

Donations Newsletter

Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of Ontario



A Newsletter on Ontario Masonic Blood Donations

Prepared by the Grand Lodge Blood Donor Committee

September 2016

Masonic Blood Donation — some guidelines.

At this time of year our districts and lodges are gearing up for a new Masonic year. Lodges by now have a Blood donation chairman or contact person and each district should have a District Blood Donor chairman. These brethren are tasked with one of the most important and best ways to create and foster excellent community relations. Masonic Lodges in Ontario enjoy an unenviable reputation for their efforts in contributing to the supply of blood and blood products.

Its a good time also to reiterate the expectations Grand Lodge has for this vital activity.

Lodges and districts are requested to report ALL activity related to the collection of blood and related activity so that appropriate credit can be given. Not just to donors but to all those who, under the direction of those Lodges and Districts, volunteer to organize, publicize and staff blood donor clinics.

At our recent Annual Communication of Grand Lodge I was proud and privileged to report that, thanks to the efforts of Ontario Masons, almost 14,000 units of blood were recorded. Many individual milestone donations by Masons were reported and plaques were awarded to several Districts.

At that meeting there was a significant change to the organizational structure of committees. Blood donation is now a team within the community relations pillar. I am the team leader and report to the Chairman of Community Relations. Our "team" is the 42 District Blood Donor Chairmen and the Lodge Chairmen or coordinators

I have attached below the team goals and objectives for the year. Please note the following:

- ALL donations receive credit, not just those by Masons themselves.
- Certificates are given to Masons who donate 25, 50, 75,100, 125, etc. units
- Regular reporting of activity is essential.
- Districts should encourage enrolment of ALL donors under their Partners for Life number (see below)
- Reports and comments should be directed to **forster.john@icloud.com or (613)271-8610**
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PARTNERS FOR LIFE

Canadian Blood Services offer a registration process whereby donors can direct the credit for their donation to a particular group or organization. This will be recorded on the donor's registration card so that all his or her donations will be automatically credited to their organization or group. ALL Districts (and some individual lodges) have a PFL ("Partners For Life") number. District Chairmen should ensure that all Lodges in their district are aware of their District's number. Please note however that Lodges should report ALL donations given under their auspices whether under the PFL program or not.

This newsletter is now going to be renamed “ Donations NEWSLETTER” and will only be published every three months plus a possible special edition. Trying to create interesting articles on a monthly basis inevitably reduces the interest and value of publication leading to a reduction in enthusiasm rather than an increase. So too are “no activity” reports in Lodge. Far better to report interesting news rather than risk brethren ignoring the report altogether and becoming apathetic towards our important goal.

The goals and objectives of the Blood Donor team are as follows.

1. To promote and encourage Masons, their families and friends to give the gift of life when able to do so.

- a. Create and distribute a quarterly newsletter with information on blood AND ORGAN donation.
- b. Ensure that EVERY donation by a Mason or his family is recorded
- c. Ensure widespread knowledge of the Partners for Life Programme (PFL)
- d. Encourage all lodge donors and their families to register with PFL

2. To assist and improve awareness of the need and use of blood and its by-products to the brethren, their families and friends within their community.

- a. Establish communication, through each District Deputy Grand Master, with each and every District Blood Donor Chairman and encourage him to establish communication with each lodge in his district
- b. Encourage the appointment of a BD chair in each lodge should none already exist and communicate information from the GL team leader through them to all members.

3. To raise the awareness of and encourage their brethren, family and friends to consider participation in the Unrelated Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

- a. See Objective 1a & 1c Above
- b. Establish liaison with Trillium organ donation organization

4. To establish and support a viable relationship with the Canadian Blood Services.

- a. Establish personal relationship with Regional Partnership Specialist
- b. Regular Tracking of donation statistics

5. Ensure recognition of exceptional contributions (milestone donations, organizational activity etc).

(Please distribute this newsletter to as many Masons as you can)