

Keep Them Informed

Hope Lodge No. 114 – December 20, 2011

You have heard the term that “to have knowledge is power” and as long as you have the knowledge and your subordinates do not have that knowledge then you have control or you have the power.

In the dark ages of communication that may have been true. To-day, subordinates not only need the most up to date information; they demand to know what is going on.

James Humes has said “That the art of communication is the language of leadership.”

Just a few centuries ago only 2% of the population could read and write. The printing press was invented during the 15th century. Up until then it took years to write a Bible and most Masonic Lodges had only a few books of the Volume of the Sacred Law on their Altar. Over the next few centuries books, magazines and newspapers became more available.

To-day we have so many ways of communicating. Putting it another way we have so many ways and opportunities to disseminate information. Radio broadcasts have operated for approximately a century, telephone service for close to a century and television broadcasts for over ½ a century. Over the last few decades we have had the internet providing us with instant information from around the world.

Is it any wonder that Time magazine has declared, “the Protestor the communicator of the year for 2011?” Why - because they have the ability to communicate with modern technology and mobilize large numbers of protestors almost instantly.

We have the most up to date electronic communication technology at our finger tips so that we can very easily get information sent out very quickly to a large number of people. However there is a big difference between providing information and communicating.

George Bernard Shaw has said “The biggest single problem with communication is the illusion that it has taken place.” This happens so often between husband and wife. I’m sure that we can all recall when we thought we had shared that information and maybe we did but we didn’t communicate.

For what it is worth, I have “The rule of One.” For a major event you tell them a year ahead; you remind them a month ahead; you check with them a week ahead to see that all is okay and finally a day before just to touch base to ensure that all is well.

A year ago I asked R. W. Bro. Robert Ough “what is the biggest pitfall that a DDGM can fall into?” His response was “Don’t leave anything to fate.” My interpretation of that response would be “inform, communicate and follow up.”

Worshipful Master elect, Masons for hundreds of years have been searching for more light. They are indeed looking for more information. To remind you of the importance of providing more light for your brethren I have as the 7th working tool of a Worshipful Master a modern LED flashlight. Carry it in

your apron to remind you of the need to provide a Masonic light of information in Hope Lodge during your year in office. Congratulations and have a great year.

R. W. Bro. Douglas E. Galt,

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