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Be a builder

by MW Bro. William R. Cave

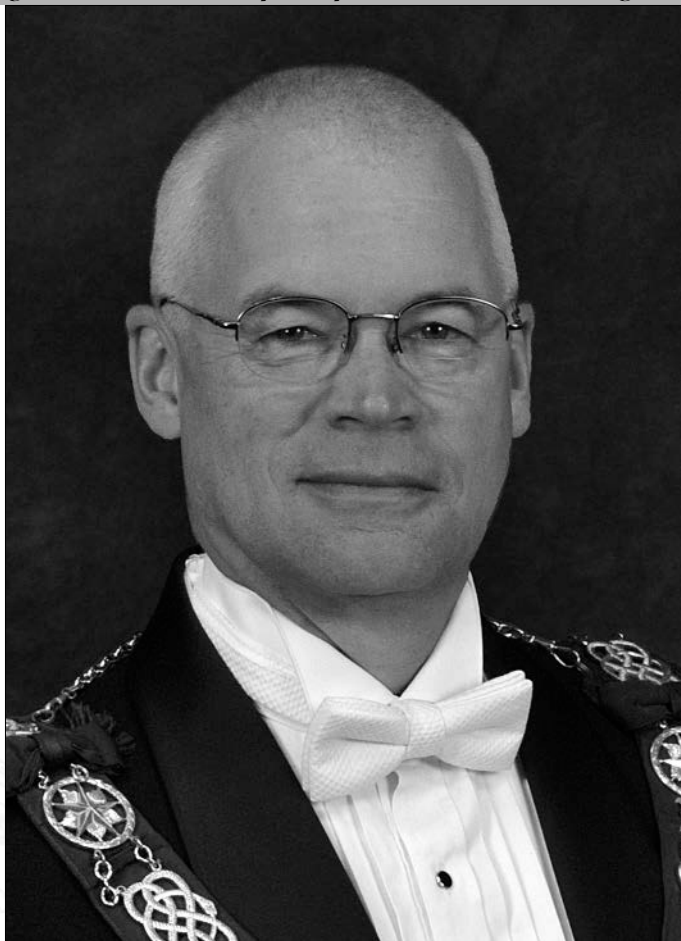
I am deeply honoured and extremely grateful for the trust you have seen fit to bestow in me and the opportunity you have given me to serve you as your Grand Master. The Grand Master's responsibilities can be segmented into two parts; the first being his functions as a manager and secondly, his rôle as a Superintendent of the Craft. With respect to the former I note the following:

An ongoing commitment to the Five Pillar Plan administered through the Board of General Purposes. This commitment includes continuance of the Ad Hoc Committee on Organizational Analysis chaired by MW Bro. Stephen Godfrey. The committee will be active again this year and consider additional topics relating to the administration of our organization such as the size and number of districts and compilation of a database of best practices for lodges. We

have requested that they again attend the regions of this jurisdiction to solicit feedback directly from the brethren on these and other topics. They will be hosted by the respective District Deputy Grand Masters and work closely with the Regional Representatives who will be asked to assist in facilitating the meetings.

Last year, with the blessing of our then Grand Master, MW Bro. J. Alan Cross, I approached the Grand Lodge Committee on Constitutions to begin a review of the *Constitutions, Regulations, Rulings and Edicts*. This work will be continued by an *ad hoc* committee chaired by RW Bro. Bill Headen of Victoria. The purpose of the committee's work will be to:

- Identify and correct any errors or omissions.
- Where applicable, propose revisions to make the *Constitutions* more easily readable, understood and



MW Bro. William R. Cave, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of British Columbia and Yukon for 2011-2012.

accessible to the brethren (including complete indexing of the document).

- Identify sections which might be more appropriately moved from the *Constitutions* into the *Regulations, or Edicts and Rulings*, or to another section or to the *Forms and Ceremonies* or a manual of guidelines to be maintained by the Grand Secretary.

I have also asked that the committee propose and carry out a process or processes for

communicating effectively with the brethren well in advance of any Grand Lodge Communication at which recommendations of the committee will be brought forward for a vote. The intent is that the brethren have ample opportunity to review and comment on the committee's recommendations and the committee consider the brethren's feedback and make suitable revisions (if appropriate) prior to voting on

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VOLUME 75 / NUMBER 1

EDITED by Trevor W. McKeown for the Grand Secretary's Office and published by the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of British Columbia and Yukon. The VIEWS AND OPINIONS expressed in the *Masonic Bulletin* are those of the individual authors and writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions. CORRESPONDENCE: 1495 West Eighth Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia V6H 1C9 Canada. WEB: <http://freemasonry.bcy.ca> TELEPHONE: +1-604-736-8941. FACSIMILE: +1-604-736-5097. EMAIL: editor@freemasonry.bcy.ca

Grand Master's message
from page one

them if necessary at a Grand Lodge communication.

I must emphasise that the review is *not* intended to change the overall principles, practices, purpose or intent defined or reflected in the content of the current *Book of Constitutions and Regulations* but to make the document more easily read, understood and utilized by all brethren.

The mandate defined above may change and evolve as the committee's work progresses and it is expected that this undertaking, with the blessing of my successors, will extend over several years. The composition of the committee as formed has been reported on in the *Advance Proceedings*.

In May 2012 we will hold a workshop with the Grand Lodge Committees of Education, Leadership, Research, Ashlar College and other brethren with an interest in defining a long term plan for masonic education and development. This is not intended to interfere with any initiatives which may currently be underway such as district and regional Grand Masonic Days and masonic leadership seminars, but rather to leverage these opportunities and encourage more similar events on a regular and consistent basis. Definition and provision of required standardized resources will also be considered.

On a related note, our Senior Grand Warden, RW Bro. Donald E. Stutt has a particular passion which he will pursue this year to ensure diligent follow up on the actions arising from and responding to priorities identified in the Master Mason's Survey conducted in MW Bro. Brian Tuckey's year. As a result we have agreed he will be the primary steward responsible for moving forward initiatives arising from the long term planning workshop I previously

mentioned.

Our Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro. G. Murray Webster, will be undertaking several initiatives this year; the first being to consider possible applications of various electronic technologies and software along with social media such as Twitter® and other similar communication fora.

He will also begin an exploration for materials and opportunities to provide and encourage musical harmony in lodges who do not currently have that benefit, or possess the necessary resources.

I will now address the Grand Master's other, arguably more important, mandate: the Craft, and a consideration of my theme for the coming year. I have often felt that we don't spend enough time considering the many lessons to be learned from our ritual. Every lecture and address is ripe with significant commentary and direct or implied standards of performance for our moral and ethical conduct and personal development and deportment. We have only to give them due consideration and apply them in our lives to gain the benefits available to us as members of the Craft.

My theme evolved for me from just such pondering and is based on the lessons to be learned from Hiram Abiff. In the final charge in the Master Mason degree we are told to, "...imitate the example of that celebrated artist whom you have this evening represented." So what does this really mean? At first blush the story is a lesson in fidelity to one's word and to the brevity of life. But, are there other lessons that might be learned on further consideration?

According to the legend, Hiram Abiff was a Master Mason and a master of his craft; honoured and respected as a leader and a teacher of the workmen. A master of the working tools which we are

taught to apply figuratively to our morals, our development and our deportment. Hiram Abiff was a builder, and we are urged to follow his example and master the lessons of Freemasonry building ourselves, our lodges and our community.

So what does a builder do? Specifically, a builder:

- Undertakes personal learning and development;
- Demonstrates high moral and ethical values;
- Plans for his future and the future of his lodge;
- Coaches, mentors, educates, trains and develops others;
- Promotes peace, harmony and Brotherly love.

On this point I would like to offer an aside:

One of the most common concerns encountered by the officers of your Grand Lodge is complaints regarding instances of conflict and disharmony arising between brethren in some of our lodges. I would like to draw attention to the fact that we are each informed from the very first degree we take in Freemasonry that this is unacceptable and that such conduct is clearly unmasonic. We each have an obligation to resolve these issues if we are individually involved or to ensure as a lodge that these conflicts are not allowed to persist. The over-riding principle must be to solve the problem while building and maintaining relationships for the betterment of all involved.

Returning to the attributes of a builder I note that he:

- Travels and visits;
- Cares for those in need and;
- Contributes to his community.

Copying this example then, my theme is, Be a Builder - a builder of Self, Lodge and Community.

SELF

With respect to ourselves, I urge that we encourage personal contemplation along with education, development and mentorship in our lodges. To that end, following one of

the strong recommendations emerging from the Master Mason's Survey, we asked the Grand Lodge Committee on Education to develop a job description for the District Education Officers which clearly defines the qualifications and expectations for the rôle. On Thursday, prior to this past Grand Lodge Annual Communication, we held the first development workshop for our District Education Officers to provide them with education and training in presentation skills along with an introduction to available resources to assist them in successfully fulfilling their mandate. Specifically, to themselves deliver and or to assist lodge Directors of Masonic Education to develop and provide quality masonic education for the brethren.

LODGE

As stated by VW Bro. Alden Sarmiento, the Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Washington in his address at our Annual Communication, I believe we must strive to be, "An organization that members want, not an organization that wants members." The most important aspect of delivering on that objective is captured in one word, quality; quality in our membership, our degree work, our meetings and our leadership.

To this end we will follow through on the commitment defined in our Five Pillar Plan and hold a Masonic Leadership and Ladies' Conference in Penticton on 13 to 15 April 2012 to assist lodges in building the strong, competent leadership they require to deliver on the rest of the equation. I urge all lodges to encourage their members to be present at this event and give particular consideration to supporting the participation of their new and developing lodge leaders by perhaps underwriting a portion of their costs to attend. You will note a subtle re-focusing of this conference to be inclusive of

any and all freemasons; those who might be in or progressing towards leadership rôles within their lodges, Past Masters and other brethren in unofficial or influencing rôles in their lodges. No brother should feel excluded from this invitation.

Lodge planning is also critical to the ongoing success of our lodges. I envision, this year, a continuation of the principle of "Charting Our Masonic Course," espoused by our Immediate Past Grand Master, MW Bro. J. Alan Cross. I will expect that all the District Deputy Grand Masters receive a presentation from each of their lodges defining their long range lodge plan. Where lodges have yet to embark upon this initiative, we will offer some support. This past year the Grand Lodge Committee on Research, under the chairmanship of RW Bro. Aidan C. Gordon, redesigned the Lodge Excellence and Award Program (which I view as a compilation of best practices for lodges) to conform to our Five Pillar Plan. By utilizing this instrument lodges can simply review their current status relative to each element of the checklist included in the program survey and then choose just two or three items to work on for improvement. These choices by the brethren will form the basis of a plan to move forward and experience overall improvement in their lodge over time. Participation in the awards component of the program is entirely optional and at the discretion of the lodge.

COMMUNITY

I encourage the involvement of our lodges in appropriate activities within their communities. There was a time when freemasons were identifiable as the leaders in their individual communities and our society overall. We often cite the names of famous politicians, philosophers, business leaders, musicians, artists and other visionaries who were freemasons. But, who do we point to

today when we define that list? I believe we have opportunities to step forward and be a part of significant undertakings not only locally but on the world stage. At the All Canada Conference of Canadian Jurisdictions in Winnipeg this year I had the opportunity to view an extremely moving presentation regarding human rights and tour the construction site for the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, an initiative of which we as Canadians can be proud. This is not a discussion of religion or politics but one of brotherly love, relief and truth. Considering our stated belief as freemasons in the principle of charity and the virtue of justice to all I suggest that supporting the Canadian Museum of Human Rights through the *Just a Buck Program* is such an opportunity.

I am not going to challenge you to make a decision *en masse* today but to take the time to individually consider the possibility of making such a pledge. I will be requesting that in each lodge brethren identify their individual willingness to participate on a one-time basis and, if agreed, lodges forward a cheque to Grand Lodge for *Just a Buck* on behalf of each of its members willing to participate. I will be proud to take those donations to the next All Canada Conference in Winnipeg on behalf of the brethren of this jurisdiction to signify our commitment to this significant international initiative so that we as freemasons can be counted as being supportive of the world's, journey from darkness to light with respect to individual and collective human rights.

Finally, to increase involvement in our local communities, with a portion of the funds normally disbursed by the Grand Master from the Benevolent Fund, I intend to match up to \$1,000 donations earmarked for a local registered charity of the district's choice. The default charities of my

choosing will be the Grand Lodge Bursary Fund and the Learning Centre as I believe some of the most valuable gifts we can provide to our youth and ultimately our communities are those of literacy and higher education.

I thank you for the confidence you have reposed in me and urge you each to *Be a Builder* and enjoy your Freemasonry! I look forward to visiting with each and every one of you in the coming masonic year. ■

Lodge notes

This past July **Manoah Lodge No. 141** celebrated its sixtieth anniversary with the placing of a plaque by MW Bro. William R. Cave, ably assisted by RW Bro. Basil R. Hobbs, DDGM for District 5, and the Worshipful Master, W Bro. Morris Soer.

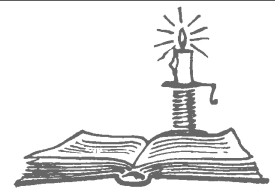
On 10 September the Grand Master will join the brethren of **Kamloops Lodge No. 10** in celebrating its quasiquintennial with a banquet, dance and entertainment, followed the next morning by the annual Dale Dickson + Roger Dean Memorial Charity Golf Tournament.

Contact Bro. Terry Klassen at terry@westcoasttf.com for details.

This past May the Worshipful Master and officers of **Eureka Lodge No. 103** were Installed and Invested by the RCMP Installation Team, before an assembly of 86 brethren, all of whom will be pleased to provide testimonial as to the excellence of their work and deportment. ■

Curses!

While browsing the lodge by-laws of this jurisdiction, your editor recently came across this excellent little piece of legislation: "No member or visitor shall presume in open lodge



Turn over a new leaf

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Freemasonry
:
the art and
science of
right living

either at labour or refreshment to make use of any profane, improper or irrelevant expressions, or to introduce any conversation or remarks tending to cause a difference on national, political, or religious grounds under the penalty, if a member, of severe censure or reprimand, and if a visitor, of not again being permitted to visit this lodge until after a unanimous vote of the lodge for that purpose. On the initiation of each candidate, or when a candidate for initiation or affiliation is rejected or a brother reprimanded or suspended, the Worshipful Master shall cause this article to be read so that no brother ever hereafter shall plead ignorance."

This admirable sentiment is found in a number of our lodge by-laws and is presented for the attention of those who are currently tasked with reviewing their own lodge by-laws. ■

Make yourself heard

Several presenters, on a variety of topics, have come forward for the Lower Mainland Grand Masonic Day scheduled for 21 January at the Vancouver Masonic Centre, but there is still room on the schedule for more.

Presentations may be on any masonic subject, or any subject of interest to freemasons, and should be a maximum of thirty minutes in length, discussion included. PowerPoint will be available.

Anyone interested in making a presentation, or looking for further information, should contact either Bro. Wes Regan at 604-205-3591 or by email at wes.regan@shaw.ca, or VW Bro. Erik Futrell-Fruhling at 778-232-5748, or by email at erikff@shaw.ca. Presentations are welcome from all freemasons, of any degree, and all are

welcome to attend.

Registration will open in the third floor foyer at the Masonic Centre at 8:30 am, with the official opening of the program at 9:45 am in the Ditmars Room. Cost for the day is \$30 (cash or cheque only) which includes refreshments during the registration period, a coffee break, luncheon, and a copy of the proceedings for the day. Dress is "business casual"—no aprons, no regalia.

Following tradition, Junior Grand Warden RW Bro. Philip Durell will be the luncheon speaker. Our Grand Master MW Bro. William R. Cave will be in attendance.

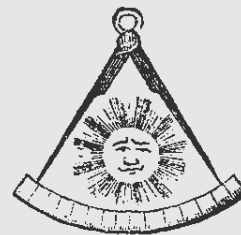
Although advance registration is not required, indication of your plan to attend would be appreciated for catering purposes. ■

Masonic Leadership Conference

Mark your calendars now for this exciting event at Penticton Lakeside Resort on 13-15 April 2012

Here is an opportunity to gather with like-minded leaders of our organization (young, old, past, present and future) in an environment conducive to working, learning, sharing knowledge and experience, and forming relationships that will be beneficial to you and your lodge. It will be an enjoyable event which recognizes our good ladies and extends an opportunity for them to relax and enjoy a weekend in a resort setting while learning a bit more about our Craft.

The programme will provide brethren insight into key leadership skills, exposure to "best practices" in lodge leadership and useful information about our Grand Lodge. Above all, this weekend will present a wealth of thought for discussion, consideration and application in our lodges. The value of



GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY SEPTEMBER 2011

3	S	Barbeque	Cranbrook Lodge No. 34	Fort Steele
9	F	Grand Lodge	Board of General Purposes	Kamloops
9	F	Grand Lodge	Principal Officers Meeting	Kamloops
9-11	F-S	Quasiquicentennial	Kamloops Lodge No. 10	Kamloops
12	M	50th Anniversary	Aviation Lodge No. 175	Richmond
16-17	F-S	Grand Chapter	Royal Arch Masons	Victoria
20	T	Official Visit	Victoria Lodge of E & R	Victoria
23	F	50th Anniversary	Westminster Lodge No. 174	Langley
24	S	Rededication	North Star Lodge No. 167	Surrey

"networking" with brethren from around the jurisdiction is an opportunity not to be missed.

Download the registration form from our Grand Lodge website. ■

For your information

This is the second in a planned series of minor notes on masonic practices in this jurisdiction.

While an American is taught to place his right hand over his left breast while singing his national anthem, there is no such tradition in Canada. Coming to the sign of fidelity is a natural gesture for freemasons in lodge, but its use during the singing of our national anthem is discouraged. ■

Masonry online

The Worldwide Exemplification of Freemasonry 2011 Lecture Series is an online education project endorsed by the Grand Lodge of Indiana and monitored by the Dwight L Smith Lodge of Research. This video series is available

Saturday evenings at weofm.org with an evening discussion chatroom found on Facebook®.

Presenters so far have included Prof. Andrew Prescott; Dr. S. Brent Morris; curator of the Grand Lodge of Scotland Museum, Robert L.D. Cooper; and a host of other masonic luminaries who have been viewed by over a half-million viewers in more than 150 countries. Join our own Grand Historian VW Bro. Trevor W. McKeown on 10 December 2011 when he presents his "Historical Outline of Freemasons on the Internet" ■

Six steps

Many is the time that brethren are asked to ballot on potential candidates before there has been time to really determine his qualifications. Many a sponsor or investigating committeeman has been unsure how to proceed.

Six Steps to Initiation, a guide to the candidate selection process, is available to help.

Ask your lodge secretary to download this eight-page pdf file from the lodge secretaries' section of our website, read it, put it into practice, and you will see your new member retention rate rise. ■