

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 58 November 2016



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

The Importance of Planning

"Failing to plan, is planning to fail!"

I have never made a secret of my personal belief that, for any of our leaders, be they a Lodge's Worshipful Master, RA Chapter's Excellent Zerubabel, AASR Chapter's Most Wise Sovereign or any other such role, to properly initiate a really effective year, the first item that he has to attend to is to ensure the effective preparation of his Lodge or Chapter's detailed plan for the year ahead. As 12 months is, in practical terms, a very short time, this has to be attended to with a real sense of urgency. You will note, incidentally, that we refer to the "Lodge's", not the "Master's", plan. For our plan to succeed, every member of the Lodge or Chapter has to participate in its development and has to be fully committed to its goals and their execution.

"If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there!" *Lewis Carroll*

Before we start working on the detailed actions within our plan, however, we have to determine our objectives and, to determine these objectives, we first have to properly understand our present status.

We need to know our total membership and how stable it is; our normal attendance figures; our financial resources; the skills our individual members offer and what activities each of them is most attracted to; our usual focus as far as a social or charitable events are concerned and which of these prove the most successful. Most of this type of information, of course, can be gathered well in advance of the installation.

Having gathered all of the facts, the new Master should now prepare for his first BoM. It is there that he will need to set and agree targets for such items as

recruitment and retention of membership, fund-raising, social activities, working standards or any other measurable items that promote the overall well-being of his Lodge. Ideally, the Lodge Officers responsible for some of these targets will have already been involved and will come to the BoM with some definite proposals. At the end of the BoM the Lodge should have agreed on the expectations for the year and know exactly who will be attending to each area of activity.

Each Brother or team responsible for each of the target areas must now draw up a measurable action plan detailing just what will happen when and what the anticipated results are. This should be circulated within the Lodge so that everybody knows what they are trying to achieve and how they plan on achieving it.

"The way to get started is to quit talking and start doing" *Walt Disney*

Having agreed the plan and supporting actions, it is now time to get on with it and measure progress on a regular basis, probably at the monthly BoM. Along with the successes, there will be disappointments and setbacks but, if you know what you are trying to achieve, they can usually be overcome. It is the leader's job to encourage the Brethren and keep them focused. Never let your belief and commitment waiver, have fun and enjoy the journey. And always remember

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." *Helen Keller*

MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM
Grand Master

Southern Division installs a new PGM

On Saturday 20th August, the Grand Master installed **RW Bro Tommy Hardiman** as the new Provincial Grand Master, Southern Division.

Tommy is in his early 50s and, while still Masonically fairly young, has built up an excellent reputation amongst his Brethren. He is a Masonic sponge, a superb ritualist, has enormous energy and is a Brother who leads by example.

Tommy, as with his Northern counterpart, spent some time as a professional cricketer, thoroughly enjoys riding big bikes and values the time he shares with his Brethren and friends. He has 2 young daughters that he is enormously proud of.



Installation of Losie Brits No 110

The Losie Brits Installation took place on Saturday 3rd September at the Brits Masonic Centre. There was a full delegation of PGL Officers, led by VW Bro Peet Roos, and a Grand Lodge delegation, led by RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, in attendance at what is regarded as one of Northern Division's most hospitable Lodges. This year was no exception with an excellent Festive Board served at a local Hotel.

Wor Bro Hennie Klopper reported on a most successful year in which they had continued to overcome the challenges faced during several years of decline. With the enthusiasm of the newer members, they had managed to refurbish the Complex and restore it to being a credit to Freemasonry. With the assistance of the PGL, they had held several functions in an effort to promote Freemasonry in the area and these had borne fruit. Enthusiasm continues to run high and plans are in place to further grow the Lodge.

The incoming Master; Bro Christoffel Smith, invested 9 Officers.



VW Bro Heimo Schaum, RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
RW Bro Jacques Markantonis, Wor Bro Christoffel Smith
Wor Bro Rex Ingle, Wor Bro Demos Markantonis,
VW Bro Peet Roos, Wor Bro Hennie Kotze.

Installation of Losie MW Pretorius No 62

Losie MW Pretorius' Installation was held on Saturday 8th October with Wor Bro Gavin Mackintosh reinstalling Wor Bro Marius Mostert into the Chair. Grand Lodge was also present with the delegation being led by RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM.

This Carletonville Lodge has suffered from the general exodus of the traditional member base from the mining communities in the outlying areas. The Lodge has been in decline for several years with the average age of the Lodge steadily increasing. Few candidates were introduced and the Lodge was only able to survive with support given from members of Sister Lodges and Constitutions.



Wor Bro Marius Mostert and
Wor Bro Gavin Mackintosh

The Brethren of Lodges Libertas (Krugersdorp) and AJ Haak (Roodepoort) came to the rescue, joined and made sure that the Lodge had regular meetings. Wor Bro Marius Mostert (Lodge Libertas) took the chair in 2015 and several of his Brethren took Office. His reinstatement attracted a total of 35 Brethren with 3 Brethren from the Sister Constitutions.

With some guidance from the Wor Master and his experienced Brethren from Lodge Libertas, the membership is starting to grow.



A local awareness campaign has been initiated in the area and a "What is Freemasonry" presentation has been scheduled. This has been advertised in the local press and has stimulated lively discussion, with articles and comment in subsequent editions. This has generated interest and, hopefully, will result in a successful event.

Inevitably, some of the comments have been negative, but the Brethren realise that this is attributable to a lack of knowledge and understanding and look forward to the opportunity to address them.



Making a Lasting Impression

As Freemasons, we should always remember the impact our conduct, good or bad, has on others. This extract from an unexpected email from an American Brother highlights the lasting impression that we make.

Dear Brethren

"In April, 2009 I had the opportunity to travel to your beautiful country and see the sights while visiting for a wedding. While there, I visited your Lodge de Goede Hoop and saw a double 2nd degree working. It was the highlight of the trip and a memory that will never fade. 7 years later and I still remember it as if it was yesterday. It was such an honour to be part of it. I thank you again for the wonderful hospitality and an evening of Brotherhood that I will never forget."

RW Bro Michael A Braun

Constellation Lodge #974, Des Plaines, Illinois

"Man, when perfected, is the best of animals, but when separated from law and justice, he is the worst of all"
Aristotle

Masonic Spring Ball 2016!

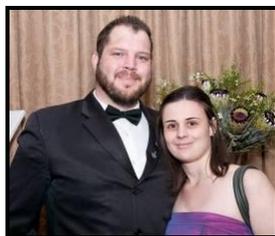
2016 was the 42nd consecutive year in which Southern Division have held their annual Ball to raise funds for their Masonic Homes project. The Ball was a resounding success and greatly enjoyed by all present.



RW Bro John Smith OSM (Convenor) welcomes the guests



Frans Appelgryn & Tanya



Skot & Lizelle Lourens



Martin Kotze, Marius Mostert & their "Northern" party



Ashleigh Eden collects an auction item from Dennis Benadie



Dirk Lombard & Marguerite



Enzo & Dorothy Kayembe



Alan van der Vyver (Northern) & Tommy Hardiman (Southern)



Alyson & Heinz Smekal



Geoff & Val Edwards with Djibouti visitors Gianluca de Lucia & partner



MC Cobis Wilson

All pictures above are taken by **Norman Collins Photography**, whose generous support of our Masonic Spring Ball makes a real difference to the experience that we all enjoy. The full catalogue of pictures can be viewed using the link <http://normanc.photoshelter.com/gallery/Spring-Ball/G00002w6IHmdf0VM/7> with "Spring Ball" as the password.

Lodge First United's Installation

Thursday 6 October, after a successful year, saw Eastern Division's Lodge First United (140) reinstall Wor Bro Johan van der Merwe as their Wor Master.

The ceremony was well performed by RW Bro Frans Roodt and his PGL team, with the Grand Lodge delegation being led by MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM. The Master's report outlined an extremely busy year in ceremonial terms which saw 2 new Brethren initiated, several others passed and raised and, sadly, a Lodge of Mourning being held for the much loved and respected Wor Bro Trevor Harcus.

From a social / charitable perspective the Lodge is a particularly active one. They donated the proceeds of their "Movember" initiative to a Brother suffering from cancer, participated in the Masonic Services

Christmas Hamper project, provided Marshalls for the 2016 Comrades Marathon and helped raise R40,000 in a golf day supporting the Tuinsig Home for the Aged.

Overall, the Lodge is a most successful one and sets a fine example in their practise of Freemasonry.



RW Bro Vic Muhlenbeck, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, Wor Bro Johan van der Merwe, RW Bro Frans Roodt.

AASR for SA launch Education Initiative

On Saturday 22nd October, the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council for South Africa, MP Bro Piet Coetzee, met with the Executive Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals from all Regions, to review the 2019 Development plan.



Puis Bro Boet du Plessis organised and facilitated the workshop and his "Masonic Further Education" presentation stimulated a great deal of real excitement and debate. The Further Education AASR Degree study programs, with clear curriculum and syllabi and with assistance from the Southern Jurisdiction of America, will allow members, through group and individual study, to further their Masonic knowledge and career in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. The study material will encompass the 4th to the 32nd degrees.

We are also looking forward to a visit from a Southern Jurisdiction Masonic Education specialist who will assist us in launching our program and will pay particular attention to focusing on the needs and aspirations of our new "Generation Z" Freemasons.

The program has 3 elements"

Program I - Master Mason to Master of the Royal Secret bridging. This will demonstrate

P Bro Boet du Plessis the rational and philosophical interpretation for much of the material found in Craft Masonry.

Program II - Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite History and Ritual. This will demonstrate the unique relationship to the deep philosophies and mysteries that are contained in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite material.

Program III - Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Philosophy. This will explore, on a deeper level, the moral lesson imparted in the 4th to 32nd degrees and show how to apply the lessons to one's everyday life.

All present agreed that this was a major step forward for the AASR of SA and left the attendees filled with enthusiasm for the launch in their Regions.

**Puissant Bro Boet du Plessis
Lieutenant Grand Commander**

Almoner's Corner

It is with much sadness that we have to report that, RW Bro Charlie Ingg (Lodge Theophilis) has been called to the Eternal East. Charlie was a well loved Past Provincial Grand Master and a very prominent member of our Eastern Division Masonic community. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife, family and Brethren.



VW Bro Peter Olpin (Lodge Mutual), a most impressive Past Grand Master of Ceremonies has also been taken to the Eternal East. We further extend our sincere sympathy to Bro Izak Laubscher (Helderberg), whose wife Bianca passed away suddenly.

Wor Bro Louis Wolsinck (Royal Protea) is still in a Cape Town hospital after his cancer operation and, while it has been, and continues to be, a tough fight, he is now making progress and remains positive.

While we have little doubt that there may be other Brethren having health challenges at present, we have received no reports of Brethren in ill health. You really are urged to keep us properly informed so that we can ensure that our Brethren enjoy this very important support aspect of our Fraternity.

Grand Almoner

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

kleinneville@gmail.com



Quad House Braai a great success!

On Saturday 29th October the Southern Division



Roy Walker

Brethren met at the Masonic Home for Quadriplegics in Uitzicht, Durbanville in support of a fund-raising braai. This event was fully organised by the Quads themselves with guidance from Jan Venter and assistance from Gregor Knoetze (as the braai master), Swenny Crofton, Dennis Benadie, Danny and Alta Retief and various other local Brethren. A total of R5000 was raised.

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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.

The Grand Lodge is in the process of printing hard cover bound Lodge Attendance Registers with 300 pages. Price: R400