



MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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April 2004

No. 8

The Grand Master's Message

Easter is a very special time in the lives of our Christian brethren. But Easter, of course, is associated with Passover, which is an equally precious time in the traditions of our Jewish brethren. I want to extend the best wishes of the officers of Grand Lodge and our families to each and every one of you at this special season.

I also want to reflect about the meaning of this time for Freemasons, especially in our present circumstance.

Passover derives from the story of Moses and the great plagues that swept over Egypt. God took the first born child in every house, but the houses of the faithful were spared. They subsequently wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, but then became the great nation of Israel. Easter derives from the story of the crucifixion of Jesus, the scattering into despair of his disciples, and his resurrection. And from his resurrection came a small band of re-energized followers who created one of the great religions of the world.

These past few years have sent a great plague upon organizations like ours, with dwindling membership and lost public interest. What we have left is a faithful remnant that has endured what seems like many years in the wilderness. But winter is over, not only literally, but, I believe, for Freemasonry in Manitoba as well. There is a new spring coming. It is not a spring of growing membership, but a spring of growing enthusiasm, dedication and enjoyment of the Craft. We will not be the organization we once were, but we will be a strong, vital and effective fraternity with the members we do have.

There is a myth about the Craft. It is a myth that says Masons can't change. In fact, Freemasonry has survived 350 years and traveled all over the world. It is dif-

ferent everywhere and it has constantly changed and evolved. I have been amazed by the willingness of the members of the Craft in Manitoba to embrace constructive change. There are a few who fail to see the new vision, but they are a small and dwindling minority.

When you look to the root of the success of the Israelites who left bondage in Egypt to found a people and a great religion, or the early Christians who rebounded from the death of their leader, there is one common thread. It is the story they told about who they were. In each case it is a powerful story of destiny, of God's love and of a great new vision.

Freemasonry in Manitoba has not journeyed on this epic or divine scale. Nevertheless, the story we tell about ourselves to others, but more importantly to ourselves, is the key to our future success or failure. For too long the story has been one of declining numbers, aging membership, unwillingness to change, pride in the accomplishments of a lot of dead Masons, and a lack of vision and purpose for the future.

Today that story is changing. It is a story about eagerly adapting to constructive change, openness to new ideas, strategic planning and visioning, embracing the possibilities of new technology and youthful enthusiasm. This is a story that can carry us successfully into the 21st century.

It is my earnest wish to spread this story and embed it in many different ways into our collective consciousness. The Annual Communication in June will be a time to do some of that. Please plan to attend, especially the Friday night and Saturday morning portions of the program. It is your Craft. Please celebrate it with us.

- *M.W. Bro. Ken Thomas, Grand Master*

GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

Any Master Mason may accompany the Grand Master on official Lodge visits.

APRIL 2004

1	All Canada Conference	Viscount Gort		
2	All Canada Conference	Viscount Gort		
3	All Canada Conference	Viscount Gort		
6	Vermillion No. 68	Dauphin	6:30 PM	OV
8	Scottish Rite	MMT	6:00 PM	
10	District #2 Annual Meeting	Portage la Prairie	2:00 PM	OV
13	Glenboro No. 48	Glenboro	8:00 PM	OV
17	Condition of Freemasonry	Portage la Prairie	10:00 AM	
20	Lisgar No. 2	Selkirk Temple	7:30 PM	OV
22	Mound Lodge No. 118	Pilot Mound	6:30 PM	OV
27	District #7 Lodges	Brandon Temple	7:30 PM	OV

MAY 2004

1	District #10 Annual Meeting	Kimberly Temple		
4	Three Pillars	Regular Meeting	6:00 PM	
11	Kilcona No. 183	E.K. Temple	7:30 PM	
31	Order of the Eastern Star	Victoria Inn Brandon	7:00 PM	

An Invitation To All Masons

We are coming to the end of an exciting year in Freemasonry in Manitoba.

We have: a new library and resource centre; Mom and Kid's ID off the ground and running; the work of the Constitution Committee is finally finished; a new web page; new committees on Public Communication and Technology; new opportunities to obtain funding for essential future programs; realignment of the districts and, before the year is over, four new lodges resulting from seven amalgamations; a new Vision Statement and Mission Statement; and a new strategic plan for Grand Lodge with a permanent strategic planning body. And that is only some of the good news.

It has been a great year and on behalf of the officers of Grand Lodge I invite every brother of Manitoba to come to celebrate it with us at the open banquet of the Grand Communication, Friday June 4th.

We will start the evening with a cash bar and an excellent buffet banquet. This will be followed by a presentation by M.W. Bro. Norman Thomas, Grand Master of Alberta. Brother Norman is one of the most dynamic and inspirational speakers I have ever heard, and will delight and challenge his listeners with his powerful message.

This will be followed by our entertainment – musical presentations from *Rick Unrau and Outbound Journey*.

Rick Unrau is a professional folksinger and recording artist. He has released three CDs, has toured North America and has performed on three occasions at the Winnipeg Folk Festival. *Outbound Journey* is a very talented young modern gospel and spiritual group. They are the nucleus of the contemporary worship music team at St. Mary's Road United Church, and have done workshops and presentations on contemporary inspirational music across the province and for the national church.

It all adds up to an excellent evening. We have arranged child care at MMT so all who wish to may attend. The evening will start with cocktails at 6:00 pm followed by dinner at 7:00 pm. The cost will be \$35.00 per person for the dinner, speaker and excellent entertainment.

Please accept my personal invitation to come and help us joyfully celebrate the renewed spirit that is flowing in our beloved Craft.

- M.W. Bro. Ken Thomas, Grand Master

Attack In Turkey

Terrorism is always deplorable, regardless of the target. Our heartfelt prayers go out to the victims of this terrible crime. The Masonic Order has been an unflinching advocate of religious tolerance and acceptance for over 300 years. This has frequently made us a target. But actions such as this attack only prove the necessity for maintaining our lodges as places where men of all faiths may meet in mutual understanding and respect. We stand in solidarity with our brethren in Turkey and the rest of the Muslim world.

To Your Ladies:

Women's' Program for the 129th Annual Communication

Please accept our personal invitation to join us at the 129th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba. We hope you can join us for an entertaining and enjoyable program.

On Friday morning, everyone will make their own breakfast arrangements. At 9:15 am the women will leave from the Holiday Inn South, 1330 Pembina Highway, by chartered bus. We will arrive at the Costume Museum of Canada in Dugald, Manitoba, about 10:00 am. The program there will include:

- a visit to a pioneer home on the site
- guided tours of exhibits of fashions and accessories ranging over the last four centuries
- a period fashion show - "Shall We Dance"
- lunch in the Museum Tea Room

Casual, comfortable clothing and shoes are recommended for this outing.

We will return to the hotel after lunch. For the remainder of the afternoon you may relax at the hotel or take advantage of many nearby opportunities. These could include visits to Osborne Village, Corydon Avenue shops and cafes, downtown, or the historic Forks. Car pooling will be arranged at the hotel.

In the evening, the Grand Lodge banquet will be followed with a brief presentation by M.W. Bro. Norman Thomas, Grand Master of Alberta, a passionate and inspiring speaker. The evening will conclude with musical entertainment featuring Rick Unrau, a professional folksinger and recording artist, and Outbound Journey, an exciting and talented contemporary spiritual music group. Free child care will be provided for the evening.

On Saturday a continental breakfast will be provided for the women at the hospitality suite at the hotel. At 10:30 am, bus transportation will be available to the Masonic Memorial Temple for the public Installation of Officers. The Communication will conclude with an informal luncheon for our new Grand Master.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing this special time together. Please advise the Grand Lodge office of any special dietary needs, or if you would like child care Friday evening.

- Ken Thomas & Jackie Garrett

KidsID SESSIONS CONTINUED

The KidsID program will hold identification sessions on April 25th and May 30th from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. All sessions will take place at the Masonic Memorial Temple, 420 Corydon Avenue in Winnipeg. Please bring your kids and grandkids out to have them photographed and identified, just in case the unthinkable ever happens. This is a public program, initiated in 2003 by M.W. Bro. Clay Munz, and operated by the Masons of Manitoba. Be sure to tell your relatives, friends and neighbours to bring their children as well!



Khartum Shriners
A.A.O.N.M.S.
Arabian Horse Guard Unit



The Arabian Horse Guard Unit is looking for Masons to join their unit. Riding lessons are available for those interested in learning to ride.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Ron Greenwood
269-9790

Cal Courtney
668-7162

Jim Graham
254-2158

The New Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba



After nearly two years of painstaking work, the Special Committee on the Constitution has concluded its task. Shown here is R.W. Bro. Bruce Taylor, chairman of the committee, presenting the final draft of the new document to M.W. Bro. Ken Thomas. The presentation took place at the meeting of the Board of General Purposes on January 22, 2004. M.W. Bro. Thomas thanked the committee for their work and dedication on the project, and accepted the chairman's request that the committee be dissolved. The document, which includes both constitutional and regulatory changes, will be referred to as our Constitution. There is very little difference from the original "blue book" other than some repositioning and the change of some sections into regulations. Both printed and electronic versions will soon be available from Grand Lodge.

Four Freedoms

"The first is freedom of speech and expression, everywhere in the world. The second is freedom of everyone to worship God in his own way, everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want, everywhere in the world. The fourth is freedom from fear, anywhere in the world."

- Brother Franklin D. Roosevelt -

**Constitutional Amendments to be Presented
at the Annual Communication
in June 2004**

The following amendments to the Constitution have been reviewed by the Jurisprudence Committee of the Board of General Purposes and were found to be correct as to form and constitutionality and are eligible for presentation at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba Ancient Free and Accepted Masons to be held in the city of Winnipeg on the 4th and 5th of June in the year 2004.

1. To amend Article 19 (blue book), Article C-14 (new format) of the Constitution by deleting the word "standing." The Article would then read:

"A recorded two-thirds majority vote of the voting members of Grand Lodge then present in person shall be required to pass a motion to amend this Constitution upon prior notice as herein provided."

2. To delete in their entirety Article 48 (h) (blue book) Article C-32 (h) (new format) and Article 209 (f) (blue book) Article C-207 (f) (new format).

3. To amend Article 70 (1) (b) (4) (blue book) Article C-45 (b) (iv) (new format) by adding the words "plus such other allocations of funds from the retained earnings of the fund as may be approved by the Board of General Purposes, the total not to exceed \$250,000 in special appropriations over any five year period", following the words "in the current fiscal year of Grand Lodge."

The Article will then read --

"To provide for prompt assistance in any emergency affecting Freemasonry, within or beyond this jurisdiction or to provide for loans to constituent lodges or corporations existing for Masonic purposes as provided by this constitution or to provide for the support of such further activities tending to enhance, improve, or generally promote the condition of Freemasonry in this jurisdiction provided such expenditures shall not exceed the unallocated portion of income earned in the fund in the current fiscal year of Grand Lodge, plus such other allocations of funds from the retained earnings of the fund as may be approved by the Board of General Purposes, the total not to exceed \$250 000 in special appropriations over any five year period. This fund shall receive at the end of each fiscal year of Grand Lodge the net income then remaining to the credit of the Endowment Fund."



MASONRY IN MANITOBA is published monthly except June, July, and August by authority of **The Grand Lodge of Manitoba A.F. & A.M.**, 420 Corydon Ave, Winnipeg, R3L 0N8 Tel (204) 453-7410 or 1-800-665-2712 (MB) Fax (204) 284-3527 e-mail glsec@grandlodge.mb.ca.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Four weeks prior to the month of issue: (March 31, 2004 for May 2004 issue) M.W. Bro. Steve Kane - Editor Emeritus, M.W. Bro. Ken Thomas (ex officio) Scott Howarth - Editor

EVENTS AT THE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

The Grand Master M.W. Bro. I. Kenneth Thomas cordially invites all Master Masons to attend the 129th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba, to be held at the Masonic Memorial Temple, 420 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba on Friday and Saturday June 4 and 5, 2004. A number of social events have been planned. The Grand Master's lady extends an invitation to the ladies to participate in the activities which have been planned for them.

Please send the tear-off portion of this page to the Grand Lodge Office no later than April 30, 2004 to reserve your tickets.

Friday, June 4th	Past Masters' Luncheon	\$16.00
	Ladies' Tour and Luncheon.....	\$25.00
	Grand Lodge Dinner & Entertainment	\$35.00
Saturday, June 5th.....	Ladies' Continental Breakfast	\$ 8.50
	Grand Master Beattie's Luncheon.....	\$12.00

The public Installation of the Grand Lodge Officers for 2004 will commence at 11:00 am on Saturday, June 5th .

BALLOTING

The polling station will be open from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm on Friday, June 4th, and from 8:00 am to 10:00 am on Saturday, June 5th. All Master Masons of the jurisdiction may cast their ballot during these times. You must present a valid 2004 dues card to the Registrar to be eligible to vote.

RESERVATIONS FOR ACCOMMODATION AT HOLIDAY INN SOUTH

Telephone 1-800-423-1337 or 204-284-2751

Room rates: \$101.46 Double or Single, including taxes

When making reservations please indicate your association with the Grand Lodge of Manitoba.

I/We plan to attend the following social events:

Past Masters' Luncheon - Friday	\$16.00	Yes	No
Ladies' Tour and Luncheon - Friday	\$25.00	Yes	No
Grand Lodge Dinner & Entertainment - Friday.....	\$35.00	Yes	No
Ladies' Continental Breakfast - Saturday.....	\$ 8.50	Yes	No
Grand Master Beattie's Luncheon	\$12.00	Yes	No

(Ticket Prices shown above are per person)

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (Payable to Grand Lodge of Manitoba)

NAME: _____ Lady's name: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/PROV: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____