

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR GRAND LECTURER

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and
Accepted Masons of the Philippines
1440 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila

**SGL Directive 2018 -
February 28, 2018**

**ATTENTION: ALL JGLs, DDGMs, DGLs, GLIs,
SUBJECT : MASONIC EDUCATION FOR THE
MONTH OF MARCH 2018
TOPIC/S: ANNUAL COMMUNICATION**

On April 26-28, 2018, the Brethren will go to Davao City for the Annual Communication (ANCOM) 2018.

What is an ANCOM? It is the time of every Masonic year when the Grand Lodge transacts business.

Article IV Part I Constitution talks about Communications including Annual Communication. Section 1 of Article IV states that:

“ARTICLE IV

COMMUNICATIONS

Sec. 1. Annual Communication.

The Grand Lodge shall hold its Annual Communication for the transaction of business in the City of Manila or in any other place as may be authorized by law, commencing on the fourth Thursday of April each year at nine o'clock in the morning subject to the following general rules:

- a. No business shall be acted upon at the Annual Communication until after reference to, and report upon it by, the proper committee, except by a demand of two-thirds of the members present.*
- b. No appropriation of money shall be made until reference to, and report by, the Committee on Finance.*

- c. *No appropriation of money shall be made at any Annual Communication after the election of Grand Officers, except by a demand, and two-thirds vote of, the members present.*”

For the transaction of business during the ANCOM, the required quorum under Section 3 Article IV of our Constitution is:

“Sec. 3. Quorum.

The presence of the Masters, Wardens and/or representative of at least one-third of the chartered Lodges shall constitute a quorum for the Grand Lodge to transact any business validly, either at an Annual or Special Communication. On occasions of ceremony, however, the Grand Master or his duly authorized representative, with a sufficient number of Members present to fill the Grand stations and places may, at any time, open the Grand Lodge and perform the ceremonies for which it has been convened.

In the determination of quorum therefore, the presence of the Masters, Wardens and/or representative of lodges only is being considered or counted to constitute a quorum.

Who then may attend the ANCOM? Section 5 Article IV of the Constitution enumerates those who can be present during the opening of the Grand Lodge and those allowed to attend and be present after the Grand Lodge shall have been declared open. The pertinent provision is hereby quoted as follows:

“Sec. 5. Only the officers and members of the Grand Lodge and Representatives
of other Grand Lodges shall be present at the opening of the Grand Lodge. After the Grand Lodge shall have been declared open, Master Masons who are not members of the Grand Lodge may be allowed to attend and be present during the sessions of the Grand Lodge.”

The officers and members of the Grand Lodge are enumerated under Article II Sections 1 and 2 Part I Constitution and they are the following:

“Sec. 1. The Grand Lodge shall be composed of the Past Masters, the incumbent Masters and Wardens of all its Subordinate Lodges, any Past Master of any Lodge of another Grand Jurisdiction who is a resident of the Philippines and a member of a subordinate Lodge, and those who have been granted honorary membership or honorary Grand Titles.

Sec. 2. *The Officers of the Grand Lodge shall be:*

- a. The Grand Master;*
- b. The Deputy Grand Master;*
- c. The Senior Grand Warden;*
- d. The Junior Grand Warden;*
- e. The Grand Treasurer;*
- f. The Grand Secretary;*
- g. The Grand Auditor;*
- h. The Assistant Grand Treasurer;*
- i. The Assistant Grand Secretary;*
- j. The Grand Chaplain;*
- k. The Grand Orator;*
- l. The Grand Marshal;*
- m. The Senior Grand Deacon;*
- n. The Junior Grand Deacon;*
- o. The Grand Historian;*
- p. The Grand Standard Bearer;*
- q. The Grand Sword Bearer;*
- r. The Grand Bible Bearer;*
- s. The Senior Grand Lecturer;”*
- t. The Junior Grand Lecturers;*
- u. The Senior Grand Steward;*
- v. The Junior Grand Steward;*
- w. The Grand Pursuivant;*
- x. The Grand Organist;*
- y. The Grand Tyler;*
- z. The District Deputy Grand Masters;*
- aa. The District Grand Lecturers, and*
- bb. The Grand Lodge Inspectors.*

Are all the members of the Grand Lodge official delegates during the ANCOM. The answer is NO.

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines has about at least 6,000 Past Masters and around 1,134 incumbent Masters and Wardens for 378 lodges. While members and non-members of the Grand Lodge may be present after the ANCOM shall have been declared open, not all are official delegates to the ANCOM. Edict No. 317, Edict on the Official Delegates During District and Multi-District Conventions, Annual and Special Communications (MW Tolentino) which was approved during the Special Communication last 19 December 2018 enumerates the official delegates during the ANCOM. The pertinent portions of the Edict are hereby quoted as follows:

“The Official delegates during District and Multi-District Conventions, Annual and Special Communications:

The only official delegates of lodges who can speak, comment, object, move, second, manifest and/or participate in any discussion and deliberation and vote on any matter during the District and Multi-District Conventions and Annual and/or Special Communications are the following:

- 1. Incumbent Worshipful Masters;*
- 2. Incumbent Wardens;*
- 3. Immediate Past Masters representing the Past Masters of Chartered Lodges;*
- 4. Past Grand Masters; and*
- 5. Incumbent Grand Line Officers except the Grand Lodge Inspectors;*
or
- 6. In the absence of the delegates of the Lodge, Representative as defined under Part II, Ordinances.*

All other members of the Grand Lodge who are not included in the above enumeration of official delegates may be present during the Conventions, Annual and/or Special Communications as mere observers. Others may be recognized to speak and participate during the discussion and deliberation only if they are directly involved or part of the cases or matters decided by a Committee and/or by the Grand Master at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master.

Official delegates may only speak and participate in any discussion and deliberation in accordance with the resolution or instructions of their respective lodges on matters in the plenary.

Members of the Committees but are not official delegates may speak and participate only if the subject matter subject of the discussion in the plenary is the report of their respective Committee.”

With this approved edict on Official Delegates, we can now expect an orderly and smooth transaction of business during Annual Communications. Thereafter, the Brethren may proceed to annual fellowships with peace and harmony prevailing.

Masonic History for the month of March:

March 1, 1874 - Masonry was established in the Philippines.

March 9, 1891 - Birth of Bro. Jose Laurel in Tanauan, Batangas.

March 21, 1942 - To escape Japanese forces, Bro. Manuel Quezon, President of the Philippines, left for Australia aboard a flying fortress sent by General and Bro. Douglas MacArthur.

March 22, 1897 - The Magdalo and Magdiwang factions of the Katipunan met in Tejeros to form a revolutionary government. Bro. Emilio Aguinaldo was voted while Bro. Andres Bonifacio was elected Director of Interior.

March 25, 1946 - The first DeMolay Chapter in the Philippines, named after Bro. Jose Abad Santos, was established.



VW MARCUS ANTONIUS T. ANDAYA
Senior Grand Lecturer