

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 72 January 2017



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

May it be a Merry Christmas - for Everyone

Brethren, may I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you and the members of your families, a wonderful and peaceful holiday period and everything of the best for the forthcoming year. May it reward your effort and enterprise with success in all your undertakings.

Brethren, at this time of the year we have all mentally prepared ourselves for a period of peace and goodwill. This may be at home or on holiday in some exotic setting. The venue however does not change the meaning of the Christmas festival for most of us, as our thoughts turn to the wellbeing of our nearest and dearest. The joy of children opening their presents; a special time with our family and friends and mental relaxation after a busy year. The message of Christmas is one of unselfish and universal love for our neighbour. It is a time when we should be caring about all around us and yet, do we?

Freemasonry promotes the principle that our family and connections must always come first. It is our responsibility to ensure that we give them the best of ourselves and to provide for them to the best of our ability. We are their strength and protection and, justifiably, we focus primarily on discharging that responsibility.

But Brethren, Freemasonry also promotes the concept of Brotherly Love, which extends far outside of the circle of our families and friends. A Brother in distress, the lonely Widow of a loyal Brother or an orphan sleeping in the street all have special needs. These needs extend well beyond the Christmas season and it is here that we are sometimes lacking in our

understanding and the practice of Brotherly Love. Brotherly Love is a 24/7 undertaking and requires us to be conscious at all times of the needs and wants of others. To give of ourselves, without detriment to our families and connections, in order to bring relief to those in distress.

In our Lodges, we should be appointing an Almoner to carry out our collective duties in this regard. We should choose carefully and not just allocate the name of Brother, who rarely attends, just to fill the gap on the Installation agenda.

When we have chosen a good and caring Brother, do we assist him to discharge these duties? Sadly, we often are guilty of leaving him to get on with a role that sometimes he does not even understand. The role of Almoner in most Lodges is grossly under-rated and often misunderstood.

Why is this? A good Almoner comes from a rare breed. He must have an excess of empathy. In the hectic pace of our lives, it is difficult for one with this precious attribute to find the time to get around to everyone in the extended family of the Lodge who is in need. It takes time to be a good Almoner. It takes time and caring to be able to listen to someone who has no-one else to talk to and even more time to be able to act on the information received. Recently, I was informed of a situation that really brings home this message. The Brethren of a Lodge dutifully gathered at the funeral of a long-standing Member who had been incapacitated for some time. They were approached by the Widow and asked; *"why are you here?"*. The balance of the question was; *"where were you when we needed you?"*

Brethren, I would like to propose that the structural role of the Almoner in every Lodge should be to manage and coordinate the efforts of every Brother in the Lodge in bringing relief to those in distress. A simple method of achieving the involvement of every Brother in the Lodge is to use the 2x2 protocol. Each Brother is given the responsibility of contacting 2 Members of the Lodge every month. The Master makes the effort to talk to his Wardens; the Wardens between them contact 4 Brethren in the Lodge; the 4 Brethren contact 8 additional Brethren and so on. It is easy to see that with 2 phone calls each, the whole Lodge can be contacted personally. I appreciate that many Lodges have set up electronic communication channels, but really; does an impersonal text message replace a personal interaction? Am I really going to disclose electronically to the whole world my confidential situation? Brethren, We are talking about empathy, not just communication. The Almoner himself should take responsibility for the Widows and families of those members who have passed to higher service.

If a deadline prior to the Lodge meeting is set for each Brother to report back to the Almoner, he can then produce a meaningful report that can be communicated not only to the members of the Lodge but also to our Provincial and Grand Lodge structures. We are an extended family scattered all over the world and we deserve to receive the empathy that can be generated from that structure.

If every Brother contributes to the caring of those in need, the collective effort will bring forth fruits that are unimaginable within our present practice. We will then truly live by the principles of our Order and in return, we will each prosper from the spiritual reward received. Never forget that the role of the Almoner is one of the most important in Freemasonry!

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

The Widow's Pin



This beautiful "Broken Pillar" pin was designed as a Masonic memento to be presented to our Widows. It comes together with a card which recognises the importance our Widows play in our Masonic lives. The cost is R120 per pin and we will have new stock available early in 2018. If your Lodge would like to honour your Widows, please phone the GLSA Offices at 087 550 2965 or email admin@grandlodge.co.za and place the necessary order.

To First United - Christmas is about Giving!

On Sunday 10th December 2017, the Brethren of Lodge First United, accompanied by some of the members of the Widows Sons, delivered clothes, Christmas hampers and nappies to their chosen charity, being Bobbi Bear. With the combined help of the Widows Sons and the efforts of the wives and members of Lodge First United, they managed to gather almost R20,000 worth of Christmas gifts.



The members of Lodge First United, accompanied by the Widow's Sons, delivering the gifts to Bobbi Bear.

A month earlier the Lodge had delivered food items as per Bobbi Bear's wish list. The Lodge is extremely proud of being able to support a charity so deserving of their assistance.



The First United Team

The "Potjie Pot" Team is planning for 2018

The Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, likens the Craft, Royal Arch and the AASR to the three legs of a potjie pot and stresses that all are equally important if the "pot" is to properly fulfil its intended purpose. For our Grand Lodge to provide the best possible experience to our members, all three must be independently successful, but must also work in close harmony with the others. With this in mind the heads of the three bodies have decided to meet on a regular basis with a view to promoting each other's efforts.



*MP Bro Boet du Plessis - AASR Sovereign Grand Commander
MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM - GLSA Grand Master
MEx Comp Johan Britz - RA First Grand Principal*

As M Ex Comp Johan Britz says, it's "not a quick fix but .. a positive direction indicator. New initiates will be more educated within our Masonic structure than before." In his view the regular meetings will "create a platform for trust and unity amongst the Orders which the Orders can only benefit from."

STOP PRESS

It is with much sadness that we advise you that our Past Grand Master, MW Bro Ronnie Bauser OSM, was taken to the Eternal East on Thursday 29 December. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family at this very difficult time. Funeral arrangements to follow.



Lodge Cape Town with WM Wor Bro Edgar Baron (centre) and immediate Past WM RW Bro Brian Rossouw on his left

Southern Division's Annual Awards

At the de Goede Hoop "Christmas" working on Wednesday 13 December, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, the Southern Division PGM, took the opportunity to present the Division's top Lodge awards.

The **Lodge of the Year** went to Cape Town who have excelled in a number of areas, not least of which has been their support of our Masonic Homes. They are a happy Lodge striving to improve and have a new, young Master who is determined to lead the way.



The **Emerging Lodge**, given to the Lodge showing the greatest improvement, went to de Goede Trow who were represented by Wor Bro Giuseppe Ricci as Presiding Master. They are attracting a number of excellent young members and are extremely optimistic about the year ahead.



The **Best Ritual Lodge** was de Goede Hoop, whose excellent 1st degree ritual working on the night left nobody in any doubt as to whether it was deserved. The award was received by Wor Bro Cobis Wilson, the Presiding Master.

Spring Ball Committee hand over R212,000!

The Masonic Homes and the Spring Ball have achieved legendary status amongst the South African Masonic community. The Ball was started 43 years ago now with the intention of raising funds towards a Home for Seniors - and a block of flats and 3 houses for Senior Citizens and a Home for Quadriplegics says it all! This year's Ball raised R212,000, a new record, which PGM RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, proudly handed over to RW Bro Brian Rossouw.



Grand Master presents two 50 year Jewels

During his December visit to the de Goede Hoop Christmas working, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM presented 2 Cape Town Brethren with 50 year jewels.



Wor Bro Cyril Heckmann is a member of Bellville and a long-time servant of Southern Division. He has been an Assistant PGM, was ESGIG for the AASR and played a leading role at Maynardville Carnival charity initiative for a number of years.



Wor Bro Ron Kessler was "made in America" and was initiated while with the US military forces in Germany. He settled in South Africa in 2006 where he decided to join Lodge de Goede Hoop. He has since served as their Worshipful Master.

Masonic Homes lunch enjoyed by all

At the end of each year Southern Division have a Christmas Lunch for the residents of their various Homes. It is invariably a "fun" occasion and 2017 was no exception.

As always, Santa Claus (aka Brian Rossouw) was



most generous with his gifts and the reaction of the recipients said it all. As one of them suggested, "why don't we have Xmas in July as well?"

Happy New Year!

Sincere best wishes to you, and all of those dear to you, for Peace, Health and Happiness throughout 2018. May it really prove to be a Masonic Year to cherish.

from

the Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM,
the Grand Secretary, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM,
and all contributors to the Square and Compasses.

Royal Arch Chapter Horeb's Installation etc

We recently received a selection of much appreciated Royal Arch (Northern Division) pictures from Bro John Harmse. A selection follows:



M Ex Comp Frik Britz was installed as MEZ of Horeb. He is seen with his Principals, Hennie Kotze and Johan Breed, and, back, 1st Grand Principal, M Ex Comp Johan Britz and Grand Superintendent M Ex Comp Martin Kotze.



M Ex Comp Michiel Victor, MEZ of Chapter Fidelity, with Bro Yoannis Angelides, following the Orange Grove Temple working to advance Bro Yoannis to the degree of Mark Master Mason.



The outgoing Principals of Chapter Broederband were Ex Comp Justin Dawe, MEZ M Ex Comp Rex Ingle, Ex Comp Ignatius Muthien.

If you ever have any input for Square & Compasses, please email it to secretary@grandlodge.co.za

Almoner's Corner

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, phone RW Bro Neville Klein OSM at 071 4148869 or send him an email to nevilleklein44@gmail.com

With most of our contributors on holiday, getting detailed updates isn't easy at this time of year.

We trust, however, that all those Brethren who have health challenges or have a family member who needs support, or who have recently lost someone near and dear to them, will know that they are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

You are the One!

One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream.
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.

One smile begins a friendship,
One handclasp lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.

One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam lights a room.
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.

One step must start each journey.
One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.

One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true,
One life can make a difference,
You see, it's up to you!

Submitted by **RW Bro Nuno Calvet**

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.