

Minutes Board of General Purposes Date: September 17, 2016

In attendance: Gary Patterson, George O'Leary, John Cody, James Luddington, Daniel G. Campbell, Graham Shauffenburg, Holger Meuller-Sparenburg, Russel A. Mayne, Donald F. MacLeod, Leslie R. Graham, Norman D. Ruston, Andrew S. Beeler, G. Ian Ferguson, Rick D. Crawford, Alexander Buchan, Georg H. Broome, Terence S. Read, Dale A. Slack, Reo J. Matthews, Peter L. Ponsford, Owen F. Walton, Leigh MacConnell, Darrell Grant, David White, Richard Pentland, John Cameron, Frank Gammell, Craig Savoury, David MacDonald

Observers: Wayne Simpson,

Regrets: George Grant, Harold Crosby, Lawrin Armstrong, Gerald Riley, Gary Smith, David Richardson, Shane MacFarlane

Opening Remarks: The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Bro. Gary Patterson, Chairman of the Board of General Purposes. Following the opening prayer, presented by Bro. Sandy Buchan, DDGM for Kings County District, Bro. Patterson called upon the Most Worshipful the Grand Master to address the assembly. The Grand Master thanked the Brethren for attending the meeting relating that the Board runs Grand Lodge and the work done by the Committees is extremely important. He looked forward to the Committees continuing to do the good work of the Board and thanked the Committee members for all of their hard work and personal efforts.

Report of Illness of Board Members: Thankfully there was no report of serious illness at this time. The Chairman sent four cards around the room to be signed by the Brethren present. The cards were not for any specific Brother but would be kept on hand for future situations where Brethren may fall ill. One of the cards was to be delivered to Bro. Harold Coggins of Ionic Lodge No. 73 who will be 100 years young, to wish him a Happy Birthday!

Following the giving of regrets, Bro. Chairman formally welcomed the members of the Board and had the Brethren rise and introduce themselves to the other members of the Board.

A Motion to deviate from the order of the published agenda was then called for. It was so moved by Bro. Reo Matthews and seconded by Bro. Frank Gammell. Motion Carried.

The Chairman then called for any additions to be added to the agenda. There being nothing to add to the agenda, it was duly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion Carried

Brother Patterson, noted that this being the first meeting of the Board, since the Annual Communication, he reviewed the composition of the Board and how various members were selected to serve on the Board. He noted that the Grand Secretary distributed a copy of the Board Structure to the members of the Board, and that there were a couple of amendments to the compositions of the Committees, one being the formation of an ad hoc Committee, at the request of the Grand Master, to review the Divine and Necrology Services programs presented at the Annual Communication. A copy of the Board Structure was passed around so that all present would be have an idea of the structure of the Board and then vote to approve or disapprove of the structure of committees of the Board.

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The Chairman of the Board gave an address to the Members of the Board of General Purposes.

(See appendix A)

The Chairman called for approval of the minutes of the previous meetings.

Errors or Omissions Discussed: Bro. Graham Shauffenburg's name was omitted from the Attendance register and the notice of motion by Bro. Leigh O'Connell was actually withdrawn with the intention to present it at the September 17th meeting of the Board.

There being no further errors or omissions it was moved by Bro. Daniel Campbell and seconded by Bro. David White that the minutes be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

Business Arising from the Minutes:

Two items were outstanding from the Committee on the Condition of the Order in the year 2015. The first one was directed to the Ritual Committee and focused on the Mentor Program.

The Grand Lecturer, Chairman of the Ritual Committee rose and addressed this issue indicating that the committee has developed a set of Guidelines which were presented to the Board for approval.

See attached documents in Appendix A.

Following the report of the Grand Lecturer:

It was moved by Brother Shauffenburg and seconded by Bro. MacConnell that the Guidelines be accepted as presented and added to the Mentorship Program and that the Mentorship Program be broken up into separate divisions so that it is more easily understood.

Motion Carried

It was noted that the Mentor Program will be put on the website and will be in booklet form.

The second area focused on Masonic Renewal! The Committee which

was chaired by Bro. John Cody and composed of the Line Officers of Grand Lodge was reviewing the guidelines for DDGM's and their selection process. It was the recommendation of the Committee that the selection of District Deputy Grand Masters remain with the Status Quo. Following a great amount of discussion in which two main points were considered (one recommending the election of the DDGM's by the District and the other to continue with the present rotation basis), the Chairman called for the question and

It was duly moved and seconded that the status quo be maintained for the selection of District Deputy Grand Masters. Motion Carried

It was noted that the Committee would revisit the situation and have a response by the next meeting of the Board. The Chairman also reminded the Members of the Board that if they had any suggestions or comments to forward them to any member of the Masonic Renewal Committee.

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The items requiring action from the May 14th meeting were then discussed:

A question arose concerning the purchasing of the CD's and recording of music for the annual installation ceremony for the constituent Lodges. It was noted that the CD's were purchased, the recordings made and that the CD's were distributed at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

The Grand Secretary reported that the actions regarding putting the photos and bios of the Grand Lodge line officers were put on the Grand Lodge web site and that he sent the policy and procedures of the Board of General Purposes to The Chairs of all the Committees as directed.

A question arose whether a CD would be produced and distributed to the Lodges providing the music and odes for each of the three degrees. The

question was referred to the Grand Lecturer who indicated that it could be done. Following the discussion:

It was moved by Bro. David MacDonald and seconded by Bro. John Cameron that the Grand Lecturer and Ritual Committee develop and distribute CD's with the music for the three Masonic Degrees. Motion Carried

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: (see attached pdf file for full report)

In the absence of the Grand Treasurer, Bro. David White brought forth the report from the Finance Committee and did an excellent job reporting for the Finance Committee and providing information on the proposed operating Budget for 2017. It was noted that the Public Relations proposed budget was reduced to a total of \$6000.00 and recommended that the PR Committee provide a more detailed breakdown of their proposed budget at the November meeting of the Board. The Chairman of the PR Committee indicated that he would go back to the Committee and return with a more detailed plan of expenditures at the November meeting. It was also noted that only one Lodge, Sophia Perennis Lodge UD was in arrears on its Per Capita Assessment. Following his report:

Brother White moved that the Board of General Purposes approve the proposed 2017 budget in the amount of \$184,050.00 and set the per-capita assessment rate at \$37.36 an increase of \$1.99 per member. The motion was seconded by Bro. John Cameron.

Discussion following the Motion:

Following the motion to adopt the proposed budget a great deal of discussion occurred. A number of questions arose concerning the Budget one of which recommended that the Budget be prepared in June and distributed to the Constituent Lodges and all the Brethren for their

consideration and input. No decision was made at this time. Another suggestion was that the Board of General Purposes (Grand Lodge) investigate areas of revenue generation to help cover increasing expenses other than the revenue raised from Constituent Lodges. It was noted that it is the responsibility of the DDGM's and Elected Representatives to explain to the membership the reasons for the increases, due to decreasing membership and increases to our fixed costs. Then the Brethren will have a better understanding why the per capita assessment had to be increased. It was also recommended that each Lodge provide the Brethren with a breakdown of

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the Lodge dues so that the Brethren will have a better idea of which costs are due to Lodge operations and which funds are going to Grand Lodge assessments.

Following the discussion, the Chairman called for the question and the Motion was Carried.

Masonic Renewal: (See attached pdf file for full report)

Public Relations Committee: (See Attached pdf file for entire report)

Brother Reo Matthews noted that in the report of the Public Relations Committee we have put forth a strategic plan for the Committee for the next three years. This year we are working on Branding / Standardizing, Communication, and doing some Public Relations workshops so that the Brethren will have a better understanding of what Public Relations is and does. The workshops will focus on the Internal and External aspect of public relations and bring them more in line with each other.

It is the PR Committee that will be looking at the External and Internal Personae of Grand Lodge therefore, it takes a lot of time to find a methodology of what works in both circumstances. Besides the physical presentation such as floats and parades, we have to take advantage of

and using technology as a communicative tool and how we make it work for us.

It is important to note that any group trying to promote Freemasonry pass their ideas through the PR Committee and the Board of General Purposes. Whatever we Brand must be in line with what we are attempting to show in our personas. Therefore, Brands such as mascots etc. should come through the Board to ensure that is the personae that we wish to promote.

The Chairman then moved and it was duly seconded:

That the Board of General Purposes adopt and accept the 3 year strategic plan of the Public Relations Committee and that it can be adjusted accordingly, if necessary.

Motion Carried

The Chairman indicated that the PR Committee was in the process of developing signage or methods in which Freemasonry can become known more readily to the general public. Therefore he moved and it was duly seconded:

That the PR Committee be given permission to seek out and design a Masonic Nova Scotia License Plate and brought back to the Board of General Purposes for approval.

Following some discussion both in favour of and against the motion, the question was called for. **Motion Carried**

The Nova Scotia Freemason is changing its format and now everybody on the mailing list receives a copy as do a number of other Grand Jurisdictions also on the mailing list. We are hoping to sell Ad space in the NS Freemason which may become a source of revenue for Grand Lodge or the Masonic Foundation. Bro. Matthews indicated that the PR Committee would bring a motion requesting permission for the NS Freemason to offer Ad space in its issues, at the next meeting of the

Board once they have acquired more information.

Chair of the Board passed along compliments on the new format of the NS Freemason!

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Bro. Matthews related that the Grand Secretary and a new Web Site committee will be working on a better web site for Grand Lodge. One which will be more attractive and presentable to the general public and younger generations.

Long Range Planning Committee: (See Attached pdf file for entire Report)

Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee referred to the Grand Lodge Mission and Vision Statements and raised the rhetorical question, "How does, whatever we do in Grand Lodge aid in the attainment of the Mission and Vision Statements?"

He reiterated the fact that he would be most willing to attend the District Association and District Meetings to facilitate the workshop. For the Brethren in Cape Breton he indicated that if they needed assistance with the facilitators guide, that he would be prepared to come to a central area to facilitate a workshop in that area. Four of the thirteen Districts have received workshops and he has been most pleased with the research information he has received.

One of the areas of concern was the confusion of the Brethren over what Grand Lodge is and what Grand Lodge does. Getting some Master Mason attending the workshop but the majority of those attending are older more experienced Masons. He is considering adding to the Facilitator's guide some questions relevant to Education in an attempt to determine what forms of education the Brethren are looking for. He still has some concern of the lack of by-in or the numbers attending the workshops, the other concern is in reference to the forms of education wanted by the Brethren and the Brethren presenting the lectures may not be the best people to present the lectures. The Committee will work on

ways to get an Educational Officer to do the job. He indicated that the DDGM's are the main communicators of the LRP research project. This is a qualitative form of research. This is not a form of research project in which we will have statistically accurate data. We will not be able to diagnose the root cause but get a flavour of the feelings of the group.

Once all the information is gathered, the Committee will prepare a report for the Board to provide information to assist with the development of a Long Range Plan which will be brought to the Board and the Lodges for approval.

Grand Secretary Update / Web Site: See Attached pdf file for entire report

Nothing further was added to the report.

It was duly moved and seconded that the written reports received from the Masonic Renewal Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, Public Relations Committee, and Grand Secretary / Web site report be accepted.

Motion Carried

The Board Structure having been distributed around the Board so that every Board member had an opportunity to review the structure of the Board and its committees it was duly moved and seconded that:

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The proposed structure and committees of the Board for the year 2016-2017 be accepted! Motion Carried

The Chairman of the Board then called for a report from the Ad Hoc **Committee reviewing the Committee Structure of the Board of General Purposes.** Bro. Peter Ponsford is taking over from Bro. Gerald Riley! The Committee will be working with the committees of the Board to determine, who is the Chairman, who is on the committee, when did

they last meet and when do they plan to meet again, and at the same time to ask the Chairmen for any suggestions or comments they would like to make. The Committee hopes to have a report by the end of the third Board of General Purposes meeting. They are gathering information in a nonjudgmental way and hope the Committees will feel comfortable coming forward.

Special Committees:

Committee on the Condition of the Order recommendations:

In accordance to the operating procedures of the Board of General Purposes, which states that the recommendations provided by the Committee on the Condition of the Order must be dealt with by the Board of General Purposes, in the absence of the Chairman of the Committee on the Condition of the Order, Committee member, Bro. Frank Gammell, reviewed the Recommendations of the Committee as required.

The following recommendations were discussed and dealt with accordingly:

Recommendation #1: It is recommended that the Grand Secretary highlight the number of first, second and third degree members as requested in last year's Condition of the Order report.

This recommendation has been achieved and the data was given in this year's annual report and will be continued in all future annual reports.

Recommendation #2: It is recommended that the warrant, minute books, and any other pertinent tools and documentation should be handed over to the Grand Lodge Officer who is present at the closing of said Lodge.

This will ensure that the documentation will get to Grand Lodge within an appropriate period of time and not lost in the transition.

The Committee was requested to prepare a notice of motion to deal with this recommendation and present the notice of motion at our November 16th 2016 meeting.

Recommendation #3: It is recommended that the DDGM's be provided with a template in an effort to unify the information gathered in their reports. This template should be developed by the Board of General Purposes.

Reading the reports from the DDGM's there was a tremendous variety in the quality and the amount of detail in the reports.

It was noted that there is a sample report in the DDGM Handbook and if the DDGM follows that format he will be able to produce a valid report.

Recommendation # 4: It is recommended that the role of the DDGM be better defined as it pertains to problems they encounter; specifically relating to whose role it is to deal with the problem they encounter.

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It was noted that in the DDGM's Handbook it was clearly stated that it is not the role of the DDGM and that he should remain neutral in any Masonic disputes. It was noted that some DDGM's do not take the time to read the Handbook and that it is difficult to ensure that they do. . It was noted that some Lodges use the nomination of a DDGM from their Lodge as an honour and some of the nominated DDGM's do not realize the amount of work involved or also think of it as an honour and do not or are not capable of doing the work While there were no easy answers, it was also recommended that the school of instruction for the DDGM's should be held before they are installed and that full duties of the DDGM's be reviewed before he is appointed so that he can determine whether he is able to do the job. We should also develop an accountability evaluative tool to determine if the DDGM is doing the work required of the position and being accountable.

It was duly moved and seconded that Recommendation #4 be tabled at this time. Motion Carried

Recommendation #5: It is recommended that DDGM's contact the Lodge secretary prior to his official visits, to ensure that the documents that he is

required to inspect are available for his inspection during his official visit. **It was noted that this direction is provided in the DDGM's handbook.**

It was also recommended that the Grand Secretary remind the Secretaries of the Lodge about which materials the DDGM's would require to see during their official visit. It was noted that the Grand Secretary had communicated this information to the Constituent Lodges already this year.

Recommendation #6: It is recommended that if the proper documentation is not available for inspection the Grand Secretary should be notified and in turn will notify the Grand Master who will then forward a letter of concern to the Master of the Lodge regarding the same. This could be resolved by the Grand Secretary forwarding an e-mail to the secretaries of the Lodges, prior to September's meeting.

It was noted that the Grand Secretary has already performed this task and will continue to do so annually! The letter to the Secretaries is copied to the DDGM so that they are aware as well. It is also in the DDGM Handbook!

Recommendation # 7: It is recommended that the regalia of the DDGM, DGDC and DGC be repaired or replaced by Grand Lodge as they are representing the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

It was noted that the regalia for the DDGM is the responsibility of Grand Lodge but the regalia for the DGDC and DGC is the responsibility of the District. The Committee recommended that as the DGDC and DGC are representing Grand Lodge, that Grand Lodge should be responsible for their regalia as well.

It was noted that this recommendation would require a notice of motion to change Regulation VI Regalia. It was also noted that this would require a tremendous increase in the Grand Lodge assessment and suggested that the Districts do some fund raising to cover costs of the replacement of the DGDC and DGC's regalia. It was brought to the attention of the Board that it was the Districts

who wished to have a DGDC and DGC and that they were to provide the regalia for those offices if they wished to have them in place. Following all discussion, Bro. Gammell, representing the Committee on the Condition of the Order, recommended that he withdrew the recommendation!

It was then duly moved and seconded that recommendation # 7 be withdrawn. Page 7 of 11

Recommendation # 8: It is recommended that all Lodges perform a degree when the DDGM makes his official visit. In the absence of a candidate, it is recommended that a staged degree be facilitated.

It was noted that many Lodges do not do a degree and / or are unable to do a degree at the time the DDGM does his official visit. What is the DDGM willing to accept in lieu of that? It was recommended that the DDGM be willing to accept presentations of partial degree work or lectures or other forms of Masonic Education. This is also covered in the DDGM's Handbook. A clarification in the guidelines was recommended.

Recommendation # 9: It is recommended that conflict within a Lodge brought to the attention of the DDGM should be reported to the Grand Master immediately. Names shall be omitted from the report but conveyed to the Grand Master in a confidential manner.

This recommendation is already covered in the DDGM Handbook.

Recommendation # 10: It is recommended that Grand Lodge provide direction and / or take action to resolve the problems with those Lodge buildings that have been abandoned or are in financial arrears. **It was noted that this was a Lodge responsibility and Grand Lodge has no say or right to say over Lodge property or how they spend their funds. It was noted that Grand Lodge does have control over the Masonic Emblem, particularly the Square and Compasses circumscribing the letter 'G' and that a directive goes to the Lodges, that go into darkness or whose buildings are dilapidated and in total disrepair,**

that the Masonic Logo on the outside of their buildings are to be removed.

It was noted that this was the first time, in many years, that the recommendations of the Committee on the Condition of the Order were handled as directed under the procedures and policies of the Board of General Purposes and the Chairman was commended for ensuring that this task was performed as required.

The Chairman then made a referral to the **Committee on the Annual Review of the Board of General Purposes** noting that as a new Chairman of that Committee has just been appointed they have not had an opportunity to meet and will have a report ready for the November 26th meeting of the Board.

Notice of Motions:

The following notice of motion was presented by Leigh MacConnell at the September 17th, 2016 meeting of the Board of General Purposes to be voted on at our November 26th 2016 meeting:

I, Leigh MacConnell, a member in good standing of Ionic Lodge # 73, shall move or cause to be moved at the next regular meeting of the Board of General Purposes, the following addition (**in bold**) to Regulation VI, Regalia, section 4, General (a),:

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Motion Carried

4. General

(a) No brother shall be admitted to Grand Lodge, or to any Lodge, unless in proper Masonic clothing. The Masonic Apron shall be worn, fully visible, on the outside of the jacket (business suit, sports jacket or tuxedo suit). **The following exceptions to this practice shall be:**

(i) The apron may be worn inside the jacket of a morning suit or formal black coat with tails or Highland dress jacket.

(II) After affiliation with a Lodge in this jurisdiction, a brother may choose to wear the apron of the recognized jurisdiction from which he originated in accordance with the design, Markings, shape and mode of wearing that is the accepted practice of that jurisdiction.

This notice of motion was withdrawn by Bro. MacConnell (as amended September 17, 2016)

Explanatory Note:

To have complete information and to make aware the accepted mode of wearing of the Masonic apron in this jurisdiction. Apparently some of this information was passed by the BOGP in Sept 2013 but unfortunately did not appear in the Regulations and Lodges are not aware of its presence.

Brother MacDonnell then stated that he will attempt to bring forth a definition of 'Closed Tyled' to appear in the Protocol & Etiquette guide which he will give to the Grand Lecturer to bring forth at the next meeting of the Board.

Brother Owen Walton was then called upon to raise a question he had on the Handbook of Ceremonies part III. Which he believed should be refused. The Chair of the Board formed a committee of Bro. Walton, Bro. Campbell and Bro. E. Carson Jackson.

It was duly moved and seconded that:

An Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Bro. Owen Walton, Dan Campbell and E. Carson Jackson be formed to review the Handbook of Ceremonies part III the Installation of Grand Lodge Officers to report back at a later date.

Motion Carried

Further Business:

Bro. David MacDonald brought up the suggestion that a vehicle be created to bring the Budget to all of the Brethren of the jurisdiction, to receive input and discussion on the budget before the Board votes on the proposed budget. It was recommended that Bro. MacDonald review the Constitution and Regulations and bring a notice of motion to the next meeting of the Board.

Before bringing the meeting to a close, it was noted that at our next meeting there would be an afternoon orientation workshop for all Board members. It was decided that we would start the November 26th meeting at 10:30 a.m.

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The Public Relations Committee Chair requested permission for the PR Committee to do a workshop for the Board during the May meeting of the Board of General Purposes.

There being nothing further to bring before the meeting, the Chairman called for a motion for adjournment.

It was duly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Daniel G. Campbell, PGM Grand Secretary
Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia

Motion Carried



Submitted Written Reports Appendix A Attachments via pdf files

1. Address of the Chairman of the Board of General Purposes to the Members of the Board.

2.Ritual Committee - Review of the Mentor Program and Guidelines.

3.Finance Committee Report September 17, 2016

4.Long Range Planning Report, September 17, 2016

5.Proposed Operating Budget for 2017 with Supporting Information

6.Grand Secretary / Web Site report

Motions made by the Board of General Purposes on September 17, 2016 requiring action:

1.It was moved by Brother Shauffenburg and seconded by Bro. MacConnell that the Guidelines be accepted as presented and added to the Mentorship Program and that the Mentorship Program be broken up into separate divisions so that it is more easily understood. **Motion Carried**

2.It was then duly moved and seconded that the status quo be maintained for the selection of District Deputy Grand Masters. **Motion Carried**

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3.It was moved by Bro. David MacDonald and seconded by Bro. John Cameron that the Grand Lecturer and Ritual Committee develop

and distribute CD's with the music for the three Masonic Degrees.
Motion Carried

4. That the PR Committee be given permission to seek out and design a Masonic Nova Scotia License Plate and brought back to the Board of General Purposes for approval.

Motion Carried

5. An Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Bro. Owen Walton, Dan Campbell and E. Carson Jackson be formed to review the Handbook of Ceremonies part III the Installation of Grand Lodge Officers to report back at a later date.

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Action

Mentor program revised to
Show newly accepted guidelines Booklet brought to next meeting!

Action

Revisit Masonic Renewal and Selection process of DDGM's

Action

Develop & Distribute CD's
With music for the three Degrees

Action

Design a Masonic License Plate

Action

Review of Handbook of Ceremonies Part III, Installation of Grand

Lodge Officers

Actions Required Responsible

Bro. Graham Shauffenburg

Responsible

Masonic Renewal Committee

Responsible

Grand Lecturer & Ritual Committee

Responsible

Public Relations Committee

Responsible

Ad Hoc Committee

Motion Carried

Due Date

November 26, 2016

Due Date

November 26, 2016

Due Date

ASAP

Due Date

November 26, 2016

Due Date

November 26, 2016

3. _____

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