

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 75 April 2018



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

Self-enlightenment, not self-entitlement.

Having an endless supply of information at our fingertips, which are of course connected to a smart phone or computer, gives us the impression that we are empowered beyond belief.

My grandchildren are convinced that they know everything of any value. According to them, school is outdated and now it's only remaining function is to provide a venue for socialising. They perceive entitlement in their access to information and so believe that their somewhat limited knowledge of life is all encompassing. They have consigned me to history and I suspect, that in their eyes, I am only just younger than the last dinosaur.

Has our society changed this much and is it a development for good?

My grandchildren will grow up and one day some may become the leaders in society. Will they have learned that information is only a basic component of knowledge and that wisdom comes from knowledge, not directly from information? Will they learn that it is the processing of information that creates knowledge and that wisdom is won only from experiences gained when applying knowledge, not merely from a database of information?

Brethren, look around your Lodges and see if any of my "grandchildren" are amongst us. Do we have Brethren who are not participating in a manner that will develop their knowledge from the information contained within our rituals?

Most websites will tell you that Freemasonry is a "system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols". This is not information at anything but the superficial level. To understand the principles and tenets of Freemasonry, we need to process the information that is given to us and develop a knowledge of it. When we string together and practice this knowledge; the wisdom will emerge.

Encourage your Brethren to search for the truth in our Masonic context of morality and brotherly love. Facilitate them to develop and practice the life skills that comes from the knowledge derived from it.

Our rituals are given away with membership; this is your entitlement. This does not make them of value per se. They only become of value when opened, read, studied, considered, digested, discussed and the information enlarged to reveal and develop the knowledge veiled in allegory.

This is the start of our journey to the self-enlightenment that is facilitated by being a participating member of our wonderful Order.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

RW Bro Brian Rossouw OSM

On Saturday 17th March 2018, the Grand Master awarded RW Bro Brian Rossouw the Order of Service to Masonry. The OSM is the highest honour which can ever be bestowed on a GLSA Freemason and there can never be more than 11 living recipients at any time.

Brian's Masonic journey began on 12th April 1977 when he joined Lodge St James in Cape Town. He was the Worshipful Master in 1984 - 1985 and 2000 - 2002. He then spearheaded the merging of St James, Kaapstad and Muizenberg to form Lodge Cape Town in 2003 and was the Worshipful Master of this newly consecrated Lodge in 2004 - 2005 and 2016 - 2018.

In the late 1980s Brian served as a PGL Southern Division officer and, in 2003, was installed as an Assistant PGM. As such he set up and ran the Young Mason's Forum, in which they explored and debated a variety of topics of Masonic interest.

Brian also played an active role in the team which was established to reignite Lodge Westerford and still supports the Lodge when he can.

In 2001, RW Bro Geoff Burchell OSM persuaded Brian that he had a very real role to play in the



Masonic Homes project. Brian took responsibility for the Desmain Lodge flats and quickly established himself as an invaluable member of the team. He was duly appointed to the Board of Directors and made a significant contribution to the establishment of the Masonic Home for Quadriplegics and Andy's House.

When MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM was elected Grand Master, Brian was chosen to replace him as the Chairman of the Masonic Homes. He has worked tirelessly on the project and made a major impact in terms of the restructuring of the company and upgrades and maintenance to our various properties.

Brian has more than earned the respect of his Brethren and his OSM is extremely well deserved.

"Enter the Apprentice"

There's something very special about a "younger" Brother showing real initiative in his efforts to advance our beautiful Order. Westerford's Bro Marco Petronio's



excellent new Masonic board game, "Enter the Apprentice", is likely to make a significant difference in assisting our Brethren to better understand our rituals and our craft. The game comes with a set of questions geared around the 1st degree and further sets of question will be made available for the 2nd and 3rd degrees as well as for the allied degrees and other areas of Masonic interest.

The Grand Master has determined that all Lodges will have a copy of the game and will be encouraged to use it, for example, to occupy the Apprentices and Fellowcrafts when they cannot participate in a Masonic activity more advanced than their present status.

The game is also great fun and the inter-Division rivalry as the various participants competed with each other at its launch was something to behold!

Quad House Braai a Great Success

On Saturday 24th March Lodges van der Stel, Johan van Riebeek and Westerford organised a fund-raising braai for the Masonic Home for Quadriplegics. The event was held at the Quad House, was extremely well supported and raised several thousand Rand.



Bro Lucas v d Schyff, Wor Bros Jan Venter, Koos du Preez, Sean Stuart, Bro Shakes Binza - Werner, Donovan, Lisa, JC

Northern Division is still "Walking Tall"

PGL Northern Division's support of the "Walking Tall" feeding scheme which we updated you on a couple of months ago, continues to go from strength to strength. The Division is committed to paying for a day



Leroy, Simon, Cheryl, Natasha went along to assist in dishing up plates of food to the needy.

each month and a numerous otherwise starving people are benefiting from their support. On a recent Wednesday in March, Wor Bro Simon Nash and fiancée, Cheryl,



Simon, serving meals to hungry children

Mahmouud Patel is new MWS of l'Esperance

On Wednesday 28th March Ill Bro Mahmoud Patel was installed as MWS of AASR Chapter l'Esperance. After the outgoing MWS, Ill Bro Giuseppe Ricci, had given an extremely positive report on the activities undertaken during his term of office, the ESGIG of South Western Region, M Ill Bro Geoff Edwards, assisted by the Region's 33^o Brethren, proceeded with the ceremony of Installation. Following this a most convivial festive board took place with our partners joining the Brethren for the festivities.



Ill Bro Mahmoud Patel with M Ill Bro Geoff Edwards, surrounded by the South Western Region's 33^o Brethren

In his address, M Ill Bro Edwards recounted the story of the Burmese elephants which are used for forestry operations. To teach them not to roam, at a very young age they are tied to a stake with a thin piece of rope. At the time, they are too weak to break free and, having learned this lesson, they never try again! After all, as we all know, elephants never forget.

M Ill Bro Edwards' message was that we, as Freemasons, have to be careful that we too don't get caught making decisions based on obsolete facts. Our lives change, the world changes, technology is always changing things and we have to be aware of this and always be prepared to learn from it and change as well.



RW Bro Cor van Zyl, PGM of Central Division, conducts the Division's AGM in Bloemfontein.

Central Division AGM Weekend

Saturday 17th March saw Central Division hold their 2018 AGM at the Bloemfontein Masonic Centre. The event was well attended and the afternoon proved an interesting, and in some ways, an exciting one.

The PGM's report was positive and his Brethren seem well prepared for the challenges which face them in the year which lies ahead.

The Grand Master took the opportunity to make two extremely important awards. Firstly, he presented RW Bro Brian Rossouw with an OSM.

He then presented Wor Bro Andre Grobelaar with his 50 years service jewel. Wor Bro Andre is a Past Master of Dagbreek and has been a dedicated servant of Central Division for a number of years, spending a significant time as the PGL Secretary. He is a Past Grand Lodge Officer and clearly enjoys his Freemasonry and the time spent with his Brothers.



MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM then announced his decision to appoint VW Bro Basil de Kock as the PGM of Eastern Division. VW Bro Basil has been acting in this capacity for a few months now and has acquitted himself well. He will be obligated and invested at the



The GM and PGMs - RW Bro Tommy Hardiman (Southern), RW Bro Cor van Zyl (Central), MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, VW Bro Basil de Kock (Eastern), RW Bro Peet Roos (Northern) RW Bro Keith Hutton (Eastern Cape).

Eastern Division AGM which will take place in Pietermaritzburg on Saturday 5th May 2018.

The Grand Master also commented on the very successful Chain's Conference held on the Friday and a separate report on this now annual event follows.



The Northern Division Officers, Wor Bros Reuven Coenen (APGM), Godfrey Place (APGM), George Potgieter (DPGM), RW Bro Peet Roos (PGM), Wor Bros Simon Nash (APGM) and Ini Akpan (APGM).

The day finished with the now traditional Central Division Spit Braai which, as always, was a major success and much enjoyed by all who were there.

Chain's Conference - "A Focus on Retention"

This year's Conference took place on 16th March in Bloemfontein. The Grand Master welcomed the Brethren from around the country - and it was worth noting that almost everybody invited came along.

MW Bro Duncan chose to focus the Conference on "Retention". In an ideal world, no man who joins Freemasonry would ever wish to leave and we needed to explore ways in which we could ensure that our Brethren, both new and old, enjoyed the type of experience that they sought and were entitled to.

During the course of the day we listened to presentations on such topics as "Ingredients for a Happy Lodge", "Selection Processes", "Induction Processes", "Our Sense of Purpose" and "Our Sense of Belonging". We debated and discussed these in an effort to identify ways in which we could become most effective in applying the lessons learned.

We also received updates on "Financial Issues" and the impact of our "GrandView" database system,

explored the "Roles of Officers in the Lodge" and went into some detail on the various aspects of "Education and Mentorship". We discussed the concept of "How to assess when candidates were ready to advance" and how to "Develop new Leaders". The afternoon closed with the Grand Master's overview and an interactive session on "New ideas and general observations".

The day was long and exhausting but extremely worthwhile. Everybody who had attended felt that they had gained a great deal from it and went away looking forward to implementing some of the new ideas.

On Friday evening the delegates and partners, went to the Carvery at the Casino and enjoyed good food, good wine and, best of all, really good company.

GLSA teams attend UGLE Installation

On Saturday 3rd March, RW Bro Ernest Malherbe was installed as the District Grand Master of the UGLE's Western Division by MW Bro Peter Lowndes, the Pro Grand Master, who had travelled from London for the occasion. Both PGL Southern Division and our Grand Lodge teams were invited to the event. The impressive ceremony took place in the morning, while that evening saw us joining our English Brethren for a most enjoyable banquet at Kelvin Grove Club.



The GLSA Cape Town Officers at the UGLE Installation

The Widow's Pin



This beautiful "Broken Pillar" pin is a Masonic memento to be presented to our Widows and it costs R120. If your Lodge wishes to honour your Widows, please phone the GLSA Offices at 087 550 2965 or email admin@grandlodge.co.za and place your order.

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

Almoner's Corner

Wor Bro Eric Scholtz (Theophilus) is in Margate hospital recovering from a recent motor bike accident.

Wor Bro Schalk Stapelberg is in hospital after having heart problems, while his wife is in hospital with cancer. They really do need our love, support and prayers during this very difficult time.

VW Bro Johann Haasbroek (Simon van der Stel) is at home but continues to fight the effects of his stroke.

Wor Bro Corrie Grobellaar (Simon van der Stel) continues to battle with his cancer and is in and out of hospital as he receives treatment.

Brethren all, let us remember those Brethren who are fighting their own or their loved ones health challenges, or have suffered bereavement. Please keep them in your thoughts and 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



*Friday 2nd February saw **Losie Albert J Haak** initiate Bro Andre van Rensburg at the Roodepoort Masonic Complex. Present were **Front:** Wor Bros Michiel Victor, Juan de Villiers, Fred Kitching (WM), Hannes Jonker, Bro Andre van Rensburg, RW Bro Johan Britz. **Middle:** Bro Alan Rymer (Scotland), Bro Chris Ruli (GL of District of Columbia), Wor Bro Tony Bosman, Bro Sybrand van Dyk, Wor Bro Steynberg De Kock, RW Bro Jacques Markantoni, Wor Bro Demos Markantonis. **Back:** VW Bro Rex Ingle, Wor Bro Frik Brits, Bros Renier Shields, Christo Lombaard and Jannie Roets.*