



Ensuring the Timeless Vitality of Freemasonry in Ontario

## *PROTOCOL & ETIQUETTE ESSENTIALS*

Prepared by the Grand Lodge P. & E. Committee  
*Issue No. 28 – February 2014*

### Greetings from Your P. & E. Committee

Welcome to the February issue of "*P&E Essentials*". It is anticipated that these informative and easy-to-read newsletters will be published several times a year.

"*P&E Essentials*" is intended to be an interactive instrument, designed to help you make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge. It will hopefully also assist you to achieve high quality in the delivery, comprehension and insight of the lessons communicated on the floor of the lodge. The Committee welcomes questions and/or suggestions for topics that could be addressed in future issues. Questions or suggestions not related to Protocol and Etiquette will be forwarded to the appropriate Grand Lodge Committee for response.

### Committee Members

The current Protocol & Etiquette Committee members are:

Gordon Crutcher (*Chairman*); Steven Armstrong; Art DiCecco; David Fernandes; Dennis Hawman; Saliem Khoury; Michael Litvak; George McCowan; Bryan Middleton; James Pearson; George Pohle; David Purvis (*Secretary*); David Stevens; and Refik Yoney.

**With appropriate advance notice – and subject to travel constraints – any member of the Committee would be happy to make a presentation about P&E in your Lodge, or at a District Meeting.**

### THE WILLIAM MERCER WILSON MEDAL

Most of us will be aware of the **William Mercer Wilson Medal**. Named after our first Grand Master, this medal is awarded for service far beyond the typical call of duty.

That exceptional service must be primarily rendered in this Grand Jurisdiction, and must be Masonic.

The medal is only awarded to a brother who is not ever likely to become the Worshipful Master of a lodge.

Each recipient must have demonstrated outstanding loyalty and dedication to the Craft and have received the endorsement of his peers.

### THE GRAND MASTER'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

There is another prestigious award of which all brethren – and Worshipful Masters in particular – should be aware.

Called The Grand Master's Meritorious Service Award, it is a personal award made directly by the Grand Master.

You can easily recognize a recipient of this most distinguished award by the gold medallion which hangs from its own royal blue ribbon around the brother's neck.

*(Depicted below is the front side of the medallion)*



The designation was established in 1988 by our then Grand Master, M.W. Bro. William R. Pellow. This high honour is awarded with great discrimination, selectivity and very judiciously to an outstanding Mason.

**Please share this newsletter with other members of your Lodge – and your Masonic friends**

He must have proven to be exceptional in devotion, loyalty, zeal and assiduity in both Masonic and community circles.

In contrast to the William Mercer Wilson Medal, the **Grand Master's Meritorious Service Award** can be awarded to a Mason of any rank, even to a Past Grand Master. He may or may not be a member of this Grand Jurisdiction.

*(Depicted below is the reverse side of the medallion.)*



As the holders of the Grand Master's Meritorious Service Award (GM's-MSA) are some of our most distinguished Masons, **what recognition should be afforded to them when they visit a lodge?**

Basically, the protocol is the same as the recognition we give to recipients of the William Mercer Wilson Medal when they visit a lodge.

1. Please note neither distinction confers Grand Lodge rank upon the recipient. *(However, it is certainly possible that a Grand Master's Meritorious Service Award recipient may be of Grand Lodge rank because of other circumstances.)*
2. Consequently, neither award itself entitles the recipient to be brought into lodge with any current Grand Lodge Officer(s) who may also be in attendance.
3. Except in the case of extenuating circumstances where a GM's-MSA recipient already is, (or eventually becomes), a current Grand Lodge Officer,

either recipient would enter lodge as a "General Visitor".

4. As a Worshipful Master typically "outranks" these recipients, any visiting Worshipful Master(s) would usually lead in the delegation of "General Visitors".
5. No particular position in the assembly of the visitors in the West need be assigned to the recipient of either award. They can stand anywhere amongst the visitors, after the visiting Worshipful Masters.
6. The Director of Ceremonies may mention either recipient as part of his introductions.
7. If a recipient of either award is not introduced before he takes his seat, the Worshipful Master may subsequently recognize him after all the "General Visitors" have been seated.
8. While neither recipient is entitled to sit in the East by right, the Worshipful Master could exercise his prerogative to invite them to sit in the East – but this is optional.
9. The Grand Honours are not to be given to a recipient of either award when they visit a lodge, (unless the GM's-MSA recipient so qualifies for other reasons).
10. The Grand Honours are only afforded to these recipients on the occasion of the presentation of their award to them.
11. As the GM's-MSA is a personal award made by the Grand Master, and the Grand Master alone, the Grand Master would be the only one to direct the brethren to afford the recipient the Grand Honours. It would be done only at the time the award is presented.
12. When a recipient of either award is attending meetings of his own lodge, no special recognition need be given to him in his lodge.
13. The recipient of either award should be included in the preamble to the toast to Grand Lodge at a banquet.
14. However, after the toast to Grand Lodge, (when protocol has been established), neither recipient need be mentioned in any of the subsequent salutations.  
  
(This is because it is acceptable protocol – after the toast to Grand Lodge – to abbreviate all subsequent salutations to a minimum, such as: "Worshipful Master, District Deputy Grand Master, Distinguished Head Table Guests, and brethren".)

**You can request a direct e-mail subscription to *P. & E. Essentials* from: [Gordon@Crutcher.ca](mailto:Gordon@Crutcher.ca)**