

District 'C'ronicle



August 2020

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.144

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From our District Deputy Grand Master

Greetings Brethren,

I hope that you and your families are keeping well.

A number of Brethren had expressed an interest in getting feedback from District C Brethren on their reactions to, and thoughts on the situation we find unfolding before us. We constructed a survey in the hope that we could learn more about our views and if possible, get some semblance of insight into our personal and collective future.



A very real and important question before us is and was the first question of the survey; "Do you know a mason in need of financial assistance?" 117 Brethren answered this question. An interesting point here is that if we count our total district membership at 830 as of GL 2019 "Proceedings of Grand Lodge," for every 117 members, roughly 8 members need assistance (+/-). Then we could extrapolate that there are 7 groups of 117 in our 830 membership. There could therefore be as many as 56 members. This may mean something more serious. 56. That number could easily be lower or more alarmingly it could be higher. I would therefore ask each Brother of our district to convey to any

The **DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is available for download on the district website at <http://www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org>. Please forward submissions to this newsletter through the contact details on our website.

Please note: The opinions and views expressed in any article in the District 'C'ronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions

individual they know needing assistance that they must call me, text me, email or write to me. I will absolutely follow all rules of decorum, honor, etiquette, and statute when dealing with any such issue and I will do my very best to help you.

Similarly, the number of Brethren needing transportation if extrapolated over the entire membership of the district may mean as many as 120 Brethren may need some kind of help with transportation. As transportation costs are getting more expensive all the time, it may make a huge difference if a Brother out there can offer to give a lift to a friend in need

Question 8 of the District survey does in some way capture the opinion of 132 respondents of the 830 members of our district. We may extrapolate that there are 434 members of district C who would adhere to a "Physical distancing Chairman who is responsible for adhering to current public Health Guidelines as well as any guidelines put out by Grand Lodge that may be in addition to government regulations." There may be 434 members (there may be far less,) who are willing to obey rules imposed upon them if it allows them to visit lodge once more.

In the end Brethren we are trying to see patterns where there may be none, but what is abundantly clear is that 14 to 16 percent of the Brethren of District C wanted to contribute to the survey which is a significant number in my opinion.

Brethren, if you would like to read all the answers to the questions asked in the survey please go to the District website for further information. I am grateful and thankful to W. Bro. Craig McPhail who did the heavy lifting. I would like to also thank R. W. Bro. Geoff Allan for taking the time and trouble going through the answers and offering us his insightful analysis. I would also like to thank the R. W. Bro. Glen Notman at the Chronicle for his help, as well as V. W. Bro. Bill Fulton at the District website for posting the survey. Lastly, Brethren I would like to thank all the respondents who gave their time to fill out the survey.

Lastly, from the Grand Master we are urged to continue our patience. That we are still in a "Lockdown mode" and it is looking less likely that we can safely open in September.

Summer will sprint through the days ahead. I wish you and your families all the best moving forward. To the sick and shut in Brethren may the G. A. O. T. U. keep you well and ease your burdens!

Cum Luce Salutem! **R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch**

Grand Master's Address July 2020

Especial Virtual Meeting of the Board of General Purposes

To the Officers and
Members of the Most
Worshipful Grand
Lodge of Ancient,
Free and Accepted
Masons of Canada in
the Province of
Ontario.

Brethren,

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will not be holding an annual communication for the first time in our history. Instead, the Board of General Purposes is holding a virtual meeting by videoconference to cover off those items which are legally essential.



Never-the-less, we felt it important to produce a document in lieu of the "Proceedings" for two reasons. Firstly, to inform the brethren of the activities of the Grand Master and the other officers and committees of your Grand Lodge, along with the statistics collected this year which may be of value in making plans and projections. And secondly, in order that the brethren of the future may know and appreciate the past.

It is for these brethren that I briefly recount the course of the pandemic. In late 2019, a novel coronavirus that had never been seen in humans before emerged. There was no vaccine available and no known cure. It was thought to have been contained overseas, so life here continued as usual, with regular lodge meetings and special gatherings to celebrate anniversaries, amalgamations, and Robbie Burns nights. The first Grand Master's reception was held, in his home district.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a pandemic. On March 12, the Premier of Ontario announced the closure of schools. And on March 13, the Grand Master suspended all Masonic meetings and events. Citizens were asked to stay home except to buy groceries, medicines, go to medical appointments, or to do essential work such as working in hospitals or keeping the food-chains open. The strategy worked and the epidemic curve was flattened so that our medical system was not overwhelmed.

Things started to open up gradually after that, but since those most at risk of serious complications included the elderly, large gatherings in confined spaces which included seniors were not advised. At the time of writing, lodge meetings had not yet recommenced.

The big issue on everyone's mind before the pandemic hit was our decrease in membership. Lodges were struggling to keep up their charitable programs and pay for their aging buildings which were too large for their present needs. How COVID-19 and our enforced hiatus will affect these is yet to be seen. But if history has any bearing, there is hope.

After the Influenza pandemic of 1918-20 the Craft saw a period of great growth. This has traditionally been attributed to the desire of soldiers returning from the Great War to continue the fellowship they had experienced in the forces, but was there also an effect from forced isolation?

The report of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan found in our Proceedings of 1920 says: "Although practically four months were lost as a result of the influenza epidemic, the year just past has been the most successful in the life of the Grand Lodge of Saskatchewan. The growth in almost all our Lodges has been exceptional, but, nevertheless, I believe, healthy. Men to-day are looking around for methods for exercising their keen sense of brotherhood, and the fact that our Lodges are having such remarkable growth is to my mind an evidence that they are turning to Freemasonry for the realisation of that desire."

The Grand Secretary of Indiana noted a large number of deaths due to influenza, but also that "Masonry, not only in Indiana, but throughout the entire country, had become enormously popular. Indiana Lodges had always been careful as to the quality of the material; but, he said, 'a note of warning may not be out of place that extraordinary care be observed when floods of petitions are pouring in.'"

It was reported that the Grand Master of Prince Edward Island had managed to visit every lodge on the island "although influenza raged and the roads were bad, and was happy to be able to report a marked improvement in the work." He said: "Much more importance than heretofore is being given in our Lodges to the matter of instruction. This is being accomplished by lectures, addresses, reading of papers, and by use of question-boxes. During my Masonic career I have never heretofore witnessed such a keen desire for knowledge and information as is being displayed by the Brethren at the present time, especially as exhibited in the search and inquiry after the real meaning and intent of the Masonic rites, ceremonies, and symbols."

Our own Past Grand Master, M.W. Bro. Frederick Harcourt, seems to have agreed with these sentiments. One hundred years ago at our annual communication in July 1920, he said: "I occasionally debate with myself as to what should be the aims of Free Masonry in this 20th Century, having regard to its conditions and the unrest due chiefly to the War. We are taught that Masonry is a progressive science. In what direction? ...

We are advised by our ancient charges to acquire more knowledge of geometry and other sciences, a thing difficult of accomplishment for the ordinary member in this practical age of rush and competition, the wherewithal to support a family being the first consideration. Still we must progress. We must not get into a rut. ... Generally diffused education on the right lines is a most valuable national asset. To quote an old saying,

‘We must educate our Masters, otherwise there will be a narrow outlook and true progress will become impossible.’...

At the risk of being accused of needless repetition I wish to say to you, brethren, that in my opinion our Order should not depart from its traditions. Its great charm is its mysticism, its exclusiveness as regards other organizations. Its portals are open to every reputable man. Its only advertisement should be the exemplary lives its members lead, its object to educate those members both as citizens and individuals so that the world may know the aims and ideals of Masonry.”

We are presently living through a difficult time. The pandemic of COVID-19 forced us to suspend all Masonic meetings and events for a while. However, the brethren have turned their attention to education, and looking after each other; keeping in touch by phone, e-mail, and videoconferencing; aiding the vulnerable including widows; reading, contemplating, and working on correspondence courses. We have shown where our current passions lie, and the historical thread of where they came from. As our thoughts turn to the future, we can follow those threads, as we envision our course.

David J. Cameron,

Read the Full Address on our Grand Lodge Website at: [Grand-Masters-Address-2020](#)

Grand Master’s Covid-19 Update



GRAND LODGE OF
A.F. AND A.M. OF CANADA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

GRAND MASTER

363 KING STREET WEST
HAMILTON, ONTARIO
L8P 1B4

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Email: office@grandlodge.on.ca

July 28, 2020

Brethren,

As the province starts to open up again from the pandemic, I have been thinking a lot about lodges re-opening, so here are some thoughts. I was asked what category do I think lodge meetings fall into? My first response was that there really is no category that we fall neatly into. In some ways we are like churches and other places of worship, but Masonry is not a religion and our rites and ceremonies are nowhere near as important as that. So we’re not in that category which is high on the list of places to re-open sooner. No, we’re more like amateur sports events. We have a small group of people who come in close physical contact and a larger group who sit on the sides and watch. And yet there are important differences. One is that we generally meet inside. But more significantly, our demographic is older. A recent analysis of a small sample of lodges showed that 28% were over 80, 23% in their seventies, and 19% in their sixties. Without even counting those with chronic medical conditions, that puts 70% of our members in the high risk group. We’re not in the same risk category as Little League baseball.

The push to re-open has been mostly driven by economics. People need to earn a living to feed their families. Nobody

depends on Masonry to earn their living. Well, our COO and staff do, but they have been working from home to hold things together. Whether lodges meet does not impact people’s financial well-being. But it does carry all the risks of transmission.

The Ontario government has announced Stage 3 of re-opening in much of the province. Indoor gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed. But that is just the headline. The framework document <https://files.ontario.ca/mof-framework-reopening-province-stage-3-en-2020-07-13.pdf> puts many conditions on that. This 20 page document contains the phrase “physical distancing” 33 times. It also lists wearing a mask, frequent hand washing, cleaning parameters, and working remotely as much as possible. And recording each attendee’s name and contact information to support effective contact tracing in case there is an outbreak.

The framework document refers you to other docs for more guidance in safe opening.:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/develop-your-covid-19-workplace-safety-plan#hierarchy-of-controls> is one that is for re-opening workplaces. An interesting exercise is to download this and use your word-processing program to replace “workplace” with “lodge”, and “worker” with “member”. Reading it then is an eye-opener! I suggest you try it.

It outlines a hierarchy of controls, from most effective to least effective. The most effective is to have everyone stay home.

It then goes on to list other measures, in decreasing effectiveness, from engineering controls like modifications to the building, to limiting attendance numbers and instituting cleaning protocols, and lastly, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). However, it goes on to say, that while wearing masks is recommended, they are not a substitute for physical distancing. They also note that gloves do not provide any more protection than hand washing or using hand sanitizer.

Since lodge meetings are in no way a must activity, we ought to follow point 1 and do the most effective thing to prevent our members becoming infected by the virus.

We do, however, recognize the importance of the brethren maintaining a relationship with their lodges.

So I ask you to picture this: if we were to go through all the safety points (ignoring the most effective, that is, staying home) what would a lodge meeting look like? We cannot do any ritual that involves contact, so that excludes all degrees and installations. (We will not be watering down the Ritual.) So, we open. The brethren are spread out around the room all with masks on. Most of the senior members self-select to not come. Some brethren cannot get in because there is not enough room. We do the business. (This can be done virtually.) We have Masonic education. (This can be done virtually.) We close and go home. (No banquets allowed.) Someone thoroughly cleans the room, halls, bathrooms, doorknobs, etc..

There is no benefit to meeting in person this way, and our membership is put at risk, 70% at high risk. Is it worth it?

When we do re-open, it will be in phases. In order to PREPARE for the first phase, Lodge and Temple leaders should now be

reviewing the government guidelines above (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/develop-your-covid-19-workplace-safety-plan>) along with a few extra points specific to Masonry which are identified below.

Lodge specific requirements for the First phase:

All local and provincial guidelines must be followed. In the first phase of reopening the following restrictions will apply:

- **No visitors from other lodges**
- **No physical contact including shaking hands**
- **No ritual will be performed (except that required to open and close the meeting)**
- **No Installations and Investitures will be allowed**
- **No degree work will be permitted (EA, FC or MM)**
- **No fourth degrees/festive boards (no preparation or serving of food or beverages of any kind)**
- **No singing (including the National Anthem)**
- **No Masonic Memorial Services permitted**
- **No official visits by the DDGM**

In addition to the restrictions, everyone who attends a Lodge meeting must provide his name and contact information to be stored with the Lodge Secretary in case there is an outbreak and contacts need to be traced. Membership lists will only be shared with public health if a potential exposure occurs on site.

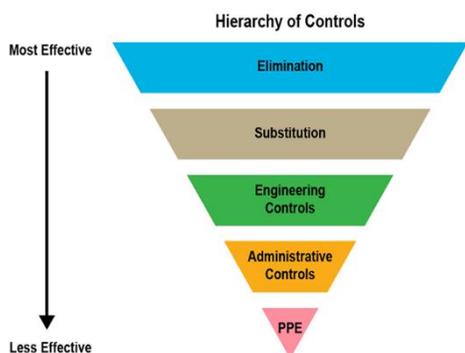
Remember that these points are the EXTRA things. You must also do the things in the government document.

No lodge will be required to open if they do not feel it is safe for their members.

Note that we are still in Lockdown mode and are not moving to the First Phase yet. And the way things are unfolding, it is looking less and less likely that we can safely open in September.

So, it is suggested that, while waiting to be able to re-open, lodges consider having virtual education sessions on their regular lodge night, followed by a social chat on-line. They could continue with separate virtual GP meetings as well to discuss the business or roll them into one. If this is technically too much for an individual lodge, perhaps districts could do it. And pay extra attention to keeping in contact with those elderly or ill brethren who continue to self-isolate.

Brethren, we were all taught to be cautious. Masonry has been through times when we were unable to meet in lodge before. And Freemasonry came back stronger than ever.



We will watch what happens, keep reading the government bulletins, and will keep in touch.

**David J. Cameron,
Grand Master**

**PAST GRAND MASTERS
from Hamilton Area Lodges**

Adapted from R. Ven. Bro. John W. Reynolds, F.C.F.
Medwayosh Council on November 7th, 2011.



James Seymour
Barton Lodge No. 6, Hamilton (1850).
Grand Master: 1871



Hugh Murray
Acacia Lodge No. 61, Hamilton
(1865). Grand Master: 1884



**Sir John Morison Gibson, K.C.M.G., M.A.,
LL.D., LL.B., K.C., M.P.P.**
Lodge of Strict Observance No. 27, Hamilton
(1867).
Grand Master: 1892



William Gibson, M.P.
The Barton Lodge No. 6, Hamilton
(1871). Grand Master: 1896



Augustus Toplady Freed
Independence Lodge No. 185, A.F.&A.M.,
G.R. New York affiliated
The Barton Lodge No. 6, Hamilton (1874)]
Grand Master: 1907



William Hugh Wardrope, LL.B., K.C.
Acacia Lodge No. 61, Hamilton (1895).
Grand Master: 1917



**Thomas Hamilton
Simpson, LL.B., K.C.**
Acacia Lodge No. 61, Hamilton (1912).
Grand Master: 1947



**Russell Williams Treleaven,
LL.B., Q.C, S.Litt.D.**
Acacia Lodge No. 61, Hamilton (1919).
Grand Master: 1961



Eric William Nancekivell, M.D.
Hillcrest Lodge No. 594, Hamilton
(1947). Grand Master: 1975



Norman Edward Byrne
Meridian Lodge No. 687 Ancaster
Grand Master 1991

Around the District (Some Feel Good News)

Meridian Lodge No. 687 and Hamilton Food Share

Based on one of the fundamental characteristics of Freemasonry, the brethren of Meridian Lodge recognized that the need in our local community went beyond what the government is able to cover during these exceptional and uncertain times brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic and also the circumstances in which we find ourselves

After investigation, Meridian Lodge decided to support Hamilton Food Share in the amount of \$10,000.

Hamilton Food Share has a number of member agencies which include Neighbour to Neighbour, The Salvation Army (Hamilton and Dundas), Good Shepherd Centres and Mission Services of Hamilton – a complete list, including Community Partners appears on their website.

A highlight of this donation is that Hamilton Food Share plans for the future and has directed some of these funds to reduce our communities' long-term needs.

Submitted by V.W. Bro. Reg. Joyce – Lodge Secretary



<https://www.hamiltonfoodshare.org/>

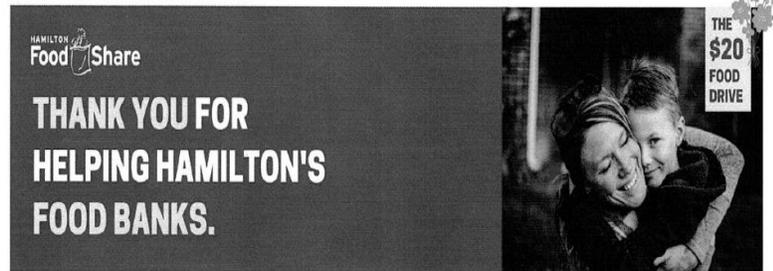
Hamilton Food Share is the hub of the Emergency Food Network within Hamilton, raising food and funds for emergency food programs including food banks and hot meal programs in neighbourhoods across the city. Last year, we raised and distributed over 3.35 million pounds of nutritionally rich foods to help ensure that people living in poverty have access to healthy food for themselves and their families.

We do this by receiving large-scale food donations and shipping them out to front-line service organizations each and every business day.

Hamilton is a city of good, generous people who want to help those in need.

We have established an incredible community of support from farmers, wholesalers, and retailers and is enabled by thousands of local people who run food drives or make financial donations. Throughout the year, people donate healthy fresh, frozen, and non-perishable food by the truckload and make financial donations to help their neighbours get enough to eat.

Each \$1 donated will provide \$5 in food to feed the 13,000 local people who visit food banks each month – 5000 of whom are children.



17 June 2020

Mr. Reg. Joyce
Meridian Masonic Lodge No. 687
419 Wilson St. E.
Ancaster, ON L9G 2C4

Thank you so much for such a generous donation. We'll turn it into food and put it on the table of our neighbours who need it most!

Dear Mr. Joyce and Members of Meridian Masonic Lodge No. 687:

Your support means the world to us. We could not be more grateful, and your donation could not be more impactful. Thank you!

This is an unprecedented time.

Hamiltonians have never faced the uncertainty we are facing today. That is why your donation is so important. Households who were already struggling daily will be at even greater risk and the number of households that are new to the food bank are starting to increase.

Hamilton Food Share will continue to stay open and because of your help we are responding to the changing needs in our community and escalating needs we know will come. While demands on our organization have increased, so has the support from people like you in our local community.

Your donation of \$10,000.00 will result in \$50,000.00 worth of food for Hamilton's food banks and hot meal programs.

Your support has also enabled our organization to develop new programs to meet the expected rise in demand for emergency food. You are helping us to build pathways to the doors of our most vulnerable -- our seniors, the sick, people with mobility issues and the disabled.

Because of your support, we will ensure our neighbours who are at high risk during this pandemic will have access to groceries or a daily meal. Please visit our website at hamiltonfoodshare.org to see the announcement of these new hunger relief programs.

Thank you. We simply could not do this work without you. Please be safe. I'll be in touch.

Sincerely yours,

Joanne Santucci
Executive Director



The Rise of Fraternal Organizations

Part 8: In Conclusion, A.F.& A.M.

An Overview

No organization can succeed without a lofty objective. Likewise, it is folly to continue permanently on the same course and not adjust to changing conditions. Freemasonry is a prime example of the application of these two principles. The exact date of its origin is not known, but we do know that it has survived and progressed for many centuries.



The organization of Freemasons originally started as a craft union of builders. As the most readily available material in the area was stone, so it was only natural that workers in stone or Stone Masons should predominate in its organization. At that time stone masons

were responsible for the complete structure of a building, and there was no formal training, but a strong and viable system of apprenticeship was necessary. Out of this apprenticeship grew a system of secret signs and words to indicate their levels of competence. Before being given the secret words and signs, the recipient not only had to demonstrate a high degree of work, but also have a high moral and ethical standard. The holder of these secret signs and words valued them highly and guarded them well. They rapidly built a reputation of dependability and reliability and were free to travel and obtain employment anywhere it was available. With these qualities grew the term Freemason and the saying, "That Freemasons take care of their own." Freemasonry reached a high degree of competence and an enviable reputation during the building of great cathedrals throughout Europe and elsewhere in the middle ages.

From the practice of dependability and reliability developed a system of morals and ethics peculiar to the trade. All the working tools were given significant definitions that related to the desirable qualities of the workers. Soon the public took note of the ability and high moral standards of this closely-knit organization known as Freemasonry, and many tried to emulate those personal attributes that were shown in every building.

Freemasons did not compromise their position on the type and character of the men admitted, or their belief in one ever living and universal Supreme Being. They also insisted on the practice of requesting admission and election by a clear ballot be continued. Using this method, others who were not stone masons were admitted and thus in the seventeenth century Applied or Symbolic masonry came into existence. This first evolution in Freemasonry was wise and the fraternity prospered and assured the second great evolution in the late nineteenth century.

Freemasonry has evolved into a great worldwide benevolence organization, with the objective of improving world conditions through the improvement of the individual. It has changed in the last half century from a self-centred organization, into a great charity or benevolence that places emphasis on need regardless of race, colour, or creed. Benevolence is all inclusive, while charitable giving is only one facet of the

complete operation. Many times, a handshake, pat on the back or a kind and sympathetic word is more important in lifting the spirit of an individual than any other possible action.

One of the foundation stones of Freemasonry is a strong belief in the "Brotherhood of Man."

The Craft Lodge exists by virtue of a charter granted by a Grand Lodge. This empowers a lodge to confer the three basic Masonic degrees. Each lodge has its own officers, by-laws, and regulations, none of which may conflict with the accepted standards of the Craft. A Mason should find that assistance will be forthcoming should it ever be needed, notwithstanding the fact that the Brotherhood has never pretended to be an insurance policy or protective society. To provide relief for those in distress is a lesson taught in Freemasonry. Masons are counselled to live by the saying, "It is better to give than to receive," having faith that should the need arise, his situation will not be overlooked by his brethren whose moral codes also include this unselfish and humane principle. Some critics have chided Freemasons for limiting their charitable work only to their brothers and families. This is so untrue. While certain funds are designated for the relief of members and their families, the majority of the charitable work of Masonry today extends far beyond the confines of the Lodge, reaching many without the remotest affiliation with the Craft.



Submitted by Wayne E. Elgie

Recent Grand Lodge Updates

Added July 28, 2020

[Covid-19 Update from the Grand Master July 28](#)

Added July 20, 2020

[B2B - Pathway to Improved Member Retention](#)

[Lodge Greeters Program \(Revised May 2020\)](#)

[Rusty Mason Program \(Revised May 2020\)](#)

[Guidelines for Committee of Inquiry \(Revised January 2020\)](#)

[Roberts Rules of Order - Masonic Edition 2005](#)

[GL Communications Strategy - Policy & Standards \(August 2016\) \(437 KB\)](#)

[GL Social Media Policy \(Reviewed April 2020\)](#)

[It's About Time - Moving Masonry Into 21st. Century](#)

[Laudable Pursuit 1](#)

[Laudable Pursuit 2](#)

Added July 17, 2020

[Covid-19 Update from Grand Secretary dated July 17, 2020](#)

Added July 16, 2020

[Grand Master's 2020 Address](#)

[Open House Masonic Foundation Info Sheet](#)

[Open House MasoniCH.I.P Foundation Info Sheet](#)

[Open House Why Become A Mason](#)

[Open House Guide](#)

[Covid 19 Update from Grand Secretary and notes on Especial Meeting held July 15th.](#)

Protocol and Etiquette

This P&E article is another in a series intended to contribute to a better understanding of the procedures and practices of various key aspects of Head Table protocols.

This article discusses How to introduce the guests seated at the Head Table

QUESTION:

What is our proper protocol for introducing everyone seated at the Head Table?

ANSWER:

- When introducing the main Head Table guests, remember that the goal is to introduce the highest-ranking Grand Lodge Officer (or the Guest of Honour) last.

REPEAT: The highest-ranking Grand Lodge Officer – not the WM – is to be introduced last!

- In order to accomplish this, the Master of Ceremonies will begin his introductions at the extreme left of the Worshipful Master (WM), (i.e. with the Junior Warden). Then everyone seated to the right of the JW will be introduced consecutively, up to and including the WM.



- After introducing the WM, the M.C. will next introduce the brother sitting at the extreme right of the WM, (i.e. the Senior Warden). After introducing everyone seated to the left of the SW, in consecutive order, he will finish with the most senior GLO present, (or the Guest of Honour, or the principal speaker, as the case may be).



- The Head Table guests should be asked to remain standing and the brethren requested to withhold their applause, until the entire Head Table has been introduced.

R.W. Bro. Gordon Crutcher, Assistant to The Custodian

From the Blood Donor Chairman Hamilton District 'C'

W. Bro. Glenn Molnar

Brethren,

Greetings to you and your families,

At this time of Covid 19 everything seems to be uncertain for the future. We have not had any clinics since this event has happened. Only when everything is safe, as the safety of our volunteers is paramount, will we continue to volunteer at the clinics.



As we move forward the need for blood is more important than ever.

Our own brethren or their family members could be in need at this time. Please consider donating if you feel safe and please take the proper precautions when attending a clinic. By making an appointment you can arrange to set up a time to attend. If you do not feel comfortable donating blood please consider donating in other ways.

Please go on the Blood Donor Website and review the new requirements for donating blood before donating.

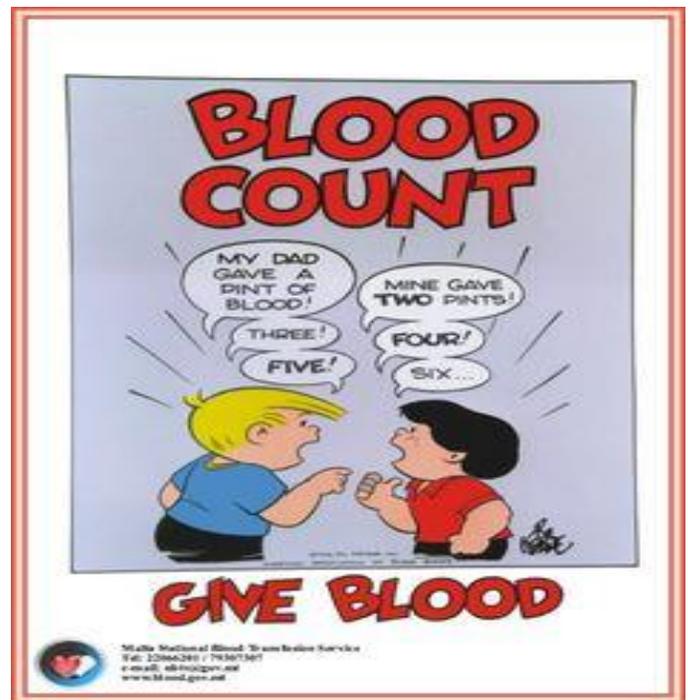
<https://www.blood.ca/en>

Fraternally yours,

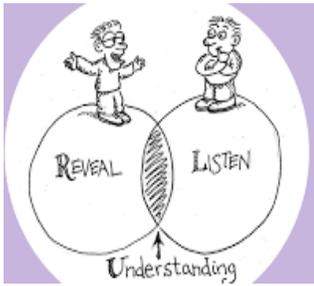


“Blood for life!”

Canadian Blood Services, Hamilton



DDGM Survey Results



For the purpose of engaging the brethren of District 'C', and rousting us from our COVID isolation, our DDGM, R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch, with the assistance of our District Secretary, W. Bro. Craig McPhail, crafted an excellent survey of timely questions.

The results of the recent survey taken amongst the brethren of District 'C' are in. But, before we get to all that, let's remember we must view the results in the context of first following the regulations set down by the various tiers of governments and the guidelines set forth by our Grand Lodge.

Surveys are interesting in that they act as a barometer of sentiments. Taking the temperature of a select audience on a narrow subject helps direct policy and decision makers in future courses of action. We must however take into consideration that 'Yes or No' answers are neither black or white as may be implied, but there can be that grey area of 'Yes, but' or 'No, but'. The greyness is not capture unless there are follow-up questions allowing for comments.

Overall, there were by 119 respondents. Although the number of respondents is not large, I think the responses fairly represents the general temperature of the District on the re-opening of lodges under the appropriate conditions.

The survey contained 10 questions with the average time to answer being slightly over 10 minutes. The years of masonic membership of the survey respondents ranged from 6 months to 44 years with the average being 24.8.



● Yes 8
● No 107
● Other 2

The survey indicated that **approximately 7% of respondents knew of a Mason in need of financial assistance** and nearly 15% were aware of

a Mason in need of transportation assistance. During this unprecedented time of isolation, we must be every vigilant of the needs of our brethren who may be vulnerable or at risk.

There has been much talk in the media about vaccines for the current pandemic and when we might expect it to be readily available to the general public. Unfortunately, the timeline for a vaccine has in many cases been politicised and is contrary to the estimates of medical professionals who indicate it could take well into 2021.

Notwithstanding, life goes on and we will continue to operate in our respective environments with the necessary safety protocols until a vaccine arrives, whenever that may be.

● Yes 72
● No 24
● Other 25



The question of whether **brethren were willing to return to lodge before a**

vaccine is available was answered by 59% in favour; 20% not in favour and 21% who answered 'other'.

● Yes 81
● No 16
● Other 26



As a follow up question, "would brethren return to lodge if there was a Physical Distancing Chairman?", 66% said yes, 13% said no and 21% indicated other.

There is a strong indication that safety and guidance would be important upon the re-opening of our lodges.

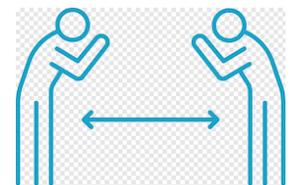
Several lodges have initiated 'Physically Distanced Car Parades' to support brethren who may be ill or celebrating a milestone such as birthdays or anniversaries. The idea of 'Drive-by Parades' of cars adorned with balloons and waiving passengers was commented on by 111 respondents in our survey. The general sentiment of the respondents was in favour and many offered qualifiers such as, horns should not be used near hospitals or LTC facilities. Although several people intimated, they did not see a useful purpose of such activity, I can honestly say from first-hand experience, that feedback from those on the receiving end were ecstatic, uplifted, and grateful.

111
"Great idea!"
Responses

Regardless of which side of this issue you stand, your opinions and input are greatly appreciated.

Of the open-ended question on the possibility of lodges returning to labour in the next 3 to 6 months, the responses were varied and touched on either end of the spectrum, from "we never should have closed" to "when it is safe to do so". Some brethren offered specific dates, such as "September, but more than likely January". Other respondents, not offering a specific date, succinctly stated "when a vaccine is available".

Some comments were rife with frustration about the need of a 'Physical Distancing Chairman' or more rules, stating that we have experienced enough already at the banks, the grocery stores, and Doctor's offices. "We should know what to do by now" said one responded. I cannot disagree, we should.



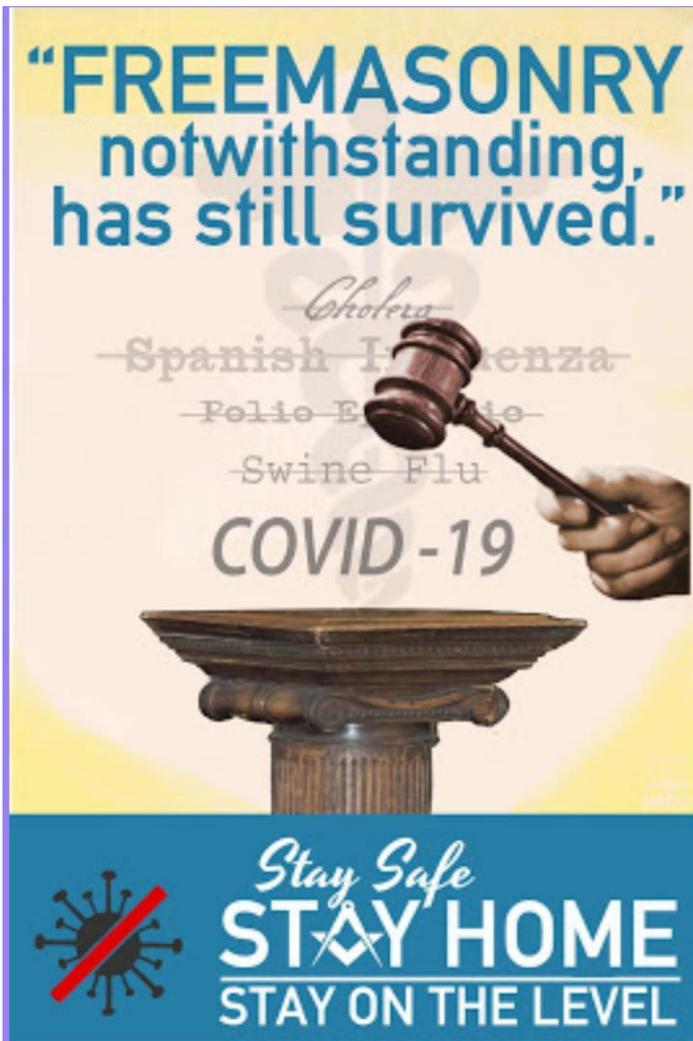
Our Grand Lodge, in my opinion, has shown a steady hand in setting guidelines for the handling of this pandemic. It has no doubt been significantly more difficult in managing the affairs of Grand Lodge than simply enforcing the closing of lodge until further notice. There have been many moving parts to consider, not the least of which was the 're-configuring' of this years' Annual Communication'

Brethren, it has been my distinct pleasure on behalf of R.W. Bro. Jason McCulloch and W. Bro. Craig McPhail to review the results of the survey and offer my observations for your consideration. Please be guided by our medical professionals. Our return to lodge should not be measured by having "been away from it for too long", but rather "when is it safe to do so, regardless of the time it may take".

Sincerely, **R.W. Bro. Geoffrey S. Allan, FCF**

Editors Note: For clarity, numbers in images are total responses. Geoff has reported their percentage representation

Masonic Education



Front cover: RW Michael Halleran, Past Grand Master of Kansas and former editor of the Journal of the Masonic Society, designed this artwork for a Masonic/COVID graphic for use by any lodge or jurisdiction. He accompanied it with this quote from his Ritual: "The lapse of time, the ruthless hand of ignorance, and the devastations of war have laid waste and destroyed many valuable monuments of antiquity, on which the utmost exertions of human genius have been employed. Even the Temple of Solomon, so spacious and magnificent, and constructed by so many celebrated artists, escaped not the ravages of barbarous force.

Freemasonry, notwithstanding, has still survived. "

Source: The Nova Scotia FreeMason June 2020
<https://grandlodgens.org/download/4649/>

In Memoriam



**In Life Respected, In Death Regretted.
We Will cherish them in our hearts forever.**

From the Editor

Brethren,

Last month I said that that my fingers are crossed for a fall resumption of in person meetings. Our Grand Master has indicated the time is not yet right. So we wait and hope all is well with each of you.

The results of our DDGM's district survey are in. Thank you to R.W. Bro. Geoff Allan for his analysis and the District team for having the foresight to glean what the brethren are feeling.

I had to end this month's edition with a positive image from the cover of Nova Scotia's E-Magazine., Note this image came from Kansas, was shown in the Maritimes and reprinted here in Ontario. FreeMasonry notwithstanding still survives .

Hamilton freemasonry in action; we have 2 lodges in the district helping Hamilton Foodshare, July featured Hugh Murray Lodge and their Food Share Drive, this month Meridian Lodge made their own contribution. Glad to hear about some good things happening within our District. Canada Blood Services says there is a real need for donations. Thanks to W.B. Glenn Molnar for the timely reminder that It is in You to give. If you can take the time, donate blood and save some lives.

Lastly, this month marks the conclusion of the Rise of Fraternal Organizations. Thank you to all the submitters, but especially R.W. Bro. Wayne Elgie, his passion and continued assistance is always welcome at our editorial table.

As always, feel free to drop me a line on what you like or dislike in these pages. Or send in an article, picture, some humour or just whatever captures your fancy.

S&F, Glen



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