

District Deputy Grand Master's Official Visit

Corinthian Lodge No. 513

Accompanying Lodge - Ancient Landmarks No. 654

Masonic Centre of Hamilton

Thursday January 22, 2009

Brethren, on Saturday January 10 of this year, I attended the District Deputy Grand Master's Interim Meeting in Scarborough and with the exception of 1 or 2 all the DDGMs were present, many traveling much further than myself. During the breakout sessions, the DDGMs were split into 4 groups. The DDGMs for each group were randomly selected so each group had a makeup of members from across the province. Each group had about 1/2 a hour to address their topic and then report back to the whole group. One of the topics was '**What constitutes a successful lodge**'. The group with that topic came back with their list of 10 ideas. When I heard them, I immediately thought I would use this as one of my talks and share these ideas with the brethren. But, before I do that, I want to share something with you. Last night, W. Bro. Tom Fiddes and I traveled to Woodstock for an Installation at Mercer Wilson Lodge No. 678 in Wilson North District. My cousin is a Past Master of that lodge and I know both the DDGMs for Wilson North and South and this would be good opportunity for a fraternal visit out of the District. In addition I knew the Grand Master would be there as this is his mother lodge. The evening went fine and when the Grand Master gave his brief talk in the banquet room he included these 10 ideas. Obviously, he also thought they were worth passing on.

1. Good Secretary, Treasurer, and Master, each possessing good leadership, communication, and organizational skills and being fully knowledgeable regarding their respective duties.

This is no big news, as I think we can all agree with the importance of these officers.

2. Supportive lodge members, all members fully active, participating, and cooperating.

Whether you can get 100% involvement, the more you get the better.

Works off the Brother-to-Brother program to keep the brethren involved interested.

3. Establish a good working finance committee. Imperative for the health and long term viability of the lodge.

4. Active - socially and community oriented. Keeps brethren interested and involved.

Brings in the family and friends. Makes us visible to the public.

5. Harmony - minimizing personal objective. This exists and far too often. There is nothing wrong with the members having different ideas and disagreeing; however, one cannot put their personal agenda ahead of what is best for their lodge or the district as a whole. I think when I look around this lodge I think they are pretty much working together.

6. Maintaining the standard of work as set out by the Grand Lodge. Ritual and presentations must be done as prescribed.

7. Functional and knowledgeable investigating committee. It is important that when

you investigate a new applicant, that investigation is done thoroughly and complete.

There should be no false perceptions for the candidate.

8. Diversity of meeting content - not just degree work. Add variety to the monthly

meetings; i.e., education, open house, etc. This may be a struggle if there is lots of degree

work; however, there is nothing wrong with 'farming' out degrees to lodges that do not have candidates.

9. Good fellowship during banquets and meetings. Fun and interesting so members will want to come back and be involved. Members will not return if the lodge work is like watching paint dry.

10. Quality and proper maintenance of lodge building. This really applies to lodges that own their own building, but I think we all take pride in our order and where we meet.

Brethren, this list may not be all-inclusive, but these are some good ideas to consider.

However, it does appear that in this district and across the province there is a resurgence of brethren interested in the craft. So whatever the lodges are doing, they are doing it correct. Once we get the new member, it is important to keep their interest high, especially for the young masons.

Thank you