

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 42 July 2015



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

## The Importance of Masonic Education

It is often said that “Freemasonry is a journey, not a destination”. This is so true, for Freemasonry really does focus on the continual building of men’s characters for the benefit of themselves and those around them. It is a voyage of self-exploration and discovery and it works when its members believe in and apply the principles which are promoted.

To apply these principles, of course, one first has to properly understand them and they are taught by means of rituals and education. Ideally, the more senior Brethren play a lead role as Mentors and, by their involvement, their own growth is stimulated.

It is also worth reminding you, right at the start of this update, that we are also looking for growth in our membership and our Brethren are very well aware of the expectations allied to the Vision 2020 project. We are encouraging our Brethren to be more open about their Freemasonry and to talk to people who may be interested. To be able to do this effectively, however, you need to have the required knowledge.

As a Grand Lodge, we are extremely aware of the importance of providing a meaningful education program to meet these various needs. This should not only help our Brethren to develop their grasp of our Masonic principles, but should also expand their knowledge of our beautiful Order, its history, structures, symbolism, rules, international relationships and any other topics which could make their journeys more stimulating and meaningful.

As a Grand Lodge, we are now in the process of rolling out the first phase of our new National initiative. It is entitled “The GLSA Freemason’s Book of Life” and it incorporates a wide range of material which will not only assist our Brethren to understand

and enjoy our rituals that much more but will also provide them with a wide range of other Masonic material besides.

The book is divided into several parts and the first 2 sections are given to the new Apprentice at his initiation. The introductory section 1 provides some material on what Freemasonry is, some thoughts on its historical origins and development in South Africa, our basic structures and the roles of the Officers, an overview of protocol and procedures as they are applied by the GLSA and introduces our charitable activities and the sister constitutions. Section 2 focuses on the Apprentice degree. It explores the lessons taught in the ritual ceremony and stimulates thought on what can be learned from the symbolic lessons imparted. The new Brother also gets section 6 which offers a selection of Masonic addresses.

At his 2<sup>nd</sup> degree working the Brother is handed section 3 of his “Masonic Book of Life”. This focuses on the lessons related to the Fellowcraft degree.

On being raised to a Master Mason, the Brother is handed section 4 which focuses on the symbolism and teachings related to the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree. He is also handed section 7 which introduces him to the allied degrees and gives him some ideas regarding GLSA’s Royal Arch and AASR activities.

There is further material which is handed to the new Worshipful Master as he prepares himself for a year as the leader of his Lodge.

For our education efforts to be most effective, it will be necessary for us to implement a Mentor program in support of the material being distributed. We will be looking to involve our most senior Brethren to assist us in coordinating these activities and they will clearly first need to be brought up to speed on the education material being provided.

It is also worth mentioning that while the material is currently in English, we are most anxious to have a full Afrikaans version available as well. This will require some assistance with the translation and we are looking for volunteers to assist us to achieve this goal. If you are able to assist, please advise the Grand Secretary, RW Bro Sakkie Heyneke, and we’ll soon give you some content to get started on.

While the new Brother will be presented with his material in printed form, we will also have electronic versions and these will be made available to any Brother who is qualified to receive a copy.

We also have thoughts on further initiatives providing more in-depth material or stimulating the most effective possible ritual workings, but let’s get started with the “Masonic Book of Life”.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM  
Grand Master**

## The Value of Fundraising

On 22 May 2015 Lodge First United assisted Tuinsig Home for the Aged with their annual fundraising golf day at Amanzimtoti Country Club. A total of just under R50, 000 was raised for this very worthy cause; the officially chosen charity of Lodge First United for 2015. R5, 300 was raised for the Lodge and the remainder went to Tuinsig. It was the second year the Lodge had been involved; in 2014 an



amount of R25, 000 was raised after the Lodge was approached at short notice to try and rescue the event. A number of Lodge members either took part in the golf day

or assisted with other activities. The spouses of the Worshipful Master and Secretary were also very instrumental in raising additional funds on the day.

This effort was truly in the spirit of our Craft and it was a good example of what Lodge First United

has been striving for since consecration in 2008; to unite organisations from different backgrounds in the pursuit of our Masonic duty to ourselves, our Brethren and our fellow man.



The unique aspect about this fundraising activity is that the Senior Warden of the Lodge, Bro Johan van der Merwe, brought three organisations together in an effort we believe to be unique. Firstly he approached Tuinsig Home for the Aged to confirm that the Lodge could assist in their fundraising. He had detailed knowledge of the running of the Home and saw it as a well run, worthy cause. The challenge was that Tuinsig is an institution of the NG Kerk; who have not always been positively inclined towards Freemasonry. After a number of meetings with the Dominies in charge of the facility, a very good understanding and working relationship was established.

As a further positive step Bro van der Merwe approached Air Force Base Durban, with whom he has built up very good relationships over many years. The Officer Commanding accepted the request to make Tuinsig their official “social responsibility” organisation and proceeded to obtain R10, 000 per year sponsorship for the golf day for the past two years. This was done with the clear understanding that it is actually the Freemasons that are responsible for making this golf day a success.

At the prize giving ceremony on 22 May 2015, Lodge First United and the Freemasons in general were very prominently thanked for their

contribution to the fundraising event. This was followed up by a sincere letter of thanks to the Lodge.

Lodge First United was delighted to have succeeded in uniting an NG Kerk organisation, the SA Air Force Base Durban and the Lodge in one joint fundraising effort. It will positively reflect on the image of Freemasons in the community and carry the good message beyond normal boundaries.

**Wor Bro Basil de Kock**  
**Deputy PGM, Eastern Division**

## Mampoor Fees, Klerksdorp.

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June was Klerksdorp’s annual Mampoor fees day. Lodge Star of the West (No 56) served sosaties to the multitudes and really were Freemasons at work!!! The sosaties were so good that we sold out at 13h00 and had to close the stall. We will repeat the performance next year.



This was not only a very successful fund raiser, but also a great day of fellowship.

We also inaugurated our new aprons, which were admired by all and sundry!



By the way; the mampoor was excellent and Wor Bro Ronnie Horn kept us going with the odd “propie”!

Some good contacts were made and we are also hoping that it will generate new members!

**RW Bro Nuno Calvet**

## Provincial visit to Lodge Jock of the Bushveld

RW Bro Alan van der Vyver, PGM of the Northern Division, along with Wor Bros Simon Nash, Wessel De Kock and Hannes Jonker, travelled down the N4 to pay an official visit to Lodge Jock of the Bushveld in White River on Saturday 6th June.

During the meeting, the PGM did a short presentation on the Branding and Marketing campaign currently being undertaken in the Division and thereafter held a discussion on the opportunities available to the Lodge in an effort to stimulate growth in the Lowveld.

This was very well received by the members of the Lodge and a plan has been implemented to

attract prospective candidates to an open day and a presentation of the 'What is Freemasonry?' ceremony.

The Brethren then retired to the B&B owned by Wor Bro Gerhardt Hattingh and his wife Petru, for a sumptuous meal and to watch the Super 15 match which clearly left the PGM, a staunch Lions supporter, somewhat unhappy with the result, as can be seen below.



*The PGM clearly distraught at the result of the Lions vs Stormers game*

The camaraderie and spirit that this visit brought about was appreciated and enjoyed by all the Brethren. There will undoubtedly be more to follow in the near future as a concerted effort is being made to promote Freemasonry in what is the fastest growing Metropolis in South Africa.



### The Grand Lodge of South Africa's AGM

The AGM will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> July at the Grand Lodge Centre, Orange Grove. This meeting will follow the AGM of the Provincial Grand Lodge, Northern Division, scheduled to be held that morning at the same venue. In the evening, all members and their guests are invited to a function to be held at Pretoria Country Club.



## Burns Night

**Saturday 18 July 2015**

Venue: Pretoria Country Club  
241 Sidney Avenue, Waterkloof, 0181  
S 25° 47' 28", E 28° 15' 04.7"

Time: 18:30 for 19:00

Cost: R350 per person

Limited tickets are available and all net proceeds will be distributed for benefit of registered PBO's

To book your seat please contact Brandon Topham  
082 414 3926 or email: sec@kohinoor.org



For auld lang syne,  
my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak a cup o'  
kindness yet  
For auld lang syne!

### The AGM of Supreme Royal Arch Grand Chapter.

The First Grand Principal and his Officers of the Supreme Grand Chapter gathered at Orange Grove on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2015 for a most successful Annual Convocation and the Installation of a new 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Principal.



MEx Comp Billy Prentzler invested and obligated MEx Comp Johan Brits as the incoming First Grand Principal.



The new First Grand Principal then invested MEx Comp John Smith as Deputy and MEx Comps Graham Sumner and Bernard Neuhaus as Second and Third Grand Principals. MEx Comps Brian Carstens and Tom du Toit were invested as Grand Superintendents of the Southern and Northern Divisions respectively

In his address to the Companions, the First Grand Principal outlined his plans for the Order and reiterated that it was important to have fun whilst "doing things right". He stressed the importance of the relationship between Royal Arch and the craft Lodges and is determined to ensure that all of their members fully subscribe to developing this

The ceremony was well attended with the Grand Master and senior Representatives of all of the Sister Constitutions being present .

I can identify with this quip of Sir Winston Churchill: *"I'm supposed to respect my elders, but now it's getting harder and harder for me to find one"*

### There are some things you simply never want to say at work.

Dr Travis Bradberry is the award-winning co-author of the #1 bestselling book, "Emotional Intelligence 2.0", and the cofounder of TalentSmart, the world's leading provider of emotional intelligence tests and training, serving more than 75% of Fortune 500 companies. His bestselling books have been translated into 25 languages and are available in more than 150 countries. Dr Bradberry has written for, or

been covered by, Newsweek, Time, BusinessWeek, Fortune, Forbes, Fast Company, Inc., USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and The Harvard Business Review.

The following is from Dr Bradbury's book.

*These phrases carry special power: they have an uncanny ability to make you look bad even when the words are true. Worst of all, there's no taking them back once they slip out.*

*I'm not talking about shocking slips of the tongue, off-colour jokes, or politically incorrect faux pas. These aren't the only ways to make yourself look bad. Often it's the subtle remarks—the ones that paint us as incompetent and unconfident—that do the most damage.*

*No matter how talented you are or what you've accomplished, there are certain phrases that instantly change the way people see you and can forever cast you in a negative light. These phrases are so loaded with negative implications that they undermine careers in short order.*

*How many of these career killers have you heard around the office lately?*

### 1. "It's not fair"

*Everyone knows that life isn't fair. Saying it's "not fair" suggests that you think life is supposed to be fair, which makes you look immature and naïve. If you don't want to make yourself look bad, you need to stick to the facts, stay constructive, and leave your interpretation out of it. For instance, you could say, "I noticed that you assigned Ann that big project I was hoping for. Would you mind telling me what went into that decision? I'd like to know why you thought I wasn't a good fit, so that I can work on improving those skills."*

### 2. "This is the way it's always been done"

*Technology-fuelled change is happening so fast that even a six-month-old process could be outdated. Saying "this is the way it's always been done" not only makes you sound lazy and resistant to change, but it could make your boss wonder why you haven't tried to improve things on your own. If you really are doing things the way they've always been done, there's almost certainly a better way.*

### 3. "No problem"

*When someone asks you to do something or thanks you for doing something, and you tell them no problem," you're implying that their request should have been a problem. This makes people feel as though they've imposed upon you. What you want to do instead is to show people that you're happy to do your job. Say something like "It was my pleasure" or "I'll be happy to take care of that." It's a subtle difference in language, but one that has a huge impact on people.*

### 4. "I think .../This may be a silly idea .../I'm going to ask a stupid question"

*These overly passive phrases instantly erode your credibility. Even if you follow these phrases with a great idea, they suggest that you lack confidence,*

*which makes the people you're speaking to lose confidence in you. Don't be your own worst critic. If you're not confident in what you're saying, no one else will be either. And, if you really don't know something, say, "I don't have that information right now, but I'll find out and get right back to you."*

More next issue.

**"Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak".**

**Sir Winston Churchill.**

## Almoner's Corner.

BB, the cold weather is upon us and taking its toll on the members and their connections with several of them passing to the Grand Lodge Above this month.

MW Bro R Bauser lost his son in law; WBro R Ingle lost his mother in law and WBro B du Plessis lost his father. BB; we share your grief and know that words are never enough to sooth the pain. We offer our deepest condolences.

WBro A Germishuys (Lodge Libertas) has been hospitalised in the last week with issues related to his recurring spinal problems. VWBro M Lotter, (Lodge Bellville), RW Bro D Kirton (Lodge Isandlwana) and WBro L Pithy (Lodge Marina) have also been hospitalised recently. BB; we trust that you are making good progress and that you will soon will be up and about and returning to your BB on the square.

## Grand Almoner

Brethren, the Grand Almoner is only as effective as the information he receives. Please, if anything is known about a Brother in distress, be sure to phone RW Bro Neville Klein OSM at 071 4148869 or send him an email to:

[kleinneville@gmail.com](mailto:kleinneville@gmail.com)



## GRAND LODGE REGALIA ITEMS

*"Wear them with pride".*

The following items of regalia of the Grand Lodge of South Africa are currently available from the Grand Lodge Office.



The price of the tie is R100.



The cufflinks cost R140.

Both of these items are only available whilst the current stocks last.