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Let's get to work!

by MW Bro. C. William Ferguson

June is upon us and my term of office will soon be over. It has been a very active masonic year. I have tried to meet the challenge of leadership. Much has been accomplished.

This year's Annual Communication should be very exciting. The Salmon Arm host committee is working very hard to organize one that will be very memorable. Do your best to be there and register online as soon as possible.

Our Seven Step Programme has resulted in real leadership by DDGMs in their districts. I have heard many positive reports. This cannot help but result in stronger lodges. My thanks goes out to all the DDGMs for the work they have done this year. It has been outstanding.

Two more leadership workshop teams, for a total of four, were established for this jurisdiction. They are ready to put on workshops when asked. My thanks for the work that

these teams are doing.

The lodges throughout the jurisdiction have brought in increasing numbers of candidates. I cannot overstate the importance of the Mentor Programme in ensuring the retention of these new members. It is very encouraging to note the number of lodges that have adopted this programme.

We have initiated pilot programmes in four districts. They have received dispensations to announce next year's DDGMs early. This was to encourage continuity by early orientation of the new officers. I am looking forward to a report on how successful this approach has been.

I am very concerned about continuity in the way we do things in this jurisdiction. It seems that every year we must re-invent the wheel. I have set in motion a number of things that will, I hope, enable us to progress from year to year in an organized fashion. For example



MWBro. C. William Ferguson, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon Free and Accepted Masons.

the Grand Lodge Board of General Purposes will now have nine elected members who, it is hoped, will take a more active part in Grand Lodge affairs and add consistency from year to year.

A manual for Grand Lodge Communications is being developed. The rôle and name of the Place of Meetings Committee is being redefined to reflect what this committee actually does.

Initiative No. 7 is under way to establish two, five and ten

year plans for our jurisdiction under the chairmanship of RW Bro. Bill Unrau. To face the future, we must have a plan and it must be bought into by our line officers to succeed.

Our Grand Directors of Ceremonies, past, present and future, are meeting to establish consistency in ceremonies and official visits of the Grand Master. This year we have stressed direct contact by the Grand Director of Ceremonies and the Grand Marshal before

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From our Grand Master from page one

each meeting so that those organizing the meeting have help and assistance well before the last moment.

A number of initiatives have been instituted this year. Some of these have resulted in amendments to the *Constitutions* being proposed. When your lodge receives a copy of these amendments, please make certain that you understand them fully. Discuss them in lodge. Find out what they mean. Give direction to your officers. Come fully informed to the 133rd Grand Lodge Annual Communication in Salmon Arm. Let us improve our gentle Craft.

I have nothing but praise for my appointed officers. Their support in attending meetings, especially ones where I was present, is much appreciated. They have done well in passing my message on to the brethren and strengthening their lodges by their dedication to Freemasonry.

This year, the basics of Freemasonry have been stressed. You have been enjoined to concentrate on why you joined our fraternity and what its philosophy teaches you:

- A life of exemplary moral conduct,
- Kindness at home,
- Honesty at work,
- Courtesy in society,
- Integrity in all we do,
- Respect for ourselves, our families, our neighbours and our brothers,



W Bro. Palmer Cox

- Community service,
- Concern for absent members,
- Caring for our infirm members and for our members' widows.

In these days, when there are those in the world who preach atheism instead of faith, egotism instead of altruism, fanaticism instead of tolerance, hate instead of love—it is in such times that the principles of our order are particularly needed and of such great value! Help to keep Freemasonry strong.

Brethren: I leave you with this blessing: May the mystic tie between us strengthen and may our principles of love, peace and harmony spread and encompass our lodge, our home, our country and the whole of humanity.

I am looking forward to working with you at our Grand Lodge Annual Communication.

Let's get to work! ■

Royal Arch charities

by RW Bro. Joseph R. Marshall

The Royal Arch Masons of British Columbia and Yukon have four charities within their organization. The foremost is the Royal Arch Masonic Home and Seniors' Apartment complex on Champlain Crescent in Vancouver which is administered by a board comprising eight Royal Arch Masons elected by the Royal Arch Companions. There is a ninth Royal Arch member of the board who is appointed as the Grand Chapter representative.

The Home and Apartments are under the capable administration of Mr. Greg Runzer who has been the administrator since the Home opened in 1982. It is a most beautiful extended care facility and if one wishes to take a tour through the facility, this can be arranged by phoning the Home at 604-437-7343. Tours are held on

Tuesdays. The Royal Arch Masonic Home is a registered society.

There is also the Keystone of Life Foundation which was organized by a group of Royal Arch Masons and their wives in 1975. The aim of the Foundation is to provide hospital equipment such as beds, wheel chairs and various pieces of medical equipment for use in operating rooms. Thousands of dollars worth of equipment have been provided to hospitals and care facilities throughout BC and Yukon. Over the past three years a total of \$21,689 has been awarded as follows: to Nanaimo Hospital \$5,584 for a portable spirometer; two wheel chairs and a laparoscope totalling \$6,492 for Mills Hospital in Terrace; a low level laser therapy machine for Salmon Arm Hospital at a cost of \$5,750 and two beds for the Royal Arch Masonic Home at a cost of \$3,562.

The Society of Royal Arch Masons was formed in 1970 to carry out charitable projects, the main one being to raise money to build the Royal Arch Masonic Home and Apartment complex. This goal was achieved when the Home and Apartments opened in 1982. Royal Arch Masons, Craft lodges, Eastern Star chapters and private donations and bequests totalling tens of thousands of dollars brought to fruition the Royal Arch Masonic Home. Since 1982, when the Home and Apartment opened, the Society uses their donated funds to assist needy Companions in their residences with wheel chair ramps, etc. The Society has in the near past provided awnings for the apartment complex and a roof over the gazebo which is in front of the Home, with costs totaling some \$17,000.

The Royal Arch Masons Bursary Fund provides assistance to students attending colleges and universities throughout BC and Yukon.

These students must have a close family tie to the Royal Arch. In 2003, eighteen students were awarded \$600 each to help further their education.

The monies obtained by the Keystone of Life Foundation and the Society of Royal Arch Masons, both registered societies, are raised through donations, bequests and membership fees. The monies for the Bursary Fund are raised through donations received from the chapters and various projects undertaken by the Bursary Committee. ■

Masonic notes

New South Wales

The New South Wales Masonic Club, in Sydney, Australia, has occupied their heritage building since 1893. Complete with hotel, restaurant, lounge, and meeting rooms, the facilities are open to our lodge members. Visit nswmasonicclub.com.au for further information.

Tsawwassen

The embryonic Masonic Motorcycle Association had an outing at the Vintage Show and Shine, and Swap Meet in Tsawwassen this past April, handing out masonic information brochures and MMAC applications. The response was positive and the number of people interested in Freemasonry greater than expected. Check out their progress at mmaCanada.com.

England

The United Grand Lodge of England released the following statement on 10 March 1999:

"There exist in England and Wales at least two Grand Lodges solely for women. Except that these bodies admit women, they are, so far as can be ascertained, otherwise regular in their practice. There is also one which admits both men and women to membership. They are not recognised

by the United Grand Lodge of England and intervisitation may not take place. There are, however, discussions from time to time with the women's Grand Lodges on matters of mutual concern. Brethren are therefore free to explain to non-masons, if asked, that Freemasonry is not confined to men—even though this Grand Lodge does not itself admit women. Further information about these bodies may be obtained by writing to the Grand Secretary.

The Board is also aware that there exist other bodies not directly imitative of pure antient Masonry, but which by implication introduce Freemasonry, such as the Order of the Eastern Star. Membership of such bodies, attendance at their meetings, or participation in their ceremonies is incompatible with membership of this Grand Lodge." ■

Lodge notes

Forty years on, the Worshipful Masters for 1964-65 of the fifteen lodges of Districts 1 and 21 continue to meet for an annual dinner. Time has reduced to their number to four but W Bro. L. Rowland Ferris (Phyllis), **United Service Lodge No. 24**; W Bro. William Mackie (Muriel), **Mount Newton Lodge No. 89**; W Bro. Reuban Patrick (Josie), **Mount Shepherd Lodge No. 159**; and W Bro. Ralph T. Rodgers (Linda), **Haida Lodge No. 166**, continue to enjoy this annual event. W Bro. Reuban Patrick, the current organizer, will also celebrate Mount Shepherd Lodge's 50th anniversary this year.

Mountain Lodge No. 11, Golden, is planning a reunion banquet and dance on 2 October 2004. Contact Bro. Ian G. Foss at 250-344-7127 or ianfoss@telus.net. ■

Rank

Most freemasons are unsure of their masonic rank, although it is not hard to clear up the confusion. A brother serving his lodge as Junior Deacon, for example, carries the rank of Brother; Junior Deacon is the title of the office he holds. In short, masonic ranks are: Brother (Bro.), Worshipful Brother (W Bro.), Very Worshipful Brother (VW Bro.), Right Worshipful Brother (RW Bro.), and Most Worshipful Brother (MW Bro.). Titles are ascribed to positions in lodges and Grand Lodge, not to the brethren holding them. ■

Gizeh soccer

Since 1993, Gizeh Shriners have sponsored youth soccer teams throughout the province. Because Gizeh did not have a budget to support the programme, newly appointed Gizeh Director of Shriners Soccer, RW Bro. Murray Moxley had to find more creative ways of sponsoring the teams.

"We went directly to our local Shrine Clubs and Units for money," said RW Bro. Moxley, "It was the only way the programme could get off the ground."

In the following months, the Shrine Clubs and Units went to local soccer leagues and offered to sponsor teams. In only three years, they were sponsoring more than ninety teams, and more than 2,000 children, ages 8-9. In 1999, Gizeh stopped sponsoring individual teams and began sponsoring tournaments. Shortly thereafter, the Canadian Soccer Association made Gizeh Shriners Soccer tournaments "official" events and donated \$500 to each one.

"These tournaments really grew in popularity," said Moxley. "Plus, they are free and the kids play strictly for fun—not a championship,"

The British Columbia Soccer Association named Gizeh Shriners Soccer an official sponsor, and assists Gizeh with a \$1500 donation per tournament. Currently, Gizeh sponsors six tournaments each year, with more than 250 children playing. They hope to expand the tournament by two more games each year.

According to RW Bro. Moxley the Shriners tournaments are about more than just kicking around a ball.

"It's an awareness of Shriners in the community," said RW Bro. Moxley. "People are curious about why Shriners are sponsoring soccer. Parents will come up and ask us how they can become a freemason or a Shriner. We've even found that many of the men who ask questions are younger guys!"

The tournaments are big events for all areas of Freemasonry. DeMolay provides referees for the games, while Job's Daughters do face painting and Shrine clowns provide entertainment for the spectators.

Currently, more than forty Temples have Shriners Soccer programmes. As part of an effort to promote Shriners Soccer on the national level, the Imperial Public Relations Department attends the US Youth Soccer and Coaches Convention each year. Players, parents, coaches and friends stop by the Shriners' booth to ask questions, as well as gather information about Shriners Soccer and the Shriners fraternity. Attendees looking for a soccer team sponsor are encouraged to call their local Temple. In 2003, more than 3,000 people attended the convention, and staff handed out more than 1,500 Shriners Soccer balls as souvenirs.

The original Shriners Soccer programme was initiated by Gizeh Noble and Past Imperial Potentate Kenneth W. Smith, while serving as Imperial Public Relations Chairman. Although he encouraged all Shriners to

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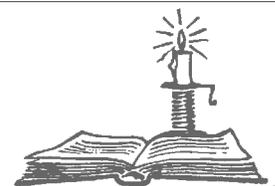
June 17-19, 2004
Salmon Arm

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form can be found at:
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promote local youth soccer teams, it was his own Temple that, literally, took the ball and ran with it. ■

Code of conduct

by RW Bro. William Unrau

Our organization has been around for a long, long time and has many things that we cherish about it. And there are things that we do not want to change.

There are landmarks and tenets that form the core values of this order and there are many unwritten beliefs that we all should understand.

However, there are also necessary actions required which keep this organization current with modern day issues.

Sometimes some of these issues are not necessarily popular or easily understood.

It is the responsibility of individuals who assume management rôles to provide leadership in addressing issues, regardless of how controversial they might be.

Our present day society presents us with unique situations that must be seriously considered.

The structure of all Grand Jurisdictions whereby warrants are granted permitting lodges to operate under specific guidelines, places those in management rôles accountable for conduct and property.

Therefore, I believe it is paramount we provide leadership that addresses issues and ensures this jurisdiction takes reasonable action to live up to our stated belief that we are the most moral institution that has ever existed.

Obviously this is by no means a new issue as the authors of our Master Mason's obligation saw the need some three hundred years ago to strongly reënforce it by having every member of our order take an obligation that they will not

only uphold a Master Mason's honour, but will strictly respect the chastity of those nearest and dearest to him in the persons of his wife, mother, sister and his child.

Circumstances now require somewhat more than just this obligation.

We simply can not be naïve and take the position that because we are all freemasons our membership is free of undesirable immoral behavior or we are protected by this obligation.

Our organization must not only protect itself, we must ensure we have policies and procedures in place directed at protecting individuals that members of our organization come in contact with as a result of masonic activities.

Every day there are articles in the newspaper about adults brought before the court system for exploiting children.

Organizations throughout the world have been widely exploited by individuals who abuse children.

There have also been numerous court rulings that have clearly held adults who operate children's programmes responsible and accountable for the safety of children involved in these programmes.

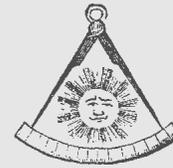
This simply is no longer an issue that can be ignored.

Each organization is now responsible for establishing policies, outlining their position for protecting children against any form of exploitation, and outlining how to effectively and fairly process suspected infractions which arise within the entire membership of the organization.

Previously-held belief systems that are in conflict with this position cannot be allowed to deter its implementation.

Every issue that can be raised as a reason not to have this in place is nothing more than the result of a very uninformed belief about what is occurring in this field.

That very position jeopard-



GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY JUNE, 2004

14	Mon	Prince Charles No. 153 Outdoor Lodge	Oyama
10-12	Thu	Grand Lodge of Washington	Annual Communication
17-19	Thu	Grand Lodge of BC & Y	Annual Communication

dizes and places at risk, everyone involved in this programme along with its young participants.

It is very well an issue that many may wish to avoid.

However, not only does common sense dictate implementation of a policy, the very continued existence of this organization requires it.

First, the responsible position when operating a programme such as ours is to do everything reasonably possible to provide a safe place for children who we are in contact with.

The second responsibility is to ensure our organization has made the necessary efforts to have in place policy, guidelines and procedures which protect the integrity of our organization and the volunteers who commit their time and efforts.

This is by no means an easy task and by far the easiest course of action is to fabricate a reason why we do not need to deal with this issue.

But we only need a quick look at the Supreme Court of Canada's rulings relating to the various churches who have had civil actions against them to recognize the need to attempt to address this issue.

I pray that we will never be in that situation, but nevertheless our membership is deeply involved in youth activities and therefore we are exposed to risk.

I believe there are three components necessary to make efforts effective.

First we as a Grand

Jurisdiction require the adoption of a policy statement.

Second, we need to publish a behavioral statement and accepted code of conduct, and provide it to all our members.

Next, we must publish information designed to assist in the recognition of behavior that centres on sexual victimization of children.

There have been endless examples of individuals who have concealed their behavior over a long period of time—in the presence of many responsible people—successfully exploiting children simply because of a general lack of knowledge and understanding of this behavior.

We address two issues with this endeavour: first and foremost, we make a reasonable and acceptable effort to ensure we reduce the opportunity for any member of our organization to breach this behavioral code.

Second, we reduce the risk of civil actions against our property and assets.

I seriously request that you consider this need, and assist our entire organization to address this issue.

If we claim to be, and practice, what our ritual professes, then let's do this.

Let's do what we can in this area to limit the possibility of incidents and then in addition, if we are subject of a court action, be in a position to demonstrate that we, as a highly moral organization, have acted as our ritual teaches us to act. ■