

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 61 February 2017



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSA.

## Amity and the Masonic Landmarks

While Freemasonry is spread throughout the world and its precepts and principles are generally well known and admired, the simple reality is that the Grand Lodge of South Africa, in common with every other Grand Lodge, is a totally independent body. We report to nobody other than ourselves - we determine our own structures, elect and appoint our own Officers, create and maintain our own rituals and develop our own Constitution, Laws and Rules.

How then, do we have such close relationships with other Grand Lodges and how does Freemasonry project in a manner that has us generally perceived as a Universal organisation? The simple answer is that the various independent Grand Lodges go into "Amity" ("friendly relations") with one another based on adherence to a clearly defined set of standards. These standards are known as the "Masonic Landmarks".

In trying to explain just what constitutes a Masonic Landmark, I came across this most interesting analogy which was developed by Bro HL Haywood of Iowa. It might assist you in your understanding.

*You may divide and sub-divide a drop of water into particles ever so microscopic but at last you will reach a point where a further division of your particle will give you, not a speck of water but a gas, oxygen or hydrogen. This smallest particle in which matter may be thus divided without losing its identity the scientists call a "molecule." Let us now use this concept in our analysis of Masonic Landmarks.*

*We may divide Masonry into elements, stripping away one thing after another, but our elements will still be "Masonry"; but if we go far*

*enough in our "stripping away" process we shall come at last to a point where further division will destroy the identity of the Craft and it will cease to be Masonry. We shall have reached the Masonic "molecules" - and these are the Landmarks.*

While, this analogy makes the concept far easier to understand, it does, not, however, make the stripping away process completely straight-forward. This has been attempted by many learned Freemasons over the centuries and produced varying results. MacBride warns us, for example, that it does not follow that because a Landmark is an established use or custom, therefore an established use or custom is a Landmark. Depending on who you read, the number of Landmarks can range from 5 or 6 to as many as 40 or 50.

In our Grand Lodge, when determining whether we should go into Amity with another Grand Lodge, we tend to be guided by the 1929 United Grand Lodge of England document which specifies the Conditions of Recognition. In summarised form these are that:

- 1 Each Grand Lodge shall have been lawfully established by a duly recognised Grand Lodge or 3 or more regularly constituted Lodges.
- 2 A belief in a Supreme Being, referred to by Freemasons as the Great Architect of the Universe (GAOTU), and in His revealed will as set out in the Volume of the Sacred Law (VSL), is an essential qualification for membership.
- 3 The VSL shall be open in all Lodges when at labour and all Candidates for degree preferment shall take their obligation on or in full view of the open Volume of Sacred Law.
- 4 Membership shall be composed exclusively of men and there shall be no Masonic interaction with Lodges which admit ladies as members.
- 5 The Grand Lodge shall have full sovereign jurisdiction over Lodges under its control with sole authority over the 3 craft symbolic degrees.
- 6 The 3 Great Lights of Freemasonry, the Volume of Sacred Law, the Square and the Compasses, shall always be exhibited when at Labour.
- 7 The discussion of religion and politics within the Lodge shall be strictly prohibited.
- 8 The principles of the Craft's Ancient Landmarks, customs and usages shall be strictly observed.

While there is much similarity in how the different Grand Lodges function, these internal rules are not Landmarks. You will find, for example, that there tends to be common titles used and dress standards applied within the Masonic world, but how they are awarded really does vary between Grand Lodges. An interesting local example is that while we would correctly address a Provincial Grand Master as

RW Bro Joe Soap, our Scottish Brethren would address a RW District Grand Master as Bro Joe Soap because in the Scottish Constitution the rank attaches to the office and not to the person holding such office.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM  
Grand Master**

### Bevestiging funksie van Losie Trichardt

Die bevestiging van Losie Trichardt, wat gehou is op 21 Januarie 2017 was behartig deur Assistant Provinsiale Grootmeester, Noordelike Afdeling, Agb Br Sarel Mulder. Agb Br WHB Smit was weer as voorsittende meester bevestig. Dit was 'n wonderlike ondervinding om saam met n swerm heuningbye in harmonie saam te arbei. Gelukkig was die heuningbye ook so hardwerkend soos die Broeders dat daar geen ongevalle was nie.

Tydens die seremonie het n groot wolkbreuk uitgeslaan wat veroorsaak het dat die area se krag ontbreek. Kerse was aangesteek en die Broeders moes hulle stemme verhef bo die gezoem van die heuningbye en die groot druppels op die sinkdak. Dit het n liefelike atmosfeer veroorsaak.

Die Oud Provinsiale Grootmeester, SV Br Johan Olivier, wat die Grootlosie verteenwoordig het, het n toespraak gedoen oor liefde teenoor Broeders en dat ons vooruit moet beplan al is die toekoms onseker.

Die Provinsiale Grootmeester Noordelike



Afdeling, SV Br Alan van der Vyver het al die Broeders bedank vir die bywoning asook al 16 Provinsiale Ampsdraers, na en het gepraat oor die "Wat is Vrymesselaars" projek wat die Noordelike Afdeling dryf. SV Br van der Vyver het voorgestel dat Losies in hulle plaaslike koerant adverteer en die publiek uitnooi na so n vergadering wat die Provinsie sal behartig en enige vrae sal beantwoord.

Die Bevestiging ete was gehou by Evander Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk se onthaalsaal en 'n tradisionele boere ete was voorgesit. Die Broeders en dames het hartlik saam gekuier.

Dit was n onvergeetlike bevestiging en sal vir lank onthou word.

**Agb Br Marius Mostert**

"Set a goal so big that you can't achieve it until you grow into the person who can".

*by Millionaire Mentor*

*"Inflation is when you pay \$15 for a \$10 hair-cut that you used to get for \$5 when you had hair." Sam Ewing.*

### The Installation of Lodge Koh-I-Nor

On Monday 5 December the installation of Bro Zenroux Fourie took place at the Park Lane Masonic complex in the presence of upwards of 70 Brethren from all Constitutions.

The Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, accompanied by 10 Grand Lodge Officers, was received by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver who had 18 PGL Officers.

Wor Bro Stephen van der Merwe, the retiring Worshipful Master, presented his valedictory report in



which he outlined the challenges of presiding over a Lodge with a large membership of very mobile Brethren. Many of these are connected to the political scene in South Africa and are often "out of town" on official duty. As the majority of the members are still young, Masonically speaking, havoc is played with the best laid plans for workings in the Degree ceremonies.

Notwithstanding this challenge, the Lodge has performed an average of more than 1 working a month with some help from Sister Lodges in the Pretoria area.

The Lodge has maintained a membership of more than 50, which is a real success story considering



*MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, Wor Bro Zenroux Fourie, VW Bro Peet Roos DPGM, Wor Bro Gavin Mackintosh APMG.*

that it was close to going into recess only 8 years ago. It goes to show that a clear vision, with a strategic plan to achieve it, can yield "impossible" results

The Ceremony of Installation was conducted by Wor Bro Gavin Mackintosh in a most exemplary manner and the PGL Officers gave a polished display.

The Installation was followed by a formal Festive Board in the suitably appealing ambiance of the No 1 Dining Room, Park Lane.





*The Attendees at the Lodge Peace and Harmony Installation of Wor Bro Anton Janse van Rensburg.*

### Lodge Peace and Harmony Installation

This beautiful old Lodge was consecrated in 1873 and is No 11 on the role of the GLSA. Over the past few years it has faced some extremely challenging times with ageing membership and a lack of new Brethren combining to deplete their numbers.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January saw the installation of Wor Bro Anton Janse van Rensburg. The event was graced by the Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, and his team and effectively performed by the Central Division PGM, RW Bro Alf Brönner and his Officers. The new Master has very positive plans for the year ahead and could well prove to be the catalyst that really gets the Lodge going in the right direction.



*GL Officers Wor Bro Fred Meiring, VW Bro Heimo Schaum, Wor Bro Rex Ingle, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, RW Bro Jacques Markantonis, RW Bro Mannie Ramos, Wor Bro Eugene Slabbert*

### New Central Division PGM

Wor Bro Cor van Zyl has been appointed as the new Provincial Grand Master of Central Division. He will be installed at the Bloemfontein AGM on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March. RW Bro Alf Brönner, the retiring PGM, is promoted to Assistant Grand Master.



### Grand Lodge attends Irish Communication

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February the Grand Lodge of Ireland, Southern Cape Province, whose District Grand Master is RW Bro Gordon Bergh, had their annual communication in the de Goede Hoop Temple. As their Grand Master, MW Bro Douglas Grey, was holidaying in Cape Town, he duly attended and both our Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge were invited to join them. The English and Scottish Districts were both represented by their District Grand Masters.

MW Bros Douglas Grey and Geoff Edwards had previously shared a table in Lisbon at the installation of Portugal's new Grand Master and our Grand Master saw it as a very real privilege to be able to renew the relationship in our own historic surroundings.



At the formal festive board after the meeting MW Bro Grey commented on the obviously warm relationships between the local Sister Constitutions.



*Front: RW Bro Dave Patton (PGM Irish - Natal), RW Bro Tommy Hardiman (PGM Southern), Bro Charles Smith (RW DGM Scottish), RW Bro Jim Duggan (DGM English), RW Bro Gordon Bergh (DGM Irish), MW Bro Douglas Grey (GM Irish), MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM (GM GLSA), RW Bro John Smith OSM (AGM GLSA), RW Bro Avron Jacobsen (GLSA) Back (Wor Bro Ernest Malherbe (English), Wor Bro Tony Alsemgeest (Irish), Wor Bro Bob Sandells (Irish - Eastern Cape)*

## Masonic Abbreviations

It is common practise to abbreviate Masonic titles. Over time, however, such abbreviations have become inconsistent. To regularise our standards, all Brethren are now requested to use the following:

Most Worshipful Brother	MW Bro
Right Worshipful Brother	RW Bro
Very Worshipful Brother	VW Bro
Worshipful Brother	Wor Bro
Brother	Bro
Brothers	BB
Hoogerwaarde Broeder	HE Br
Seerverligte Broeder	SV Br
Seeragbare Broeder	SA Br
Agbare Broeder	Agb Br
Broeder	Br
Broeders	Brs

## Beware of Social Media.

Brethren, we live in an electronic age of instant written communication, where proof is enshrined of what we expressed. As we all know, however, written messages often do not communicate what "we meant".

Most of our GLSA Lodges have at least one "WhatsApp" group operating and the posting of careless or ambiguously worded, even if well-meaning, comments can cause irreparable harm to the ambiance of the Lodge. The same applies to misjudged postings on facebook or similar social media platforms.

Such postings can also seriously damage the image of Freemasonry. Whether we like it or not, these sites do not respect confidentiality and your message can be forwarded to thousands of people by the push of a button. Recently, we have had inappropriate postings getting into the public arena and causing real embarrassment to the heirachy of the Order. Please remember that we, as senior Officers, have to react to these challenges as we are custodians of our image. It is difficult enough facing issues raised by non-Masons based on ignorance, but it really isn't okay to be faced with negative issues propagated by our own Members.

Brethren; please remember that the policy of the GLSA is that nobody other than appointed Officers, communicate with the general public and particularly with the press. Please respect this rule as it is for all of our good and the good of Freemasonry as we really do want our true message to be spread and don't want our members being embarassed because they are not qualified to answer some of the issues raised.

**Please, be careful about what you say and publish.**

## Almoner's Corner

Sadly we have to report the passing of both of Wor Bro Dawie Voigt (Neerlandia) and Wor Bro David Emmanuel (Alpha), two senior GLSA members. We also lost VW Bro Stanley Amoils (Alpha) who had recently been awarded his 60 Years Long Service

Jewel. Our deepest sympathies are extended to their families at this difficult time.

Wor Bro Keith White (Friendship) is recovering well after a medical procedure on his neck to release trapped nerves and Wor Bro Grant Futter (Theophilus) is recovering well after a heart incident. Our Almoner, RW Bro Neville Klein OSM, who unselfishly spends so much of his time looking after the Brethren is also progressing well after his recent illness, while RW Bro Dave Duncan OSM is recuperating after a hernia operation.. Brethren; we wish you all everything of the best and a speedy recovery so that we can, once more, spend time with you "on the square".


On a happier note we congratulate Past PGM RW Bro Jan Conradie (Bultfontein) who has just become a Grandfather and Bro Bakang Gadinabokao who has just become a father. Sincere best wishes and may the new additions bring you great joy.

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





Registration Number: 2002 / 031211 / 23

### Second Masonic Tour to Israel "In the Footsteps of Freemasonry"

Join us on this exceptional tour from 9 to 20 September 2017 for only R32 500.00. For more details, call Henda Heyneke on +27 (0) 11 764 2783 or +27 (0) 83 256 6682.

## GRAND LODGE REGALIA ITEMS

*"Wear them with pride".*

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

The price of the tie is R100.



The cufflinks cost R140.

Both items are only available whilst the current stocks last.

The Grand Lodge is also having printed some hard cover Lodge Attendance Registers with 300 pages. Price: R400

