

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 67 August 2017



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

Freemasonry is a Force for Good

May I offer my most grateful thanks and congratulations to everyone who contributed to the success of the Annual General Meeting of the Grand Lodge, which was held at Park Lane, Johannesburg on Saturday 8th June 2017. The event reflected the professionalism of the Grand Lodge and demonstrated the pride that we take in the quality of our labours, whilst creating an ambiance in the Lodge that is conducive to everyone having an enjoyable time. We had a full house of over 250 attendees, with a total of 11 Grand Lodges being represented officially and numerous Brethren from our local Sister Constitutions. The fantastic efforts of the organisers ensured that the image of the Grand Lodge was polished brightly and that our credibility as a leading Sovereign Grand Lodge in Africa was reinforced.

Events such as these international gatherings allow us to interact with distinguished Brethren whose Masonic experiences have given them differing attitudes and beliefs about our magnificent Order. Remember, that as Freemasons, we are all equal on the square and form but one Lodge, spread over the whole surface of the Earth. This interaction encourages us to review our own individual attitudes and, by listening to others, test ourselves against their interpretations of our purpose as Freemasons.

There is no doubt that our heritage is one of “making a positive difference in our society”. In the recorded history of organised Freemasonry, we have been privileged to count amongst our members, many of society's “movers and shakers”. In South Africa, this has included State Presidents, Lawyers and Clergymen as well as senior Civil Servants and Industrialists whose vision enabled us to develop our

country into the economic powerhouse of Africa. Internationally, it has included visionaries who were responsible for the social changes that promoted the value of the individual and gave us many of the social and economic freedoms that we now take for granted in our daily lives.

As our ritual explains, “*Freemasonry is action, not rest*”. This philosophy must characterise our lives and all of our interactions. Personally; everything we do on a daily basis must reflect the tenets and principles of the Order and we must be involved in our communities as well as in the activities of our Lodges. Collectively; as members of the Order, we must work together to make a difference in the wellbeing of our local communities, both internal and external to our own social circles.

As Freemasons, we are considered by society to be “*free thinkers*”. We must strive to live up to this expectation and demonstrate to the outside world that we do care about our fellow citizens. By being seen as “*making a positive difference in our communities*”, we will be able to raise the image of Freemasonry to the level that it once enjoyed and restore it as a “*force for good in our society*”.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

To a Freemason, Honesty is the Only Policy!

Bro Brendan Hamer is a Fellowcraft member of Lodge de Goede Trouw and a professional piano tuner. His skills are well recognised and he travels around the country tuning pianos in all the major centres. A couple of weeks ago he serviced a piano in Gauteng which had been recently acquired by its new owner.

In the course of his work, Brendan opened up the back of the piano so that he could gain access to the strings. There, nestling in amongst them, he found 2 wrapped cylinders. Each contained 10 Krugerrand, giving a total value of over R350,0000! Brendan immediately phoned the owner who was absolutely delighted at his windfall. In recognition of his Masonic integrity, the Master of de Goede Trouw, Wor Bro Giuseppe Ricci, presented Branden with an Honesty certificate - and, yes, he also received 2 coins.





The Jock of the Bushveld Wor Master, Wor Bro Anton van Huysteen, surrounded by the Brethren. MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM is 3rd from left in the front row, while the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Peet Roos, is on the Master's immediate right.

Jock of the Bushveld's Installation

On Saturday 29th July 2017, this lowveld Lodge reinstated Wor Bro Anton van Huysteen as their Worshipful Master. As the Nelspruit Temple was not available, the ceremony took place in the beautiful Barberton Temple, which was consecrated in 1933. This was also MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM's first call-out as the new Grand Master of our Grand Lodge.

While Jock of the Bushveld is still a very small Lodge, they are active and have an extremely positive approach. The Master's plan is sensible and convincing and the Brethren are all committed to ensuring that the Lodge makes progress in the year that lies ahead.

The Installation itself was most competently performed by Wor Bro Sarel Mulder, while the new Grand Master's address focused on the vital importance of the Lodge enjoying a positive ambiance with the members all working together in the pursuit of their common goals.

The Lodge's 2 new Brethren are clearly enjoying their Masonic experience and this will hopefully result in more members joining. Nelspruit is one of our country's fastest growing areas and this should also impact positively on the Lodge's growth initiatives.

As is custom, the visitors were subjected to some real "country Lodge" hospitality and the meal prepared by the ladies was, as always, outstanding.

Star of the West - Mampoer Fees Champions

The 2017 edition of the Matlosana Mampoer Fees was held on Saturday the 3rd June 2017 and, for the 21st year in a row Lodge Star of the West prepared and sold what they assure us are readily acknowledged as their "World Famous Sosaties".



Nuno Calvet & Rob Thomsen

This year's ingredients included Mutton and Black Wildebeest, both courtesy of Nuno Calvet's farm.

The event started at 7 am and ran until 2 pm and virtually every single Lodge Member assisted at the stall. While the overall attendance at this year's festival was somewhat disappointing, the Lodge still raised R5,980 towards their various Charity initiatives.

It was also Wor Bro Ronnie Horn's birthday and



Ronnie Horn & Carl "Stix" Stockgit

many a festive "proppie" was shared as all joined with him in celebrations!

R2,000 has already been handed over to Huis Servaas, a

local paraplegic home, and this was very much appreciated.

Many thanks to all the Brethren who donated basically everything and thus contributed to the success of this fund raiser. The preparation, braaing and selling of our offerings gave us great fellowship and left us all determined to do even better next year!

Seven Blunders of the Masonic World

Ritual Without Meaning

Too many times, we are more concerned about performing the ritual perfectly than fully understanding what it means. I know many men that give great lectures, but will confide that they don't even know what something means. Ritual for the sake of tradition is worthless. Ritual for the sake of enlightenment is valuable. An understanding of the ritual's meaning is far more important than just memorising it.

Fellowship without Frivolity

Whenever Masons decide to hold a function for fellowship, a discussion typically ensues about how to make the function have the smallest impact on the Lodge's coffers and the wallets of the members. This

results in paper plates, meagre meals, and boring events. To spend money wisely in order to make fellowship a grand time is wise for the Lodge that wishes to be successful.

Quantity without Quality

A Lodge with seven great men that believe in the Masonic ideals and actively labour to improve themselves - and therefore the Lodge - is far better off than a Lodge with one hundred men that show up to Lodge just to show up to Lodge.

Education without Philosophy

Many times, we think of Masonic education as being a lesson on the local Lodge's history, a famous Mason, the history of the world wide fraternity, or how to do the ritual properly. But if no philosophy is covered in Masonic education, then little self improvement is accomplished. Discussing Masonic lessons in terms of philosophy, ideas, and a man's conduct is what truly transforms men into Masons. It is important to discuss topics that are foreign to a Lodge's membership and it is sometimes even necessary to challenge our preconceived ideologies through Masonic education.

Charity without Connection

Big institutional charities often require that fund raisers be conducted and large checks written to the people that actually perform the charity. This is devoid of self improvement because it has no real connection. If we extend our hands to our needy Brethren and devote our own skills and time to their problems, then we are engaging in true, meaningful charity.

Frugality without Discretion

Frugality is not a tenet of Freemasonry, a cardinal virtue, or a Landmark. It is okay for the Lodge to spend its funds on worthwhile activities that will enhance the Masonic experience of its Brethren. Not everything should be done in the cheapest way, a habit to which some Lodges have become accustomed.

Leadership without Competence

A man does not deserve to be Master of the Lodge solely because he has spent a certain amount of years in the Lodge. We elect leaders without any regard for the skills that they possess to function in that capacity. Only competent, qualified men should be elected to preside over the Craft.

Bro Terence Satchell

de Goede Hoop Installation

On Wednesday 14th June Lodge de Goede Hoop reinstalled Wor Bro Cobis Wilson as Presiding Master. While it has its inevitable challenges, our No 1 Lodge is still a very impressive one with over 50 extremely diverse members. Its Brethren's home countries include England, United States, Greece, Denmark, Norway, Italy, France, Switzerland, Australia, Gabon, Cameroon, Congo - and even a few South Africans. There are Christians, Jews and Muslims across a wide racial spectrum - and all relate well as Freemasons!

The ceremony was particularly well performed by Deputy PGM, Wor Bro Evangelos Doucas, who also provided an excellent Installation address.

The Lodge's ritual standard remains outstanding and this was very apparent in the evening's ceremony.



Wor Bros Evangelos Doucas and Cobis Wilson are pictured here together with Bro Raymond Yosimbom, the Lodge's first recipient of a Ritual Excellence Pin.

Northern Division Charity Initiatives

PGL Northern Division's recent blanket drive raised significant money to assist the needy. The money raised provided 150 blankets for Walking Tall, 150 went to the Masonic Services charity and 35 to the Angels Home for Orphans in Pretoria.



When it was discovered that warm clothes were also urgently required for 56 needy children, some of the money was allocated for this. Wor Bros Ini Akpan and Simon Nash, both Assistant PGMs, are seen above handing the clothes over to Annette Brokensha and Oscar Lockwood of Johannesburg Children's Home.



The Provincial Grand Lodge also sponsors meals for 120 people each month at the Walking Tall Feeding Scheme. RW Bro Alan van der Vyver (PGM) and Wor Bro Simon Nash (Assistant PGM) are pictured with one of Walking Tall's representatives.

"Everyone who got where he is had to begin where he was." Robert Louis Stevenson

Masonic Spring Ball 2017

For the 43rd consecutive year Southern Division (Cape Town) will be holding their Spring Ball fund-raiser for the Masonic Homes

Dinner and Dancing until 11h30 pm

When: Saturday 9 September

Where: Kelvin Grove Club

Dress: Smart (Black Tie)

Time: 7h30 pm

Cost: R400 per person



Reservations - Llew Lloyd-Jones 072 9653572
Magazine Adverts - Geoff Edwards 083 3300083

Eastern Cape Golf Day

The Eastern Cape PGM, RW Bro Keith Hutton, is a keen golfer and, when it was suggested that the Division raise some funds to assist those devastated by the "Knysna" fire, it was natural for him to suggest that they organise a Golf Tournament. They booked the Little Walmer course, enlisted the support of the local press and set about promoting the event. As a result of this initiative, Eastern Cape raised some R23,000 and, of course, everybody had a thoroughly memorable day.



Keith & Liezl Hutton with winner Xavier McCleod

Peace and Harmony Initiates a new Brother

The historic Peace and Harmony Lodge is No 11 on the roll of the GLSA and was founded in 1873. They meet in the equally historic Kimberley Temple and proudly include the past Grand Master of the GLSA, MW Bro Ronnie Bauser OSM, as a member.



Over the past few years the Lodge has been diminishing in numbers and struggling to survive. Earlier in the year, however, the newly installed team, supported by the Brethren of Central Division, determined to get the Lodge back on its feet - and this picture taken at a recent initiation says it all!

Almoner's Corner

This month's report starts with the very sad reporting of the passing of 2 of our GLSA stalwarts.

RW Bro Eric Cahill, Past Grand Junior Warden and long-time Eastern Division Secretary, passed away in Durban. Our condolences to Augusta and the family. Eric was a credit to Freemasonry and will be missed!

Wor Bro Barry Hunt (Friendship) passed away very unexpectedly after a short illness in Gauteng. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret and the family.

Wor Bro Braam van Zyl (St Jan) is home after having another stent inserted. He is progressing well.

Wor Bro Ronnie Esau who has been struggling with serious liver problems, recently fell and tore shoulder tendons. An operation will now be needed.

RW Bro Swenny Crofton (Simon van der Stel) is still fighting against his cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and Ria at this difficult time.

RW Bro Ken Manefeldt (Bellville) is still suffering from severe back pain and the Doctors are unable to do much to assist him. He is in our prayers.

Katie Bronkhorst, the much-loved widow of the late RW Bro Coenie, had a serious motor accident. She is now back home again and showing good progress. Look after yourself, Katie, you mean a great deal to us!

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to any other Brethren and their families who are not well.

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



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 has also had printed some hard cover Lodge Attendance Registers with 300 pages. Price: R450.

The latest revised rituals in the A5 and larger print are available in Afrikaans and English from Grand Lodge at a price of R40 each.