

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 73 February 2018



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

Professionalism in the Lodge

The Masonic Lodge is a social organisation structured to achieve the great aim of Freemasonry of "making good men better". It facilitates a Brother to undertake a journey of self-development in a positive environment of encouragement.

To achieve the great aim; the emotional environment in the Lodge must be that of facilitating the growth of the Brother in his quest to become a better person. It goes without saying, that this environment therefore must be one that inspires the Brother to take on the challenges offered by the Masonic process of self-development.

Each and every Office in the Lodge has obvious duties attached to it but, as is usual in Freemasonry, they are not always all that they appear. Each Office is designed to provide an opportunity for the Brother to develop and refine the basic skills required for the learning and practice which will lead to an improvement in his character.

This part of Masonic life is all about humility, discipline, responsibility and brotherly love. It does not matter what your role or title in everyday life might be; if you enter the Lodge, you must start with learning the basics. If you cannot participate, submit to authority, show respect and demonstrate a disciplined compliance with the wishes of the Master, then you will not benefit from the teachings of Freemasonry and you will not achieve the great aim.

To create the facilitating environment in which the members can learn, grow and prosper, we must be professional in everything that we, as the elected Officers, do in the Lodge. Each of us represents an aspiration level to each of our junior Brethren. They

watch how we behave and they try to emulate us. If we set a bad example and a low standard, we cannot expect the next generation to know any better.

The Lodge Officers must be fully committed to the duties and the obligations for which they took a solemn obligation on the VSL, before their Creator, at the annual Installation. Just as in any business organisation, it is not the Master who makes the Lodge function, it is the Officers. It is the division of labour and attention to the detail in the component parts that makes the whole organisation successful.

Brethren; do not take your Office in the Lodge lightly, it is not just a role to fill or a seat to sit in. It is a position of responsibility and has various duties and obligations that you must respect. That respect must be translated into the actions needed to make your Lodge function effectively. Remember, as an Officer of the Lodge, you are responsible for facilitating the great aim and ensuring that each and every Brother receives a meaningful Masonic experience every time he comes to Lodge. These meaningful Masonic experiences will, in turn, translate into the desire for him to progress on his Masonic journey towards the great aim of becoming a better man.

Brethren; let us all review our involvement in our Lodges, gain a greater understanding of our duties, increase our activity levels and so do everything that we can to make our Lodges more professional. It is our Masonic duty to ensure that those Brethren following in our footsteps have the best possible Masonic experience. It is up to us to ensure that each Brother enjoys the fruits which Masonry offers in abundance.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

Certified Masonic Education

Freemasonry, like everything in life, has a direct correlation between what you put in and what you get out in return. Those Brethren who strive to understand it best are those who gain the most from our beautiful Order and, at the same time, they are best qualified to ensure that those following them benefit as well.

To assist in this learning process, we will be introducing a "Certification" Program whereby Brethren will formally work their way through the various degrees and positions so that by the time they reach the Chair they will be properly qualified to be Worshipful Master of their Lodge. Wor Bro Simon Nash is compiling the required material.





The new Master, Wor Bro Juan de Villiers, with MW Bro Dave Duncan on his right and Wor Bro George Potgieter and the Installing Officer, Wor Bro Simon Nash, on his left. The outgoing Master, VW Bro Rex Ingle, is immediately behind the new WM.

Losie Sonop Installation

The Northern Division year started early with the Losie Sonop Installation on Saturday 13th January at the CERT Temple in Boksburg.

The outgoing Master, VW Bro Rex Ingle gave his most encouraging report on a year of consolidation and stabilisation and left all present feeling confident that the Lodge was now well prepared for its next phase.



It was the first time Bro Juan de Villiers (left) had taken the chair and Wor Bro Simon Nash, the installing officer, performed the whole ceremony in Afrikaans – which was a much appreciated effort from

an English-speaking Brother.

This was deemed to be a very special occasion as it was not only an Open Installation allowing for members of the public to attend, but the Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, accompanied by 11 Grand Lodge Officers, was also in attendance. The Grand Master took the opportunity to hand over our beloved late RW Bro Coenie Bronkhorst's 50 year jewel to his widow Katie. Coenie had, of course, passed to the Eternal East just a short time before he was to be handed his award.

If that was not emotional enough, Tannie Katie really got the Brethren fighting to hold back their tears when she was presented with the Widow's Pin as well.



In true Sonop fashion the day ended off with a festive board packed with delicious food that left everybody feeling more than satisfied.

Overall, it really was a very memorable day!

Southern's "Charity Wagon" a great success!

For a number of years the Community Chest in Cape Town held a 4 day Carnival at which various organisations and societies would take stalls and raise funds for the needy. The local Freemasons (led by the GLSA) played a leading role in this project and, over the years, raised hundreds of thousands of Rand selling hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, doughnuts, ice cream, drinks and various other items enjoyed by the public.

As time went by, PGL Southern Division purchased a significant amount of catering equipment to help the Brethren to prepare the different items and over the years they built up an impressive collection - and then the annual Carnival was discontinued!

Anyway, all was not lost. Wor Bros Jan Venter and Koos du Preez took the initiative. They acquired a suitable trailer and set about installing the various catering items into it. This can now be towed to any selected event and hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and similar items can be prepared and sold with a minimal amount of set up required. The project is proving a great success and is a credit to the Freemasons involved - and, of course, the Brethren are having great fun taking advantage of it.



MW Bro Reunert "Ronnie" Bauser OSM

To describe MW Bro Ronnie Bauser OSM as "an extraordinary man and Mason" is an understatement of note. He often expressed the view that there were *"too many 25 year Masons who simply had 1 years' experience 25 times in a row"*. This certainly couldn't describe MW Bro Bauser OSM, who crammed far more into his lifetime than any normal human being ever could. He was born in Kimberley on Christmas Day in 1928 and died there, as our longest serving member with 66 years uninterrupted service, just after his 89th birthday. His accomplishments in a wide range of fields illustrate his personal ability to make the most of every day of his life - and they were truly exceptional.



Ronnie matriculated at St Patricks (then CBC) in Kimberley. He generally excelled and established his leadership credentials, captaining both the 1st rugby and cricket teams. He then studied Industrial Relations before joining de Beers and spending the next 40 years of his working life in the mining industry.

He continued with his interest in sport and after gaining his Griqualand West rugby colours as a player, he moved into administration. He was Chairman of the Griqualand West Rugby Union from 1977 to 1994 and was also on the National Executive of SARU.

Ronnie also showed an interest in community affairs and served on Kimberley's Municipal Council for almost 29 years, of which 5 years were as Mayor. He was known for his attention to detail and was an absolute stickler on such issues as punctuality.



As our Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, said at the Remembrance service, *"the fact that he served his community so diligently does not surprise us, because he was a Freemason. Freemasonry is a personal journey on which a man is encouraged to develop his love for the principles of truth, morality and brotherly love. But, he must not only develop these principles for himself, he must share them with his neighbour"* - and this MW Bro Bauser certainly did.

It was in 1952 that MW Bro Bauser was initiated into Freemasonry. He joined Kimberley's historic Peace and Harmony Lodge and spent his whole Masonic life with them. He served the Lodge as their Worshipful Master for the first time during 1957 and was installed in the Chair on 3 subsequent occasions.

In those years, the Northern Cape formed part of the Southern Division and, in 1970, Ronnie was duly appointed as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Southern Division. He served in this position until his next Masonic promotion in 1979.

Despite the fact that he was far removed from where the Masonic spotlight tended to fall, Ronnie still caught the eye as a leader to be reckoned with. In 1979 he was appointed as an Assistant Grand Master and served as such until 1983. He was re-appointed in 1986 and then promoted to Deputy Grand Master in 1987. He filled this position until 1991, when he was elected and installed as the Grand Master with his son, Jerome, as his extremely proud Regalia Bearer.

In 1991, Ronnie's exceptional contribution was formally recognised and he was deservedly given the "Order of Service to Freemasonry" (OSM), the highest recognition which a GLSA Freemason can ever attain.

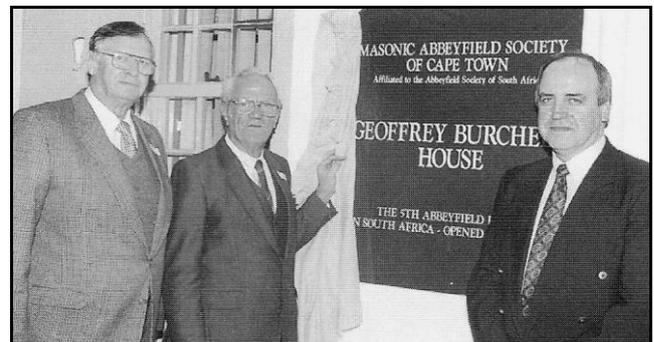
Leadership does not, of course, always make a man popular - particularly if he's making and implementing tough decisions. Ronnie was aware of that and, in the interests of ensuring that his vision for the GLSA was properly implemented, he was prepared to face the consequences. History will show that Ronnie got things done and the courage of Ronnie's convictions and the manner in which he always made his personal interests less important, will always be remembered with admiration and respect.

RW Bro George Schuitemaker OSM served under Ronnie as a PGM and he recalls Ronnie's advice at his Installation: *"You can never please all the members of your Division. Listen to all opinion and then make up your mind as to what to do. You will not always be right, but if you make a mistake ... just correct it"*.

He was a strong personality and demanded that everybody aspired to his standards. I, for example, recall arriving slightly late for a meeting - and will never forget the Bauser glare that I got as a result!

Ronnie never gave less than 100% effort and commitment to any project which he got involved in. Just one of the successes that he will be remembered for will be his efforts to establish the Supreme Council for South Africa. This was successfully negotiated with the Supreme Council for the Kingdom of the Netherlands and consecrated on 28 November 1992.

Despite his remote location during his sojourn as Grand Master, he supported such events as he could. He attended, for example, the opening of the 2nd of the Masonic Homes for Seniors in Cape Town, Geoffrey Burchell House, on the 13th June 1995.



MW Bro Ronnie Bauser OSM, RW Bro Geoff Burchell OSM and RW Bro Graham Karstens

MW Bro Ronnie Bauser OSM was not just a Freemason but he lived his Freemasonry. Our thoughts and prayers are with his children Reunert, Karen and Jerome and the family at this difficult time.

Northern Division continue "Walking Tall"

Northern Division have been supporting the "Walking Tall" feeding scheme for the past 6 months and RW Bro Peet Roos and his Exco agreed to extend this until the AGM in July, at which point it will be reviewed for further extension. The project is run by volunteers, meaning that all contributions benefit the intended beneficiaries - the destitute and starving on the streets of Johannesburg. The scheme feeds as many as 150 people a day and the PGL contribution covers one day per month. The project assists people of all races and age groups and goes on to help those who are able to work to find employment so that they can feed themselves and their families.



Wor Bro Simon Nash and RW Bro Alan van der Vyver with Walking Tall's Anton Gilmore (L) and Jeff Ellis (R)

Masonic Hospitality - Greek Style

In early November 2017, Bro Johnny Angelides (Golden City) not only visited his mother country, Greece, but was also able to attend an evening in Patras, at the Lodge Paleon Patron Germanos No 1.

He describes it as an "amazing experience" and says "I have never felt more welcomed ... and I know that I have found Brothers that I will have a long relationship with" and it "was all made possible by the work that was done by Province and Grand Lodge".

"The working explained the 1st degree and was followed by a discussion on the impressions that are formed by the candidate at his initiation. ... The festive board lasted until well after midnight. ... Some of the Brethren were very senior and their views contributed towards my better understanding of the 1st degree."

This was "the best part of my trip to Greece and my one regret is that I could only attend one working."



Bro Johnny Angelides (2L) with his Greek Brothers

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

Almoner's Corner

Our Past Grand Master, MW Bro Ronnie Bauser OSM, has passed away - see special report on page 3.

It is with deep sadness that we have to advise you that RW Bro Swenny Crofton (van der Stel) and our Past Grand Junior Warden, has finally lost his battle with cancer and has been taken to the Eternal East. Our sincere condolences are extended to Ria and the family.

Wor Bro Mick Tuck (Friendship), who was our Grand Master's proposer and was the regalia bearer at his installation, has passed away after a short spell fighting cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with Veronica and the family, as well as with Mick's close friends.

Wor Bro Norman Smithers (Koh-I-Nor) has been in and out of hospital over the past few months. He has finally been given a clean bill of health and is well on his way to full recovery.

Bro Koos Breet (Libertas) has had 3 toes amputated and is at home while the wound heals.

Wor Bro Solly Coetzer (Mngeni) had a stroke and is now being treated in rehab.

Bro Ernst Botha (Koh-I-Nor) was struck by lightning and has fortunately made a full recovery.

RW Bro Bernard Neuhaus (Alpha) had a mild heart attack and is being monitored by his Doctor.

Wor Bro Heinz Smekal (Hiram) has been diagnosed with cancer. Please keep him in your prayers while medical investigations continue.

VW Bro Johann Haasbroek (Simon van der Stel) is back home after a serious stroke and, while he is making progress, he is having a great deal of pain.

Please remember our Brethren and their families who are in distress and keep them in your prayers.

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

GRAND LODGE REGALIA ITEMS

"Wear them with pride".

The following GLSA regalia items 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 at a price of R40 each.