

THE ALLIED MASQNIC DEGREES OF CANADA



Grand Council / Grand Conseil



LES DEGRÉS MAÇONNIQUES ALLIÉS DU CANADA

THE NEWS / LES NOUVELLES

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M. VEN. BRO. MATT D. A. FLETCHER, SGC



SOVEREIGN GRAND MASTER 2023-2025

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From the Inaugural Address of M. Ven.. Bro. Fletcher

Brethren,

I stand here today on the shoulders of giants. My heartfelt thanks are due to M. Ven. Bro. Prince Selvaraj for his trust and sponsorship a decade ago; I would not be here if it was not for him. To my most dear friends, M. Ven. Bros. John and Robert for their friendship, deepest support, and encouragement over the last ten years.

To M. Ven. Bro. Brian, I owe my gratitude to you for your procedural and administrative guidance and assiduity, and your devotion to our beloved Allied Masonic Degrees of Canada. To Rt. Ven. Bro. Alex for your ability to put up with me, despite your coercive introductions to all that Canada had to offer masonically, and your horrifically bad puns! To Rt. Ven. Bro. Scott, we have walked a long path together and crossed so many frontiers, you have given me so much my friend. I remain perpetually in your debt my companions, for your leadership, friendship, and the examples you have set.

From joining the AMD in Vancouver, I was able to see that the structure of the order in Canada was far more open and progressive than that of the UK, and quite specifically was a unique environment for a possible solution of what I saw to be the impending, *sotto voce*, death of masonry.

A decade ago, you, my brethren, completely changed my point of view. You showed me what this most progressive and permissive masonic order could stand for, and what potential it could hold for our future. The AMD has been the only place in Canada in regular masonry where I have heard intelligent discussion about what we do, why we do it, where we come from, and where we are going to. To paraphrase what my friend John has frequently said so insightfully, the AMD is the only place where masonry may actually survive.

Where do we go from here? Bring passion into our appreciation of the AMD, enthuse our brethren with what the AMD stands for, and what it can become. If you care as I do about our Order and what it represents, follow the leadership examples of Glenison, John, and Robert to name a few, and sing our praises from the rooftops!

What can we do as members of the Allied Masonic Degrees? We know that our new brethren joining the Craft are looking for content, hence the growth of masonic colleges and diplomas. The online collaboration among younger members is heartening, as they are trying to create what they want but cannot find within masonry.

Over the last 6 years, the academic output of the AMD has grown significantly, and we are producing an annual volume of our papers that is the envy of a number of other bodies, even if most of our members do not avail themselves of a copy of the Architect. If a council is not conferring at least one degree, nor receiving at least one paper, then I would suggest there is zero point meeting to approve the summons, minutes, and building rent. I would like to see every council that has no content on their agenda simply do something. Anything. Perhaps

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read one of the papers from the Architect, and most importantly, discuss it. Receive a book report, encourage a discussion on a subject of merit, read through one of our rarely performed additional degrees. The councils which already do these things are healthy and vibrant and wonderful places to be. Those who do not threaten their own existence. Why would anyone want to join a council when an honest description of what is transacted therein is an exercise in tedium?

I believe the time has come to reinstitute the Council of the Nine Muses, as championed by M. Ven. Bro. Glenson Jones. The Nine Muses can be used as a flagship for our research output and could organise a paper to be presented at each Grand Council going forward. As a body devoted to research and education it makes little sense for us not to do so. Such a council could also act as the academic college of our order and expand our educational offerings. I see the Grand Historian, Grand Lecturer, and the Chairman of Research and Development working together within this.

Our Constitution states that we are authorised to assume control and direction of any masonic degree or rite that is not controlled in Canada by a regularly recognised masonic body. A number of valuable and interesting degrees and orders can, and perhaps should, be formally adopted into our AMD, as this will enrich our content further. For those councils who do work our other additional degrees, this will provide even more interest and enlightenment. I have charged our new Grand Lecturer to start working on this. Given that our friends in the AMD of France have already done so with the Masonic Order of St. Patrick, this would make an excellent starting point. As we have conferred a novel degree this weekend already, the precedent has been set, and we will bring another to Grand Council in Montreal next year!

Brethren, this address is pointed, indeed a little inflammatory perhaps. As a surgeon I am mandated to find the problem and fix it. Sometimes the process can be painful, but the result typically justifies the means. For us to continue to grow we need to keep up with the needs of our brethren and provide something so valuable that Craft masons seek us out, and our members look forward to our meetings.

You all have my email address and phone number, and I give you my word that if you have an idea of how further to improve our Order, I will take it seriously and work with you to determine its feasibility.

Thank you my brethren for the opportunity to serve you.

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GRAND COUNCIL NEWS

THE 39TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The 39th meeting of the Grand Council was held Thursday August 10 to Saturday August 12, 2023 in Fort St. John, British Columbia.

Thursday evening saw a “meet-and-greet” for those in attendance.

Friday was the busy day with (i) a meeting of Peace Council #224 with an initiation; (ii) the Grand Executive meeting; (iii) the Cork degree; (iv) the Bath degree; (v) Knight degree of the Red Branch of Eri; and (vi) 12 Foot Davis degree. This was followed by an evening BBQ sponsored by Alcan Chapter #91, Order of the Eastern Star.

Saturday was the business day, with the regular business in the morning and the Installation and Investiture of the new officers after lunch.

- The brethren approved recognition of the Grand Councils of the Philippines and of Gabon.
- M. Ven. Bro. Dupel awarded the rank of Past Grand Senior Warden to our Grand Treasurer, R. Ven. Bro. Don Martyn, for his many years of service to the Order.
- The election results were: GSW = R. Ven. Bro. Richard Allgood and GJW= R. Ven. Bro. Adam Thompson.
- Distinguished guests included (i) R. Ex. Comp. Dan McCoy, 2nd Grand Principal of the Royal Arch of BC+Y; and (ii) Bro. Kevin D. Riley from David E. Bailey Jr. Council #531 of Pensacola, Florida.

Photos of some of our activities are featured below.

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The attendees at the meeting on August 12, 2023

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In the afternoon of Friday, August 11, we held the Knight degree from the Royal Order of the Red Branch of Eri. Thank you to our two Edmonton Councils for bringing along the equipment and regalia to make the degree quite effective. The sound of clashing swords!

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We were very pleased to meet Bro. Kevin Riley who came all the way from Pensacola, Fl to be with us. He has presented papers at various online sessions and is involved with a few of our Canadian Masonic groups.

Here he responds to the Toast to the Visitors at our Saturday banquet.

Bro. Riley writes about his experience:

"The reception and fellowship I received from the AMD of Canada's Companions was beyond compare. They were some of the most genuine and sincere brethren I've had the pleasure of spending time with.

Not only was their hospitality remarkable, the experience of the Grand Council Assembly was one I can never forget. I was honored to be able to play a part in the Order of the Bath and Order of the Corks, as well as receive the degrees of Knight of the RBE and the 12 Foot Davis.

It was an honor to be included in their strong and growing fraternity, for which I am forever humbled and grateful.

I will definitely return and hope to see all of my Canadian Brethren again, as well as meet some new ones, on my next visit.

Kevin D. Riley,
David E. Bailey Jr. Council #531,
Allied Masonic Degrees of the USA"

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GRAND SENIOR WARDEN

R. Ven. Bro. Richard Allgood was initiated in Canada Lodge #532 G.R.C. in 1986. He was initiated into Raymond C. Purslow Council #170 AMD in 2010, served as Sovereign Master in 2016, in which year he was appointed Grand Director of Ceremonies. He was the Grand Registrar for 2017-2019.



GRAND JUNIOR WARDEN



R. Ven. Bro. Adam Thompson joined the Craft in Doric Lodge #58 G.R.C. in 2006. He was initiated in Capital City Council #154 AMD in 2011. He was the Sovereign Master in 2015 then the District Deputy in 2016-17. He has served as Chairman of the Credentials Committee (2017-19), and as Chairman for Research and Development (2019 to 2023).

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AROUND THE WORLD

PHILIPPINES

The members at our Grand Assembly voted in favour of Recognition and Amity with the Grand Council of the Philippines.

We are pleased to nominate V. Ven. Bro. Junn Manalang to be their Grand Grand Representative in Canada.

GABON

The members at our Grand Assembly voted in favour of Recognition and Amity with the Grand Council of Gabon.

We are pleased to nominate M. Ven. Bro. Robert Dupel to be their Grand Grand Representative in Canada.

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COUNCIL NEWS DISTRICT #1

A successful Field Day was held on Saturday, July 29, 2023 at the Aylmer Masonic Temple when the Knight Degree of the Red Branch of Eri was conferred on 13 candidates. Congratulations to the brethren and many thanks to R. Ven. Bro. Sheldon V. Stannard, DDGM, for making these arrangements.

PEACE #224

August 11, 2023 saw the special meeting of Peace Council #224 when Bro. Randy Walker was Initiated.



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

In reviewing some files recently, I came across these pictures taken in 2004 when the Sovereign Grand Master, M. Ven. Bro. R.C. Purslow, made a visit to Enoch Council in High River, AB.

If you recognize anyone, please let me know so that I can add their names to a caption.

-- Brian Rountree, Grand Secretary



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Back row: ??

Front row: R. Ven. Bro. Larry Halliday, ??, M. Ven. Bro. Raymond C. Purslow, ??

Is this photos also from Enoch Council?



L to R: ??, M. Ven. Bro. Raymond C. Purslow, R. Ven. Bro. Larry Halliday

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LAST NOTES

Where shall we meet in 2024?

Montreal on August 9/10 appears likely.

In 2025?

Abbotsford or Toronto area?

Beyond?

Perhaps your Council or District would consider hosting our Annual Assembly in August. Contact the Grand Secretary if you are interested for information on getting started.

If your Council news is not represented here, please consider sending in a report for our Issue #8 which will (hopefully) be out in January 2024 where, among other information, we share preliminary notes about our 40th Annual Assembly.

You can forward your reports and photos to either

R. Ven. Bro. Adam Thompson

OR

M. Ven. Bro. Brian Rountree

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