

The District Light

The information bulletin
of Niagara B District

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Reflections

Although the series of Official Visits are ended, the 'business' of masonry continues. In the coming months there will be degree work, installations, and all the little things that make lodges work.

Now is a good time to consider what has been accomplished so far in this masonic year. A good way to do that is to have some of the members of the District Deputy's Resource Team reflect on their roles.

Nick Andras: Mentoring, Brother-to-Brother



I enjoyed getting out to the different lodges and meeting new faces.

I really enjoyed meeting the new entered apprentices and helping them with their work and techniques in achieving their next degree.

This, having been my second year on the team, I wanted to focus on the more personal rewards from mentoring. What I mean by that is watching the candidate which was mentored do a great job during the degree and my feeling a sense of pride for him.

Also the bond I struck from hanging out together. A bond that grew from just a lodge friend to a good friend.

Proper mentoring will develop more skilled and knowledgeable candidates.

Tom McLellan, Benevolence

My mandate was to supervise & expedite (when possible) the financial assistance of Brothers in need.

Over the two years that I have served the district in this function I have witnessed



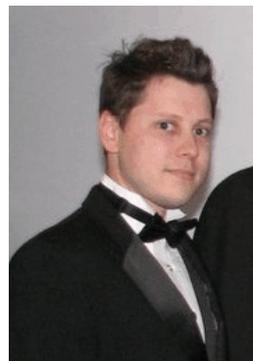
Tom McClellan, (continued)

two Brothers benefitting from this assistance. To me it has been very inspirational and also humbling.

Grand Lodge is there to serve the brethren who need financial assistance to help them get their lives back on track. We may all go through hard times and so no one should feel ashamed in any way for asking for assistance.

Personally, I love our district. There are a lot of good & motivated individuals here.

Andrew Sinclair: Long Range Planning



I was responsible for assessing the current position of Niagara B District and applying a strategy that realized specific, measurable outcomes to ensure long-term sustainability. This plan was developed and is now published on the district website.

I encourage the next district team to look to it for reference.

Long-term vitality is precipitated by planning the work and working the plan, and ensuring that every brother appreciates the idea of contributing to the sustainability of the craft in accordance with his abilities to do so.

Each lodge during the official visits were able to identify their unique position within the district, and to identify the challenges and successes that they encounter. I was very encouraged by the level of contribution at the lodge level.

My time on the Resource Team was rewarding.

To be a part of a team that celebrates successes and can affect positive change is an opportunity too good to pass up, no matter the context.

George Sider, Masonic Chip Program

I feel very strongly about the Chip program. Anybody who has been involved with it knows what it means and what it brings to the community.

I can't think of many better ways of showing masonry than through the Masonic Chip Program.

I'm proud to announce that we have been invited back to the Niagara Regional Exhibition at the Welland Fair. Last year it was a successful event and we're looking forward to doing it again this year.



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“The sole purpose of humanity is to shed light in the darkness.” Carl Jung

Martin Van der Kant: District Historian



The historian has the reputation of telling old stories, but his real role is to try to get the brethren to grasp the idea that if you know history, if you know the past, you get an insight into the future.

And with that insight you have a chance to develop that future.

Historically, if things do not evolve and change they die, and although people in general do not like change it is an important part of staying young and vibrant. Although Free Masonry is ancient we cannot let it grow old, for if it does, it too will die.

Brethren I would encourage you to embrace change as it comes, not only in Masonry but in life, so we can keep them both young.



Niagara B's District Team of Resource Chairmen

Back Row:
Michael Davenport
John Perham
John Newton
David Plyley
Tom McClellan

Second Row:
Andrew Sinclair
Chris Larocque
David Martin
George Schmidt
George Sider

Front Row: Nick Andras, Martin Vanderkant, John Plyley, Larry Williams, Thomas Tkatch, Jim Nigh.
Photographer: Michael Davenport

Our District Deputy Grand Master



R.W. Bro. Larry Williams has served this district well. Besides all of the fraternal and official visits, and the funerals, he has travelled through much of the province. He has attended lodges in 15 different districts.

Here are some of his reflections on his term:

“Making up the resource team was a challenge because I like so many people, but I wanted to represent several lodges, have a family presence, and include men who had started programs which needed more time. One such is W. Bro. George Sider because he had more to do on the Chip Program.

“I’m really happy with the increase in the number of masters attending the official visits. I don’t think the lodges really prepare the wardens. That’s part of what I plan on doing when I leave: I’m basically going to be a ‘bartender’ to the wardens to help them prepare for their role and to be active in the district.

“In some districts there is a Warden’s Group. They get together and prepare themselves for what they are going to do in the next year.

“I like the size of the district. There is not so much travelling involved in visiting. It’s spread out nicely – comfortable and accessible.

“With installations coming up, I believe it is really important to show our support to the masters. It makes a difference when the new master looks out and sees members from several lodges there to witness the event.

“As I look back on the year, I feel good. My goal was to leave the office in as good a shape as I received it. I think we did accomplish that.

“The bottom line is that it was a great year. Looking back, I’m pretty happy with everything.”

Help and Support

“I got good help from several people.

“When Jim Nigh and I tried to find out what our job was really going to be, Tom Tkatch sat down with us, simplified things, and helped us understand.

“Another who helped me was Wayne Adams. Each time along the way of reporting to Grand Lodge, Wayne Adams was there to help us.

“And there was never anything I ever asked Joe Fazekas for that he didn’t do.

Our District Web Site



John Newton has done wonderful work with the district web site. It has a wealth of information on it and it is kept up-to-date with all the individual lodge events, both ritual and social. Viewing it will motivate you

to visit other lodges to see the work and to get ideas of what to try in your own lodge.

Installations

The installation process is important.

The next Worshipful Master is placed in the seat of King Solomon and the line officers are invested with their symbols of office.

Each man receives his job description and each of us are reminded of the many roles that are performed in the lodge.

The program instructs us all.

Attending will be informative and enjoyable.

The lodge members will appreciate the presence of visitors. Everyone benefits.

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Have a nice day, unless you already have other plans.