

2018 Grand Master's Inaugural address

I want to begin by thanking M. Ill. Companion Robert Taylor for agreeing to be my Installing Grand Master, and to congratulate him and his cast of installing officers for a very well executed installation ceremony this afternoon.

I also want to congratulate all of the Officers installed and invested this afternoon, some for the first time and others continuing in office. We are very blessed and fortunate to have such a group of talented and dedicated companions in our Order. I'm also pleased to say that there was no hesitation when I asked them to serve as one of my Officers for the forthcoming year, which was a great feeling.

I also want to congratulate M. Ill. Companion Robert Turner for an excellent year in Office, and a successful and productive Convocation under his leadership today. I also want to thank him for volunteering to become our Grand Historian, replacing V. Ill. Companion Alan Goode, who has moved onto become a Grand Inspector General. This is an important office and one to which MIC Turner is well suited, because of his particular interest in history, and we will look forward with pleasure to his future reports which I'm sure will be productive.

At this time, I personally feel a deep sense of pride, honour and good fortune at reaching this important milestone in my Masonic career, where I have served exclusively in the York Rite, for over fifty years now and I'm thankful to all of the Companions in Western Canada for their support and confidence in allowing me to reach this very important office. My mission over the next twelve months will be to carry on the fine traditions and leadership standards laid down by our past Grand Masters, for whom I have the utmost respect. This I have pledged to do to the best of my skill and ability. The Cryptic Rite Order has always held a fascination for me and I'm sure that everyone who has ever proceeded through the Degrees of Cryptic Rite would agree that there are none more beautiful and interesting following through the completion of a story – a Masonic allegory, the story of the "Preservation of a Word".

I have always believed in the "Team" concept in my experience with the belief that "The whole is but the sum of its several parts" and that no man is a pillar unto himself, recognizing that each player brings certain strengths to an organization and it is that collective strength that is the path to making a difference and I'm proud to say to my personal knowledge, that we have in our midst, Companions with those special strengths all of which makes us a Grand Council to be reckoned with, alongside the Central and Eastern Grand Councils.

To that end, I want to first single out our Grand Recorder, RIC Jerry W. Kopp, who is now well established in that office and doing an excellent job. He is a superb Administrator who operates what can be referred to as the "nerve centre" of the Grand Council where communication throughout the Councils of Western Canada, ebb & flow. To facilitate the administration of his office, Records please note that it is imperative that all established correspondence deadlines be met without delay and without excuse.

Secondly to our Grand Inspectors General. They are extremely important to me and provide for a Grand Council presence among the Councils in their respective Provinces. Clear lines of communication between them and the Grand Recorder will be expected. They frankly represent me in each Province and they can count on my support and assistance wherever and whenever its needed. I would also ask each Grand Inspector General too familiarize themselves with the Cryptic Rite Charitable Foundation on the web and to explain and promote its value to their Councils with encouragement to make charitable

contributions within their means. I would also expect them to be mindful of the importance of recruitment of new members, the lifeline of our Order, and ensure that every effort is made by their Councils to attract new members.

Thirdly, Summonses are a very important Communication link between Councils and The Grand Council and I would ask the Recorders of each Council to ensure that copies are regularly forwarded to the Grand PCW, Deputy Grand Master and myself. Summonses provide us with an important method to determine the general health and welfare among the Councils, and respond or join important events such as Anniversaries, Field days, etc., if possible.

Fourth, the Grand Council Website under the direction of the very able RIC Jim Whyte is considered to be of high value to Grand Council. Recorders please ensure that any items that may be of general interest are forwarded to RIC Whyte, who will then make the ultimate decision of whether they qualify for entrance on the Web for the information of all concerned.

My official travel itinerary is nearly completed and will be posted on the website in due course for your information. It will be a pleasure to revisit the Council venue's in Western Canada again.

In conclusion, make every effort to ensure that your year in office is an enjoyable one as it will pass by quickly I can assure you, and always "Think about Tomorrow – Yesterday's Gone" in your daily lives, try to follow these words to live by:

- Serve from the heart
- Love what you do
- Improve something today
- Deliver on commitments
- Have fun. Ask for help
- Make mistakes valuable.

Thank you Companions

Sincerely & Fraternaly yours;

MIC G.E. (Gerry) Tetzloff, Grand Master

Grand Council of Cryptic Rite Masons of Western Canada R & SM