

**Grand Historian Report:**  
**Allied Masonic Degrees of Canada**  
**Grand Council Meeting: Aug 9-10, 2024**

We are **here** today because others have given us breath and opportunity. The flickering candle that represents our life force requires a divine spark and a worlds breath of support to let our light dispel the darkness.

Our individual life journey is not without its' detours, obstacles and calamities so when fortunes Spirit has held us in His guiding hand a humble and thankful heart is required.

Our association with the Masonic world has provided us with a moral and caring demeanor that has provided us with a mental framework to embrace what is good and oppose what is evil.

Each Masonic concordant body offers or even challenges us to seek and share many of those aspects of human kindness that lead to a fulfilled life.

As kindly stated by our Grand Sovereign Master "we stand on the shoulders of Giants". His reference was

for the AMD companions who have given time and great effort to give direction and meaning to the Allied Masonic councils in Canada and beyond. I agree with his supposition that great introspection takes place within the AMD councils. I have witnessed deep philosophical and meaningful discussions relating to who we are and who we are meant to be based on what direction in our past has given us and how today, while our light shines, what human traits must be embraced and shared to provide solace and comfort to ourselves and others in our community.

The publication of our wonderful, need to read, Newsletter editions 1-9 shows in word and picture the excitement of belonging to a vibrant and caring community of like-minded men. For those that make the great effort of production, our heartfelt thanks.

In each of our 25 and growing in number councils we have brothers/companions who have embraced in their hearts that Masonic Spirit that guides us. Even though we open our Councils with the short but thoughtful Saint Lawrence degree much anticipation, certainly for our council, is felt in participating in moral stories told within our over 12 degrees and discussion on the multitude of topics that will spill out of those

companion-prepared papers. Thankfully, those papers go beyond the local council and find their home in the wonderful edition of the Architect which has its tentacles reaching to other continents.

I am going to assume that with the eclectic collection of differing characters that compose our councils we will find certain similarities because of the Masonic expectations of conduct/report but realistically each will espouse its own unique personality. It is this distinctive nature that produces innovations and ideas that are beyond the shared experience we have in opening/closing, performing degrees and joy of discussions- emanating from presented paper themes. It is reported that AMD is expanding in membership contrary to some fears that some concordant bodies are declining.

Let us focus on the positive and share that success:

- If you are one of those councils that are successful at collecting other souls, that would be essential to share;
- If you are a council that generates 2 or more papers per meeting, I would like you to share how that has been achieved;

- If you have attendance at your meetings that involves 80 or more percent of your members, please share what you believe is the reason;
- Are you a council that has over your existence added items to your agenda that have improved your meeting?
- Have you been supportive of the Allied Masonic Degrees of Canada by speaking with those companions that share Royal Arch membership? Did those discussions yield interest?
- Of the over 12 degrees available for our performance, does your council have a plan to participate in them over the next 4-6 years?

For me history has two components. That of the past where hopefully those present at the time viewed the events with objectivity, understanding their bias. And, the present or current affairs of our active history that demands us to see beyond the current term of “Fake News “and scurrilous misrepresentation. We have heard the statement of history being written by the victor representing that the vanquished are the Bad Guy-- this brings out the sceptic in me.

For us to conduct research, there is a demand that we examine the sources, theories, and assumptions made by others, your job is then to explain why and how the history of a particular subject has been written the way it has. I state this information to explain what I believe is a strength in our Masonic universe. As said earlier on, our focus on human kindness drives a storyline of honesty. The practitioners of Freemasonry may wish to expand their membership, but careful consideration and caution must be exercised as to who we approach and how we explain our identity.

When I was approached for A.M.D. it was excitement for a concordant body that had a primary purpose of research. It was explained that it contained degrees not available to other bodies which of course made me question, why? Through great explanation as written by M.V.B. Glenson Jones of Capital city Council #154, in his "The-Rites-of Masonry" I learned that these orphan, cast-offs that just needed a home. As explained in his document, an initial Sovereign College was formed by Hartley Carmichael in 1892 but upon his death in 1901 languished until absorbed in 1933 by the Allied Masonic Degrees of the United

States, who kindly used the Sovereign College of January 14, 1892, as the Formation date. Even though our inception was not until 1984, our newness doesn't diminish our content.

In our current times we are certainly seeing problematic events perpetrated by evil, greed, and self importance. I admit much of the nationalistic warmongering has me deeply concerned. Fortunately, but maybe with a bias for us on this continent, we have the opinion, right or wrong, of a protecting society. The events of our today are going to add to humankind's long running dramatic record. Our current HIS-STORY becomes OUR STORY.

I further admit that my internal fears find great solace and a unity of spirit by being sequestered in our sacred domains called: lodges, chapters, conclaves, temples and councils.

While Fortune's hand still guides and protects us, my brothers, let our response be sincere; let the light from our flame diminish dark and wrongdoing and light up all that is BEST in Humanity.

V.V.B. Bob Walker Grand Historian A.M.D. Canada