



## Cumberland District Masonic Association Meeting Minutes

Nov. 23, 2017  
 Minas Lodge #67  
 Parrsboro, NS

Meeting opened at 7:30pm with RW Bro. Alan Linkletter as Chairman. **20 brother masons** from the Cumberland District were in attendance for the meeting. The chairman welcomed everyone for such a good turn out.

NAME	LODGE
RW Bro. Bill Merriam	Widow's Son #48
RW Bro. Bob Yorke	Minas Lodge #67
VW Bro. Rick Harvey	Minas Lodge #67
Bro. David Gilbert	Minas Lodge #67
Bro. Drew Fraser	Laurie Lodge #70
W Bro. Justin Simons	Laurie Lodge #70
Bro. Amos Margeson	Laurie Lodge #70
RW Bro. Norm Rushton	Laurie Lodge #70
RW Bro. Archie St Peter	Laurie Lodge #70
RW Bro. Graeme Bales	Wimburn #75

NAME	LODGE
RW Bro. Phil Adams	Wimburn #75
RW Bro. George Anderson	Wallace Lodge #76
RW Bro. Alan Linkletter	King Edward #86
VW Bro. Scott McNairn	King Edward #86
W Bro. Jim Sicheri	King Edward #86
RW Bro. Jack Boyd	Alexandra #87
W Bro. Larry Ross	Alexandra #87
VW Bro. Michael Gaul	Alexandra #87
Bro. Alf Fisher	Alexandra #87
Bro. Willard Hudson	Alexandra #87

### MINUTES

Bro. Amos Margeson moved that the minutes of the Sept. 28, 2017 meeting be approved. 2nd by RW Bro. Archie St Peter. Motion carried.

### AGENDA

Motion to allow us to deviate from the published Agenda as necessary was moved by RW Bro. Norm Rushton and 2nd by RW Bro. Phil Adams. Motion carried.

## SICKNESS AND REGRETS

RW Bro. Bales told the meeting about two brothers: Bro. Bill Benjamin from Acacia Lodge who was in the hospital and Bro. Bill Bird from Wimburn who had a heart attack or stroke and is in the Truro hospital. RW Bro. Boyd told the brothers about the loss of child in the families of W Bro. Larry Ross and Bro. Alf Fisher. It was Bro. Fisher's granddaughter and also W Bro. Ross' great granddaughter who died suddenly a week ago. The chairman expressed our sympathy for the loss to the Brothers Fisher and Ross.

## BUSINESS

**FINANCIAL REPORT** - RW Bro. Phil Adams reported that we have \$936.31 in the bank.

The chairman thanked the two brothers for stepping forward.

### WEBSITE

VW Bro. Michael Gaul presented his yearly bill for the website, \$43.95. He also gave some figures on what percentage of brothers, who are on the CDMA mail outs, that have opened the emails notifying them of Blog Posts. Some brothers noted that there may have been some duplication of notifications, thus the numbers showing up in his statistics would not give a true picture of how many brothers actually saw the Blog Posts.

**Public Relations** - no report.

### DEGREE TEAM

RW Bro. Adams reported that the next time they are being called upon to help with the Third Degree is on Dec. 20th in River Philip.

### TRAVELING GAVEL

RW Bro. Merriam said that the Traveling Gavel is at Widow's Son and will moving on in December.

### INTERPROVINCIAL LODGE DAY

VW Bro. Mike Gaul gave a short report on the 4th Annual Interprovincial Lodge Day. This year it was held in Moncton hosted by Acacia Lodge #49 at 115 Queen Street. For a look at the day, please visit the IP Lodge Day website at:

<http://masons3.wixsite.com/ipday>

### WAYS & MEANS & Social Committees

W Bro. Ross reported that he has been looking in to holding a Darts Night for the district. He spoke to the brothers of the Amherst Masonic Society and they see no reason why we can not have a night to hold such an event. This will be open to all brothers and their wives and prospective masons in Cumberland County. A date for January or February is being looked at for the first Darts Night. Emails will be sent as soon as the date is finalized.

The next year's gathering will be at the Truro Lodge #43 in Truro on Sept. 22, lodge opening at 2:00pm.

### CDMA CHARITY

The chairman then opened the floor for suggestions of what our charity for the year should be. The following ideas were discussed:

RW Bro. Anderson said that the **Social Committee** needs a chairman. After some discussion RW Bro. Norm Rushton said he would volunteer as chairman. Bro. Alf Fisher also said he would join the committee.

- Bikes for Kids
- Cumberland County 4-H Programs
- Spin Bikes
- A Hospice Society donation
- Supporting the local Food Banks

- Donating to the Kidney Foundation for a new Dialysis Machine for the Springhill Hospital
- CEIP

Much discussion was had on all the ideas. They are all deserving of our money but we can only do one. However, we said that we could look at helping the Food Banks by bringing food items to our lodge meetings and to the CDMA meeting to be donated to our local Food Banks.

Also we should be supporting the Boxing Day Breakfast in Springhill. This is a fund raiser for the Kidney Foundation. If you can not go, send a donation for a meal. (If we all showed up, there would be too many of us for them to serve.)

It was suggested that a note be sent to all lodges to suggest these two ideas.

At the end of the discussion RW Bro. Boyd made a motion that we support the 4-H. This was seconded by RW Bro. St Peter. Motion was carried. **The Cumberland County 4-H will be our charity for this 2017-2018.**

### **BOGP**

RW Bro. Boyd gave his report on the last meeting of the BOGP. He was not able to attend but he gave a few points of the meeting from the minutes that have already been sent to all the brothers.

- Information was presented by the Public Relations Committee at the BOGP meeting. One item was that when referring to deity in lodge or lodge business we use the term Supreme Architect of the Universe.
- As well, guidelines are being drawn up for the proper use of Social media as regards photographs and no photographs should be

taken of degree work as well the great lights, when opened, should not be photographed. These and other items are being discussed.

- There are now 2 contests being held: a logo contest to come up with a new logo for the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, and an essay contest - this first one has to do with the lack of masonic music in our lodge meetings and the detrimental effect the lack of music has on our meetings and brothers.
- a new Grand Lodge webpage is now open for use. Much more intuitive and user friendly than the one we had.
- the Long Range Planning Committee findings will soon be made available to the lodges.
- dues for 2018 are \$38.28 per brother.
- all lodge records (such as the secretary's and treasurer's) should be labeled so they do not get lost or misplaced.

### **BURSARY PROGRAM**

RW Bro. Linkletter said that he would like to see more schools ( community colleges, etc.) beyond N.S. in the provinces of N.B. and PEI be included in the institutions that the Masonic Foundation will recognize for the Bursary Program. After some discussion a motion was made by W Bro. Justin Simons that the chairman draft a letter and send it to the Foundation on behalf of the CDMA making this request. This was seconded by Bro. Willard Hudson. Motion carried.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

RW Bro. Rushton, our last year's DDGM, rose to speak on two items:

- he was approached by a woman at the NSCC in Springhill who told him how important the bursaries were that we gave each year. Also it seems ours are the largest bursaries! She was wondering if they

could be split up into smaller bursaries so more people could benefit. We discussed this but no decision was made. It was decided that we would bring this **up at our next meeting** to make a decision.

- secondly, after our big donation last year to help the scouts, they said they would like to do something to thank us. Well the time has come. On Saturday, December 9th at the Parrsboro Camp, which is off the Prospect Road, will be preparing a supper to thank us. RW Bro. Rushton will be in touch with the secretary so the info and directions can be sent to all brothers.

### **DDGM'S MESSAGE**

Our DDGM, RW Bro. Graeme Bales, brought greetings from the Grand Master. The DDGM feels we are doing a good job to help the 4-H. He encouraged everyone to sign their donor cards so there are more organs for people in need. He said our RW Bro. Rob Campbell has been waiting a very long time for his kidney transplant and he is still a long way down on the list.

He said he is doing well getting around to visit the lodges in the district. He realizes we are very low in membership but our area does not have a lot of employment, thus there is not a very large pool of men to draw upon for our fraternity.

### **NEXT MEETING & CLOSING**

RW Bro. Alan Linkletter again thanked the Minas Lodge for hosting us and then proceeded to close the meeting.

The next meeting will be:

**Feb. 22, 2018 at 7:30pm in Amherst, hosted by Alexandra Lodge #87.**

RW Bro. St Peter moved that the meeting be closed. This was seconded by Bro. Margeson.

Meeting closed at 9:15pm.

The collection amounted to \$70.00

Respectfully submitted by VW Bro. Michael Gaul ( CDMA Secretary )