

The Royal Craftsman

Vol 2, Issue 1

Winter 2021

*The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Nova Scotia
Serving RA. Masons of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.*

Message from our GHP, M.E.C. Robert MacDougall

Companions, the pandemic we went through in 2020 and not being able to be with our Companion is in the rear view mirror and the hope of better things to come in 2021 is before us. However, with this hope comes the responsibility we hold to each other. That is to keep in contact with each other and to come to the aid of those Companions who require it. Companions, as we move forward in 2021, let us keep in sight the great time when we can meet again in our Chapters. Be safe.

Bob

M.E.C. Robert MacDougall, MEGHP



What is Next (!) (?)

District No 1 news.

"What is Next". Is that a question or a statement? It is both.

"What is Next" as a question means we are uncertain of the future, uncertain of what lies ahead; Very true and worrisome however not unending. There is real hope that a vaccine to cure and/or prevent Covid 19 is months, not years away. Science has identified treatments that have reduced the severity and frequency of death for those who have contracted the virus. There is light at the end of the tunnel. But.... don't let that light blind us to the fact that we must be steadfast in following the protocols put in place to slow or prevent the spread. The onus is on each one of us. One thing most Masons have in common is the ability to use good judgment. Keep up the tradition.

So.... let's use that light at the end of the tunnel to focus on the eventuality of re-opening and getting

back to our beloved fraternity's activities. How can we re-open with the vigor to carry us into the future? First, let's have a reality check. This past 8 months has seen our membership dwindling, not because of what we have done, but because of what we have not been able to do; spread the good news of Royal Arch Masonry to our Craft Lodge brethren.

Some of our Companions have laid down their working tools and left voids in our ranks and we have not been able to say our Farewells in our traditional way. At least not yet.

"What is Next" as a statement coming from me is I want you to consider three things.

1) While we are away from our Chapters, don't be away from our ritual. Now is the time to bone up on our memory work; learn our offices to the best of our ability so that when we re-open we can come out of the gate at full speed, not starting from scratch. Do it for yourself and do it for your Companions. It's a pride thing (*to be done with humility*). And don't forget your degree work. It sets the example for future generations of Companions.

2) Because our ability to recruit new applicants has been stymied we need to be ready to make an extra effort to identify and entice those Craft Lodge Brothers who we know will enhance our Chapters. So, as I requested at the 2019 District Meeting, I would like to see every Chapter establish an "Of Fervency and Zeal" team (*or in concert with another Chapter*), to be ready to visit and present this work to the lodges we normally draw membership from. We have the time to learn the work and each Chapter has copies of it, either electronically or hardcopy. I ask each MEHP, unless you have already done so, to identify Companions to assume the roles necessary and encourage them to 'learn the work'. I also ask that you prepare and submit letters to the Craft Lodges in your area requesting an opportunity to attend a regular meeting and perform "Of Fervency and Zeal". We need to bolster our ranks and the only way to do that is to make a concerted effort. As an optimist I am hopeful that we will be back in Chapter in the spring and before my term in office has ended I plan to visit each of your Chapters at which time I would like to witness "Of Fervency and Zeal" in full

costume. Please inform the District Assistant Grand Lecturer when you have your teams in place. VEC Robert Turner - unity.no4@gmail.com

3) The “Next” thing I would like to see is for those Chapters who have lost Companions since the last District Meeting (2019), to hold a Memorial Service for them at your first meeting. I doubt there will be another District Meeting before a change in District Officers which will mean a very long passage of time without properly Honouring our departed Companions. It is the least we can do. Please ensure that your meeting Notice reflects the inclusion of a Memorial Service in order that as many Companions as possible can make every effort to be in attendance.

Our Fraternity has endured many difficulties and hardships and has always come out the other end with renewed vigor. We have always overcome the obstacles. This time will be no different, but we must prepare for it. So please don’t be complacent; Treasure the opportunities we have; and Work toward a better and stronger future.

Please Stay Safe

Fraternally,

Mike

R.E.C. Michael Lutes, D.G.S. District 1



Offerings from the Grand Secretary, M.E.C. Fred Richard.

Companions.

Happy 2021, and I do hope you had a safe and Happy Christmas.

A new year is upon us, Covid is still rampant, and we still can’t meet in person. We do though have to attend to our responsibilities to our Chapter and our Grand Chapter. We still have to submit our annual returns on time and we still have to attend to our expenses, rent, insurance, assessments, etc. That means we all still have to pay our dues and support our Chapters.

I do hope Chapters are keeping in touch with their respective Members as this is so important during these dark times. Unfortunately we have lost a number of our Companions during the past year and we will dearly miss them, all the more reason to maintain that communication with all our Members.

We do look forward to better times, but in the meantime, we are conducting what business we can. Our Board of General Purposes continues to function via Zoom, email, and telephone. We will persevere and do what we have to do.

Stay positive my Companions, better days ahead.

Fraternally

Fred

Editor’s Note The editor invites any and all Royal Arch Masons to submit items and photos for publication. The editor does reserve the right to edit pending space and content. Submissions in plain text only to gcpgraveen@gmail.com

“For the good of the Craft”

Comp G.C. Patterson, PGHP



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