registrar in 2005–2006. Other Masonic positions he has held are President of Central Bureau of Edmonton, Board Member of Freemasons’ Hall of Edmonton, Secretary to Northern Lights District, Mystic Tie and West Edmonton Lodge. WBro McBride has been President of the Board of General Purposes for the last two years.

He has been married to Gwen for 42 years, and they have three children.

RWBro Glen Springsteel

Cornerstone Lodge No. 19

RWBro Springsteel was born in 1946, in Edmonton, Alberta, and graduated from Strathcona Composite High School. Bro Springsteel received CMA designation in 1984 and worked for Franklin Supply from 1980 to 1995. He became a self-employed Public Accountant in 1995.

Glen was a member of DeMolay to age 21. He was initiated in Cornerstone Lodge No. 19 in 1993, and was WM in 2000, 2001 and 2014; DDGM, Calgary-Highwood District, 2004–05 and a member of the Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund Committee for three years.

WBro Jared Vanoni

Mystic West Lodge No. 101

WBro Jared Vanoni was born in 1982 in Edmonton. Jared has been a Master Mason for nine years and has served as WM for two years with Mystic Tie Lodge No. 188 and one year with the amalgamated Mystic West Lodge No. 101.

Jared has been a dedicated employee of Edmonton Transit for 15 years and has travelled to 27 countries in the meantime. Jared also plays in a local band and reads relentlessly.

Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund Committee

Elected by acclamation

RWBro John A. Girvan

Exemplar Lodge No. 175

RWBro John Girvan was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1952, and immigrated to Canada in October 1953. He graduated high school at Salisbury Composite in Sherwood Park, and attended the Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences in Saskatoon, graduating in 1976. He later attended the University of Alberta and completed the Public Administration Program, graduating in June of 1992. In 2000 he attended the Banff School for Management, an intensive ten day leadership development training course — his strengths are strategic planning, communication, coaching and mentoring.

He has been married to Marian, his partner and friend for 36 years and they have two sons, Iain and Jonathan. Both are active Masons in Exemplar Lodge and the District.

RWBro Girvan was initiated into Exemplar Lodge No. 175 in September 1992, passed in October 1992 and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in November 1992. He became Master of Exemplar Lodge in 1999 and again in 2011. He has served as Editor for the district newsletter, the *Athabasca Artificer* since 2011 and served as Grand Steward in 2012–13. RWBro Girvan is currently District Deputy Grand Master for Athabasca District. He a member of the Valley of Edmonton of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite and a 32nd Degree Mason.

RWBro Girvan retired after a 34 year career in government service in November of 2008 as the Head, Epidemiology and Toxicology and Surveillance Support. He remains active in local government and the community as a member of two Camrose County Boards and a former board member of the Stoney Creek Natural Foods Society.

His other important interests involve travel, golf, fishing and hunting, woodworking and the operation of their berry u-pick and market garden north of Camrose.

The Masonic Higher Education Bursary Fund is an important resource to provide opportunities for our youth

to contribute to the future of our Province and he wants to be part of making that happen.

VWBro Don Stannard

Empire Lodge No. 63

Bro Stannard was born in 1970 in Edmonton. Currently, and for the past 13 years, he has been the owner of an Edmonton-based advertising agency, Absolut Multi Media.

Bro Stannard was initiated in Empire Lodge No. 63, 4 May 2009, passed 21 September 2009 and raised 16 November 2009. Currently Bro Stannard is the WM of Empire Lodge No. 63. He was elected Grand Tyler for 2013–14. He was appointed to the MHEB Committee by MWBro Peter Dunlop. For the 2011–2012 year he was the MHEB Chairman for Beaverhills District under the guidance of District Deputy Grand Master RWBro Rick Barkwell.

Board of Benevolence

Three to be elected for two-year terms

No nominations received

Notices of Motion

Motion #01 — Board of Benevolence

Remove the words “Worshipful Master or a Past Master” from Part II.1.G.3.b.

Whereas: Nominations to the Board of Benevolence are currently restricted to Worshipful Masters or Past Masters.

Whereas: The Board of General Purposes has opened the nominations for the Board to any Master Mason

Therefore: Part II.1.G.3.b. be amended to read: “A member who is a resident in this Jurisdiction is eligible for election or appointment to the Board of Benevolence.”

Motion #02 — Brooks Lodge No. 73

Adding a new section to Part II.4.B.6. — “Past Grand Lodge Officer undress aprons be bound with gold metallic braid representing the Grand Lodge of Alberta’s 100 years of existence.”

Whereas: Part II.4.C.1.h. — permits Lodge aprons to be bound with 13 mm gold metallic and all metallic parts of the aprons finished in gold.

Whereas: The Grand Lodge of Alberta A.F. & A.M. celebrated its 100th Anniversary on October 12th 2005.

Whereas: Current Past Grand Lodge undress aprons have no distinction of the Jurisdiction having existed for 100 years.

Therefore: Part II.4.B.6.d. will read as follows: “The Grand Lodge of Alberta A.F. & A.M. having celebrated its 100th Anniversary, Past Grand Lodge Officer undress aprons are entitled to be bound with 13 mm gold metallic and all metallic parts of the apron finished in gold.”

Motion #03 — Jurisprudence Committee

Addition to Part II.3.J.5.c. — add sub-paragraph to paragraph “c”

1. “A Brother with a Marked Demit cannot affiliate with another Lodge within the Jurisdiction until such time as his indebtedness is cleared with the Lodge issuing the Marked Demit.”

Motion #04 — Jurisprudence Committee

Addition to Part II.3.J.5.c. — add sub-paragraph to paragraph “c”

2. “A Brother who holds dual membership within the Jurisdiction at the time of the issuance of such a Marked Demit from his Lodge must immediately attend to the indebtedness, prior to December 31 in the year of issuance,

and with the failure to do so the affiliated Lodge must issue a Marked Demit clearly indicating the indebtedness to the other Lodge.”

Motion #05 — Jurisprudence Committee — Housekeeping Motion

That the Grand Piper be added to Part I.1.H.2.

Motion #06 — Jurisprudence Committee — Housekeeping Motion

That the Grand Organist be added to the List of Grand Lodge Officers in Part I.1.F.2

Motion #07 — Jurisprudence Committee — Housekeeping Motion

Amend Part II.3.F.5. by inserting the words “by electronic means” after the word “summons”.

Motion #08 — Lodge Renfrew No. 134

Amend Part II.3.N.5. — “A Brother holding dual membership shall pay only Grand Lodge annual regular fees and dues once.

Amended Part II.3.N.5. if approved to read as follows: “A Brother holding dual membership shall pay only Grand Lodge annual regular fees and dues once. These fees and dues will be collected with the Lodge dues where the Brother holds earlier membership.”

Motion #09 — Jurisprudence Committee

To amend Part II.4.A.3. by adding the words “approved suppliers” to the end of the sentence.



Program for the 110th Annual Communication

11, 12 and 13 June 2015

Sheraton Hotel, Red Deer, Alberta

Thursday, 11 June 2015

- 19 00 h **Grand Master's Dinner & Dance, "60s" Theme**
Come in costume and prepare to dance to the Beatles. A good time will be had by all.
Santano Room
Open to all Freemasons and guests with tickets

Friday, 12 June 2015

- 08 00 h Registration/Balloting Opens under the direction of the Grand Registrar
Corridor
- 08 00 h Board of General Purposes Meeting (members and invited observers only)
Monaco/Santano Rooms
- 09 30 h **Secretary's School — Palermo Room**
- 09 30 h **Masonic Education — WBro Doug Bewick, "Vox Populi" — Voice of the People**
Conference Hall
- 09 30 h **Grand Lodge Officer Training**
- 11 30 h **Lunch**
- 13 00 h Formation of Grand Procession
- 13 00 h Grand Lodge Procession
Reception of:
Past Grand Masters
Visiting Grand Lodges
Concordant Bodies
Special Guests
Presentation of the Colours
Excuse non-Masonic guests
Opening of the 110th Annual Communication (Tyled)
Motion of Loyalty
Confirmation of the Proceedings of the 109th Annual Communication
Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving — Grand Chaplain

- 13 30 h **Business of Grand Lodge**
Rules of Order
Presentation of the following reports:
Block A — Reports — Operations
a) Jurisprudence
b) DGM's Implementation
c) Committee on the Condition of Masonry
d) Masonic Higher Education Bursary
Block B — Reports — Information
e) Grand Librarian
f) Grand Historian
g) Committee on the Grand Lodge Bulletin
h) Public Awareness & Communication
i) Masonic Spring Workshop
Block C — Reports — Financial
j) Grand Treasurer
k) Finance Committee
l) Auditor and Financial Statements
m) Board of Benevolence

Block D — Reports — Administration

- n) Fraternal Relations
o) Publication and Forms Committee
p) Grand Secretary's Report
- 15 20 h Grand Secretary's Announcements
- Correspondence and Regrets
- Recognition of Grand Representatives
- 15 30 h Adjournment
- 18 00 h Balloting and Registration suspended

Friday, 12 June 2015 — Evening Program

Grand Lodge Banquet — Monaco/Santano

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

Saturday, 13 June 2015

- 08 00 h **Balloting and Registration resumes**
- 09 00 h **110th Annual Communication reconvenes**
Any reports not completed from Friday's session
Block E — Reports — Legislation
q) Committee on the Work
r) Board of General Purposes
1. Appointment of Auditor 2015
2. Approve 2016 Operating Budget
3. Notices of Motion
- 10 00 h **Balloting and Registration Close**
Report of the Credentials Committee
Report on the Elections
Other Masonic Awards
- 10 30 h Grand Master's Address
- 11 00 h General and Unfinished Business
Election of Grand Tyler
DeMolay Presentation
Any unfinished business of Grand Lodge will be tabled to next Communication
Grand Master's Comments
- 12 00 h **Lunch**
- 13 30 h **110th Annual Communication Reconvenes**
Installation of the Grand Master and Investiture of the Grand Lodge Officers for 2015–2016, under the direction of **MWBro John Cameron**
- 15 30 h **Grand Lodge Closes**
- 15 45 h 2015–2016 Officers' Pictures
- 17 30 h Incoming Grand Master's evening
BBQ — Red Deer Legion

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

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

Agenda & Locations are Subject to Change

The Grand Lodge of Alberta, AF&AM

110th 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 **Sheraton Red Deer Hotel, 3310 – 50 Avenue, Red Deer, AB**, 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 **28 May 2015, enclosing your cheque in payment**. No refunds will be given on tickets returned later than 28 May 2015. **Lodge orders will be mailed out, but individual orders will be retrievable at the Book Store (Grand Lodge Office) at the Annual Communication.**

----- Please return portion below -----
(Please Print)

Name & Title: _____

****Special Diet?** _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

If yes, Please specify. _____

Event	Number	Total Cost
Thursday, 11 June 2015		
Grand Master's Evening — "Back to the Beatles"		
Dress: 60s Theme — Dinner and Dance		
Cost \$35/person (After 28 May — \$40/person)	_____	_____
Ladies Program — Friday & Saturday, 12 & 13 June 2015		
Friday Morning: 10 30 h Marseilles Room		
"Come Clown Around With Clown Odelia"		
Lunch Included		
Friday Afternoon: 14 30 h, Grand Master's Suite		
"Tea Demonstration by Laura Smith"		
Saturday Morning: 10 00 h, Main Function Room		
Witness the DeMolay Degree		
Saturday Afternoon: 13 00 h, Main Desk		
Trip to Sports Hall of Fame		
Total for Two Days, One Cost \$40/person	_____	_____
(After 28 May, Cost \$45/person)		
Grand Lodge Banquet & Entertainment		
Dress: Dark Business Suit; G L Officers Formal		
Cost \$60/person (After 28 May — \$65/person)	_____	_____
Incoming Grand Master's Barbecue		
Hosted by Widow's Sons Badlands Chapter		
Red Deer Legion		
2810 Bremner Avenue		
Cost \$25/person (After 28 May — \$25/person)	_____	_____
Total Payment Enclosed:	_____	\$ _____

**Please Note: Tickets will be collected at all events.
 Individual orders will not be mailed out. They will be
 retrievable at the Book Store at the Annual Communication**

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 Ken Cheel

"Freemasonry takes good men and makes them better" – we have all heard that refrain and, no doubt, have used it to our friends and colleagues. Freemasonry is also led by men, men who by natural tendencies have their own frailties, egos and ambitions to contend with. Sometimes those frailties overcome the good we are trying to promote and may cause disharmony within the Lodge. And because we are human and imperfect beings ruled by our emotions, in heated moments of disagreement, we can sometimes forget the basic tenets of our Ancient and Honourable Craft, namely:

- 1 Brotherly Love,
- 2 Relief and
- 3 Truth.

It's easy to practice our Craft in situations that are harmonious. The challenge is to practice our Craft in times of disagreement. – Because it's truly these opportunities that allow us to grow in our Craft, deepen our understanding and solidify our Character in the tenets and principles of Freemasonry.

Now, I'm not perfect. Far from it, some days my perfect ashlar has more rough edges on it than a stone just taken from the quarry. However, there are three major pieces of work I try to live my life by:

- 1 The General Charge from our installations,
- 2 The Master Mason Obligation,
- 3 The Charge to the Newly Initiated Candidate.

The General Charge provides us with the Goal of an Ideal Mason. Everyone needs a goal and to measure themselves against. While I doubt I will ever meet the criteria of an Ideal Mason, I will try my best, and leave it to the Brothers I leave behind (in another 50 years or so) to determine if I came close.

The Obligation teaches us how we are to treat our brothers. How we are to act toward each other as a brother – like a member of the family, support each other in our lawful undertakings and be charitable when necessary.

The Charge to the Newly Initiated Candidate has so many lessons to teach us that it would take a number of education sessions to go through them in detail. Let me just point out that it provides the Mason, or anyone else, a lesson on how to be a better person. It teaches us all to be a better citizen of the world, a neighbour and what we owe to ourselves. We all have had mentors in the Craft that have donated their time and effort not only to the Craft but also to their Community, Church, Schools and many other worthwhile endeavours. They have taken what we teach inside the Lodge and practice it outside of the Lodge.

Freemasonry is a life long journey. Not everyone is at the same spot, but we all need to continue to learn and improve ourselves. When we have issues or disagreements, as Masons we have a rich ritual that can help us resolve them, in the process making us all better Masons and work on our own perfect ashlar.

The second issue I would like to address is the technological challenges that all companies must face. And brethren let's not forget Grand Lodge is a Business, founded by the Act of Incorporation of 1908 by the Alberta Legislature. When times are good, costs and procedures don't necessarily matter. When times get tougher it is necessary to look at ways that can be made more efficient and cost effective.

There are a number of questions we

as a company need to answer to ensure we are getting the most bangs for the buck, and I don't mean just monetarily. What can Grand Lodge provide to support the lodges and make the reporting of information easier? How can Grand Lodge/Lodges use technology to reach out and engage the younger generation of men, who are our future as a Society? How can Grand Lodge use technology to transform itself into an organization of the 21st century and probably the most important question? How does Grand Lodge wish to be perceived by the world? These questions need to be answered as an organization, so as an organization we can embrace technol-

ogy to enhance our ability to provide a positive encounter with new and potential members, as well as to continue to grow and learn ourselves.

I believe that by utilizing the fundamental principles of Freemasonry, coupled with the technology which is currently available, Grand Lodge can become a shining example to the rest of the world of what freemasonry can accomplish. Brethren, I look forward to serving the Craft and Grand Lodge to help them move forward on a strong philosophical and technical platform. Thank you.

Essays continued on next page

LADIES, COME ONE, COME ALL
JOIN YOUR MASONS AT GRAND COMMUNICATION

JUNE 11-13, 2015

Friday Morning, June 12
"COME CLOWN AROUND WITH CLOWN ODELIA"

Cathy Allard has been clowning for four years with the Edmonton Caring Clowns. Her clowning experience comes from clowning at various care facilities, special events, and education from a variety of sources such as Fun Camp Calgary, Amanda O'Leary and Steve Harmer.

MARSIELLES ROOM
10:30 AM followed by light lunch
MUSIC BY: CATHERINE, JULIA & LYDIA

Friday afternoon, June 12
Afternoon Tea demonstration by
LAURA SMITH
2:30 PM in Grand Masters Suite

Do you love tea?
 I do! Join me for a one of a kind tea party in the Grand Master's Suite, where you can sip, savour & socialize while sampling tasty cups of tea and goodies from the Steeped Tea kitchen. Steeped Tea is a Canadian Home based party plan specializing in Loose Leaf teas and accessories, offering all you would need to host the perfect tea party and more! Hook forward to sharing a cup of tea with you! Happy Sipping!

Saturday morning, June 13
Join with the Masons and witness the DeMolay Degree exemplified
by the young men of ALBERTA DeMolay
11:00 AM, Main function room

At 1:00 PM meet at main desk of hotel for trip to "Sports Hall of Fame"
Return in time to attend Bar-B-Que.

TICKETS FROM GRAND LODGE OFFICE:
\$40 per person





RWBro. Kenn Culbertson

Ours is a society that doesn't require self-promotion. What is needed is for men who are not already Freemasons within this great jurisdiction to become aware that in Freemasonry there are important lessons to be learned regarding self-education, morality, benevolence and self-improvement. Freemasons can provide the leadership needed to do this.

Once, in conversation with a man waiting in the anteroom preparing to be initiated, I asked what brought him to Freemasonry. He answered that he had worked with men who he knew as Freemasons and their actions as men has inspired him to ask to become one among them. He also commented that it was a year and a half process to get to the point of initiation. This is very important in today's society of quick answers and always in the now, slowing down the process of initiation and ensuring the new member realizes some of the duties and expectations of his being made a Mason may improve the retention rate and the quality of the whole.

Every step of welcoming a new Brother into Freemasonry is vital both to him and to his Lodge's future. First impressions are what the candidate and Lodge members focus their perceptions on. Once at the door of the Lodge, his journey from rough ashlar to smooth ashlar is partially in the Lodge's hands. The rough ashlar has already had some work effected, else it would just be a stone from the quarry. That early work is where we begin our initiations. The investigation process has determined that the candidate is already a good man. It is time to hew the stone; and although we cannot attain perfection, we can assist in the education and moral instruction of the new Brother.

The first handshake given is a sure pledge, but also the safeguard of one's most inner thoughts and the reputation of a Brother. This is where I see Freemasonry being relevant to our new Brethren. These are firm values and landmarks that other fraternities and social clubs may not be able to offer. If we stand on these principles, masonry will grow of its own volition. I cannot stress enough how the upholding of a Brother's good name in his absence as well as his presence is one value that can so easily be – but most never be – put to the side.

A newly initiated Brother seeks light, not the gloom of a Lodge that barely opens and continues to hope that one day maybe one or two self-motivated men will come to the west gate to save their once-thriving Lodge. We need to send candidates to Lodges where the prospect of success is evident – from initiation, to installation as Master of the Lodge in the progress of the Masonic journey.

There are certainly enough ladies' nights, barbecues, gala dances and brunches to satisfy all the social needs of the older Lodge members, but what about the needs and energies of our younger members? Lodges should consider such things as organizing a summer picnic with children in mind, encouraging all Lodge members participate. That is but one example of the kind of activity that should include the families and friends of our youthful members. Outside the Lodge, as well as within it, the youth of Freemasonry must be encouraged to take the lead in organizing events that ring true to their own needs.

If the actual running of the Lodge business is shouldered by those who have done that work before, the younger generation can be freed from worry about finances, the paperwork required by Grand Lodge, or being rushed to become Master

of the Lodge. We older members can provide that leadership and not expect every Brother who is initiated to be the next Secretary-Treasurer of Master.

Yet another difficulty arises in the many problems faced by rural Lodges in our jurisdiction, with the lack of new members as rural population shrinks as the residents choose to move into cities where opportunity for careers abound. As Lodges in these communities reduce, how can Grand Lodge help? Is amalgamation the answer, or is the answer to close the Lodge and give each Brother a clear demit? We must always consider the Brothers who have been members of these rural Lodges, for many years. For most, the rigours of beginning again with a new Lodge would put undue hardship on their cable-tow.

Education provides the light that can assist in solving problems like these. Wonderful Masonic education that can be derived from participating in Lodge Officer training, Grand Lodge officer training, and Master, Wardens and Deacon Associations; from paying attention to the Masonic Mentor; and from attending the Masonic Spring Workshop. Educated Masons are invaluable to the Craft. Freemasons in Alberta are blessed with mentors willing to share their knowledge with both new and experience masons. Individual Lodges are sure to benefit greatly as Masonic knowledge is spread over the province by the trowel of education

We look towards the future with a fervency and zeal that must match our commitment to Freemasonry. Our goals over the forthcoming years should be to consider at all times the words of the 'General Charge':

The man who never proclaims what he has done, will do, can do, but, where need is, will lay hold with dispassionate courage, circumspect resolution, indefatigable exertion, and a rare power of mind, and will not cease until he has accomplished his work but who then, without prevention, will retire into the multitude, because he did the good act, not for himself, but for the cause of good.

My wish is that we Masons will chose this quotation as one to live by and that we will be able to bring Freemasonry to all who are true and well qualified.

RWBro Peter Devlin

Masonry, what is it and where are we going? We are going in the wrong direction if we wish it to survive! The days of being Foo, Foo are over. We as Masons must look internally within our organization and see where we as a group, have come off the rails. We are now out for ourselves; we should be looking at what we started with "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Our Brotherly loves is a joke, as we seem to be at each other's throats, we seem to want to one-up the other. There is a perception that one rite is better than the other and this truly saddens me. Whatever signs we might use or words or words of explanation. We are all Brothers of the Craft! This is a concept, I believe some of our Brothers have totally missed. None of us are pure white; let us look at that fact for what it truly is. We speak the words, but we don't seem to live to it! It is said that "We as Masons, take good men and make them better!". If we absolutely believe that, then we should start showing that. It has been said, that we should be somewhat elitist. Ok, why don't we do that with ourselves, bring our Brothers together whatever they might

do vocationally. Let those who have ideas be heard. In my experience, the most junior of members seem to have some of the best ideas (i.e. a Festive brew). Simply sit with Brothers from different Lodges, coming together to talk, share ideas in a common environment – this idea came from a new Fellowshipcraft. Big surprise? No, it just goes to show what happens when we simply give a Brother an attentive ear. Let's face it, our Brothers do really love to speak. A hard concept? No, but it means that we have to be prepared to listen to all. Maybe it is time that we put aside the level of arrogance, that in some cases, rank and time in Masonry have created. "Our strength is our truth", truth in the sense of not being afraid to tell a Brother of his failing (Sound familiar?). Some people would refer to this as being "Old school" maybe, our organization is very old and stalwart. Let us do and be honest with one another, we seem these days to be putting up a façade of; Oh, yes we should do that! It is time we say what we do and we do what we say, "Oh yes, I am a Mason" then never attend Lodge or any other part of Masonry. Yes, should we be looking at who we are bringing into our Lodges? Yes! Yes! I ask you – why would you join anything and not contribute in some way to the organization?

I do realize that some of our Brethren in the various Lodges, join a Lodge and are rarely seen in that Lodge. Yet, they contribute to Masonry in other ways. These are not the Brothers I am referring to. We as members of a Lodge, need to contribute in some way for the betterment of Masonry. Not all our Brethren are great ritualists, but have you had some of the best meals when you have attended a Lodge? Perhaps the Lodge room is always prepared by the same Brother, even if the junior officers have been called to work unexpectedly. Perhaps your building needs repairs and they get done with little fanfare or perhaps simply the Brother who goes in ahead of everyone else and makes sure that the heat or AC is on for the meeting. Do we sometimes just say "Oh, that is just the way that Brother is". Is he good for your Lodges? What do you think?

Does your Lodge have a Brother who is very disruptive? Even creating animosity within the Lodge? Giving a good number of Brethren cause to think, "Do I really want to go to Lodge? Or can I do something else?" This can be a cancer to our Lodges, we as members need to ask the serious question to the Brothers in our Lodges. What is the real reason why they don't attend? Is this because of a certain individual? Is it due to the fact that the meeting drags on forever or is it that your Lodge is doing a degree every month? Let us be realistic, every Lodge works a little differently, so a cookie cutter approach really does not work – much to the chagrin of some of our leaders. You have to find what works best for your Lodge. Listen to your members, even the youngest of Masons – they may well have the answers you seek! Truth is a very powerful tool in your Lodge. Use it! You may be surprised at the results!

Relief, this is one of those great words that we like to use, but unfortunately we may not be using it as we could. I am not saying to Main Street and beat a drum yelling the profoundness of Masonry. No, your Lodge could, however, be involved in a community fund raiser. Find a project, it doesn't have to be huge. Start small, the whole purpose is to give a helping hand to the communities where our Lodges are located (realizing that in some areas this is already being done and done very well). The other important part, is to

make the community aware that you are Masons and proud of it! Is it going to get you hordes of new members? Perhaps not! It does give a public face to Masonry though. This, we as a group in general, badly need. You may get new members or just bring the members that you already have, to work for a common goal. It is not a magic pill. Right now, we as Masons depend on other aspects of Masonry, to do the "heavy lifting" when it comes to putting a public face to Freemasonry. It is time we toot our own horn! We are here! Let us not hide our fraternal light under a blanket of secrecy. Is this going to be easy? Probably not! Will it be rewarding? Absolutely! As you can see, I am not trying to reinvent the wheel! It has already been done! All I am suggesting is that we should go back to the basics that we were all taught. Just perhaps, we have forgotten our Mother – Craft masonry or we as Masons, have gotten a little too involved in other parts of Masonry. Here is my thought; it is time that we come to our Lodges, the place where we all began as Masons. Food for thought, Brothers.

RWBro Kimberly D. Greenizan

As we continue our Masonic journey everyone will see the changing landscape of masonry from different perspectives. Some may notice that certain method of old are no longer practiced while others will look to new modern methods and seek to advance them with simple things like email and texting for communications. We have made significant achievements in the past but now time and circumstances have shifted things to affect our present day operations. Even with this we still maintain the links with the past and hold our history as a proud banner of successes. In the face of such changes to technology, world perspectives, and community needs we must continue to learn, grow and achieve. This effort of growth and achievement can be focused on three words:

Connect Collaborate Communicate.

Today the world is a more dynamic and fluid society. We handle things with speeds heretofore unheard of and information is the tool of every enterprise. The world of masonry is no different. If we were to look at the communities that we consider ourselves to be part of we will see that for us to connect with them we have to adapt to the technologies that they now consider to be minimum standards. For the most part a significant number of our lodges have done so.

We have advanced in the realm of technology. We connect with our friends and relatives with cell phones, i-phones, texting, emails, web sites, blogging, twitters, facebook, chat sites, etc. But do we connect to the individuals, the families, the neighbourhoods, the communities? How are we reflected in their minds; not just in our own? Are we considered to be a member of society – by the members of our society? Do we further the ideals, hopes and trials of our community? These are things that we need to consider as we progress into the future.

This leads me to the next step in that of collaboration. With every community, no matter how small, we will have a diversity of people. Some will have generally accepted ideals and objectives to life and others will be special interest groups. We will surround our children with our beliefs as well as involve them in activities that we hope will add to their growth and understanding of life. In essence, preparing them for life as an adult. So we must ask ourselves how do we as masons assist them in achieving this? Do we embrace

the technology so as to connect with the new generations coming forth? Do we prepare them in such a way that they can look towards the ever-changing landscape of technology and information and take the lead in their turn?

Do we step forward as a focal point of our community and guide them in the morality, and integrity of life and action? Do we silently assist in those pockets of the community that really need our help? Do we recognize those especially few areas where pride may sometimes overpower actual need and subtly assist as a good neighbor and friend? Or are we somewhere in the middle. I suggest that we have a way to go just to get into the middle.

We need to work with the organizations within our community to make it a better place to live and raise our families, to grow our businesses and help stabilize our economies. To do this we need to collaborate with these groups be they the local library support group, schools, other social societies, youth development teams, etc. By working with them to achieve their aims we help ourselves achieve our own.

That leads us to the last item communicate. Just how well or not so well does your lodge communicate with your local community. Have you even recognized just what your community is? What boundaries have you placed on this community and do you venture out into it as a mason very often if at all?

Communication is the crux of man's difficulties. It can be the downfall of many well intentioned projects and activities as well as the savior of others. We often take offense should someone try to circumvent the approval system for their pet project regardless of how it may be a benefit to ourselves. We fail to see the value in change for fear of being left behind and forgotten. We fear that someone may get an unfair advantage off our personal efforts. We may be too busy or just too scared

to accept change that we don't fully understand. Why? Most likely because there was insufficient communications to let everyone know what was going on and we weren't given the opportunity to express our concerns, ask our questions and gain that understanding. There are also many cases when we had just that opportunity and never bothered to respond. It is being given the opportunity and not the details of the quest, that concern many individuals in our communities.

Masonry is not different. If we have the true facts as best as they are known today, and they are intelligently communicated to us we can make very good decisions. We can do this within our Masonic environment but we can also do the same thing in our personal lives. Think of what makes you feel a part of a solution and what makes you feel like an outsider? Then take the steps to be part of the solution by offering others the considerations you would like made to you. Now communicate this to your brethren, to your lodge, to your district and finally to Grand Lodge.

Like all things in life not all actions can be taken. We live in a certain level of restraint to ourselves, our budgets, our families and our communities. But that does not mean that we cannot communicate our desires, hopes and aspirations to each other. By connecting with each other and the communities in which we live; by collaborating with ourselves and our communities on joint activities and projects; by having open and constructive communication with everyone we cannot fail to advance the benefits and strengths of our Masonic Family.

So I ask everyone to consider where they are in their present Masonic journey and then **Connect** to your community, **Collaborate** your efforts with others, and **Communicate** openly with everyone on your desires, hopes and aspirations to help us strengthen the Masonic family in Alberta.

