

**THE GRAND LODGE
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
OF MINNESOTA**



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Grand Secretary

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**TO BE READ IN EVERY CONSTITUENT LODGE AT THE
FIRST COMMUNICATION AFTER ITS RECEIPT AND BE FILED
BY THE LODGE SECRETARY FOR READY REFERENCE**

**SUMMARY OF THE 164th ANNUAL COMMUNICATION OF
THE GRAND LODGE OF A. F. & A. M. OF MINNESOTA
APRIL 7 and 8, 2017 - SAINT CLOUD, MINNESOTA**

The 164th Annual Communication of this Grand Lodge was held at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota on April 7th and 8th, 2017. Of the 133 Constituent Lodges currently chartered by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, 107 were represented. A total of 454 Masons registered.

During 2016 there were 307 Master Masons raised, 119 affiliated, and 38 restored, for a total gain of 464. Losses were 222 withdrawn, 264 stricken, 1 suspended or expelled, and 458 deceased, for a total loss of 945; leaving a net total membership of 11,644 as of January 1, 2017. (Mergers inflate the withdrawn and affiliated numbers.)

The following Grand Officers were elected and installed:

Grand Master John B. Studell (2-165-243) 2436 37th Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55406
Deputy Grand MasterEdward R. Halpaus (23-125-223), 612 McLean Street, Mora, MN 55051
Senior Grand WardenSteven D. Johnson (290-8) 4152 Arbor Lane, Eagan, MN 55122
Junior Grand WardenEthan A. Seaberg (8) 1334 East Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066
Grand TreasurerBrent L. Metcalf (263-290) 3785 Mt. Vernon Lane, Woodbury, MN 55129
Grand SecretaryDouglas J. Campbell (2) 5841 Park Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55417

The following Grand Officers were appointed and installed:

Grand L.E.O.Mark G. Robbins (12)Grand Chaplain...Edward Perlman (176-205-350)
Grand OratorRyan S. Regnier (320)Sr. Grand Deacon.....Rolf M. Widstrand (293)
Jr. Grand DeaconTony R. Krall (165)Grand MarshalNicholas J. Settich (16-243)
Gr. Standard BearerScott J. Coursey (21)Grand Sword BearerTimothy Boche (346)
Sr. Grand StewardDayton L. Berg (125)Jr. Grand Steward.....Foster D. Solem (1-165-176)
Grand PursuivantTerry L. Henthorn (2)Grand Tyler.....Douglas A. Beach (165)
Grand PiperRalph L. Magnusson (344)Grand Organist.....Glen H. Carlson (263)

There were two resolutions to amend the Minnesota Masonic Code presented at the 164th Annual Communication. Only one passed, #2 concerning a per capita increase:

2017 No. 1, Gen. Reg. Amendment - Mandatory Background Checks - Defeated
2017 No. 2, Gen. Reg. Amendment - Increase in the Annual Per Capita from \$29 to \$40 - Passed
Resolution No. 2 will be published in an updated version of the Minnesota Masonic Code as soon as possible.

Elected as Directors of the Minnesota Masonic Charities board, all three year terms:

M.W.B. Raymond G. Christensen, Duluth Br. Robert Fendler, Savage
M.W.B. David E. Olson, Forest Lake W.B. Gregory Lane, Stillwater
W.B. G. Roger McNear, Cambridge

Highlights of the Annual Communication would have to include the visit to our Annual Communication by many distinguished guests from other jurisdictions. In all, the Grand Lodge of Minnesota was honored by the attendance of twenty-five representatives from eleven sister jurisdictions and nine representatives of nine appendant or concordant bodies. The Grand Lodge Banquet served some 424 members and guests.

Another highlight would be the presentation of the Duane E. Anderson Excellence in Masonic Education Award to Most Worshipful Brother George O. Braatz, who recently retired as the Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association, particularly honoring George's work as the editor of the Short Talk Bulletins and other Masonic Service Association publications.

Formal requests for recognition were received from two foreign Grand Lodges this past year, neither of which was approved

An Open Installation of Grand Lodge Officers, Area Deputies, District Representatives and Custodians was held Saturday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. and was well attended.

The 165th Annual Communication will be held at the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Centerp, Bloomington, Minnesota, on April 13th and 14th, 2018.

A full report of the actions taken at the 164th Annual Communication, along with all of the reports presented, will be printed in the 2017 Annual Proceedings, which will be available for distribution as soon as possible. The Preprinted Report booklet containing most of the reports presented at the 164th Annual Communication is available on the Grand Lodge of Minnesota website at www.mn-masons.org.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas J. Campbell".

Douglas J. Campbell,
Grand Secretary