

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 78 July 2018



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

## Making Good Men Better!

We have all heard the above stated objective for Freemasonry many times; but have we ever taken the time to ask ourselves what it actually means for each of us personally? Does it mean that, because we are subscribing members of the Order, all we have to do is wait for the miracle to happen?

The reality is of course that it is not Freemasonry that will make you better, it is the conscious effort, guided and facilitated by the principles of Freemasonry, that you put into yourself that will make the difference. The focus of a good Freemason is not on how good a man he is today, but on how he will make himself a better man tomorrow.

Being passive will not achieve this goal. Assimilating all of the knowledge in the world will not make you a better man, if you do not apply it. Sharing, is for me, one of the most noble principles of Freemasonry. We call it "Brotherly Love".

"Brotherly Love", as a concept, is many things to many Brethren and most would agree that it is the act of giving of themselves to improve the wellbeing of a Brother in need. I would like to offer to you another angle; one that involves receiving rather than giving.

The fundamental journey of discovery in Freemasonry is the gaining of knowledge of ourselves. This tenet is taught in the first degree and, quite honestly, the rest of the Degrees become diluted if the objectives of the first Degree are not completed satisfactorily and the principle fully understood.

How do we know ourselves? We all have an ego and, with the best will in the world, we tend to see ourselves as we would like to and not as others do. Perceptions are always far more powerful than fact!

Should we all not ask our Brethren for help on this journey to self-knowledge and ask the question of a trusted Brother, "what do you see in me?", or "how, in your opinion, can I become a better man?"

Brethren; I know that I am suggesting something that most of us would find difficult to do. We would prefer not to expose ourselves to critical evaluation by a peer for fear of losing dignity. Yet, if we practiced the humility that we teach as being essential for a good Freemason, would we not accelerate our growth to becoming a better man? After all, it is not how we see ourselves, but how others see us that will determine our legacy.

By developing the ability to listen and to advise others with empathy; will we not have passed several more milestones on our journey of discovery?

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM  
Grand Master**

## AASR SGC takes a lead role in Africa

The Sovereign Grand Commander of the AASR of South Africa, MP Bro Boet du Plessis, recently spent a weekend in Abidjan helping to establish the Confederation of Africa and Indian Ocean Islands Supreme Councils. MP Bro du Plessis has been elected as Chairman of this new initiative.

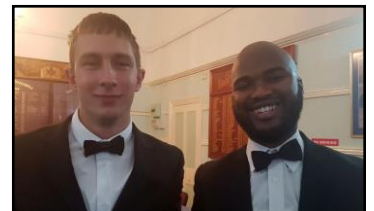


The objective of this new body is to bring all the Supreme Councils together so that they may assist each other in promoting the AASR and, indeed, Freemasonry as a whole in our region.

The heads of all the participating Supreme Councils worked together to develop a manifesto and this was duly signed by all the delegation heads before the close of the weekend.

## Eastern Cape St John's Working

The multi-Lodge St John's working is an annual highlight in the Eastern Cape calendar and this year was no exception. All 4 of the Constitutions took part in the evening.



*Bros Darion Smyth and Siviwe Blauw*



*Sonheuwel Master, Wor Bro Dennis Nienaber, with MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, RW Bro John Smith OSM, RW Bro Keith Hutton and the Brethren from Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge, Lodge Sonheuwel, the GLSA visitors and the Sister Constitutions*

**Losie Sonheuwel Installation**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June saw the Eastern Cape merger of Lodges Sonheuwel and Bartholomew Diaz into a single Losie Sonheuwel. As part of the merger the Lodges standardised on the now regulation GLSA green and gold colours. The installation was very ably performed by PGM, RW Bro Keith Hutton, while the Board of Installed Masters was expertly attended to by RW Bro John Smith OSM.



*Wor Bro Dennis Nienaber with Adri and Wor Bro Daniel Stander*

Both the PGM, RW Bro Keith Hutton, and the new Master, Wor Bro Dennis Nienaber, were delighted by the ambiance enjoyed by all present and the full support and commitment promised by the Brethren.

The Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, led the Grand Lodge team and was suitably impressed by the strides being made in the Eastern Cape Division.

**First United support Elder's Voice**

If the GLSA were to hand out a trophy for the Lodge which most effectively supports charitable initiatives, Eastern Division's First United would certainly be amongst the leading contenders for the award. In their latest initiative they have responded to a call from Elder's Voice, a communal housing scheme for Senior Citizens, by helping them to set up and generously stock 2 new homes. Led by Basil de Kock and Johan van der Merwe, the Lodge bought beds, mattresses, blankets, clothing and foodstuffs and made



*Johan van der Merwe (l) with some of the residents*

quite certain that the kitchen cupboards were well stocked for the very appreciative new residents.



*Johan van der Merwe and Basil de Kock buying groceries*

The residents of the homes are self-supporting. They use their government pensions to cover the rent and then perform a range of home industry initiatives to help raise funds towards their living costs – and the support given by the Masons makes a real difference.

**de Goede Hoop Installation**

Lodge de Goede Hoop, no 1 on the roll of the GLSA and the mother Lodge of South African Freemasonry, celebrated its 2018 Installation on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June. The outgoing Master, Wor Bro Cobis Wilson, reported on a most active year with a lot of visiting and a great deal of interaction with the Sister Constitutions.



The new Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, commented on the enormous amount of pride he felt in his Mother Lodge and outlined his desire to work with the Provincial Grand Master in developing the Brethren's Masonic leadership skills.

In the picture above, MW Bro Edwards thanks Wor Bro Wilson for his efforts over the preceding 2 years and awards him a bar to his Master's jewel.

## A Busy Royal Arch Weekend

The weekend of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June will go down in history as being amongst the most memorable in the history of our Royal Arch.

On the Friday evening, our First Grand Principal, MEC Johan Britz, consecrated 3 new Chapters comprising Brethren formally with the Scottish RA. The new Chapters and their associated MEZs are:

Acacia 231	MEC Michael MacDonald
Golden Thistle 245	MEC Panayotis Rigopoulos
St Andrew 647	MEC Gavin Mackintosh



*MECs Panayotis Rigopoulos, Johan Britz, Gavin Mackintosh, Martin Kotze, Michael MacDonald*

Having recently consecrated Chapter Brixton 790, the First Grand Principal and his team were well prepared for the consecration ceremonies and ensured that the 3 Chapters new Royal Arch journeys got off to an extremely good start.

The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Africa is now assessing the possibility of consecrating Royal Ark Mariners and Cryptic Councils in support of the newly opened Royal Arch of SA Chapters.

On Saturday afternoon 9<sup>th</sup> June, Northern Division held its Annual Meeting. This was conducted by the Grand Superintendent, MEC Martin Kotze, in the presence of a significant turnout. Martin's report was a most positive and encouraging one. The Division is functioning extremely well nowadays and the influx of new Brethren inevitably added to the generally positive atmosphere. Nothing breeds success quite like success and Martin and his team are very much looking forward to the year that lies ahead.

Saturday evening's banquet was a relaxed affair where the Brethren were able to look back on the weekend's events and consider the way forward.



*Brandon Topham, Tom du Toit and Ignatius Muthien*

## "What is Freemasonry?" enjoys more success

The GLSA public relations offering "What is Freemasonry?" continues to have a real impact in both large cities and small towns. In 2 recent performances, in Park Lane and at Carletonville, the enthusiastic interest from the audience really did make for very special and extremely successful evenings.



In Johannesburg, the 4 Constitutions share the work and in this picture Dr Rev Vernon van Wyk of the English Constitution presented the section outlining the relationship between Freemasonry and religion. Watching on are GLSA's RW Bros Peet Roos and Alan van der Vyver and MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM. The Irish PGM, RW Bro Nick Benson, is on the left.



In Carletonville's event the same strong audience interest made it all worthwhile. More than one member of the audience has since applied to join the Order.



*First Grand Principal, MEC Johan Britz, surrounded by the Companions after the Northern Division meeting*

## REP – Past GM Achieves Ritualist Status

At a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree working at Lodge Westerford on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June, the immediate Past Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, qualified as a Ritualist. He delivered the Emblems of Mortality, Hourglass, Scythe, Acacia and Conclusion charges. He is working towards Master Ritualist “as quickly as possible”.

The top achievers during June were Wor Bro Simon Nash (Star of the Rand) and Bro Raymond Yosimbom



(de Goede Hoop) who both reached Master Ritualist, while Wor Bro Alex Kabamba (Flaming Star) attained Ritualist.

*RW Bro John Smith OSM with Bro Ray Yosimbom.*

A number of Brethren now have 10 or more points in a specific Degree and are fast approaching the 18 points required for Ritualist. They are Northern - G Thomas (15), R Thomsen (16), M Mostert (15), B Topham (15), A Katumbay (12), P Booth (10), S Mabilia (15): Southern – J Bossenge-Nkoy (16), D Lombard (10), W de Goede (16).

The Ritual Excellence Program is an extremely important ingredient in our endeavours to ensure that every candidate enjoys the Quality Experience that he is entitled to. Our thanks are extended to the various Divisional coordinators who are making it happen.

## Be Ye Henceforth an Example

I love this story - it really does illustrate what we are trying to achieve! Wor Bro Dennis Benadie is an Assistant PGM in Southern Division and, as such, he provides very active support to our Masonic Homes.

When Dennis' grandson, Scot, and his friends were recently assigned a school project to provide charitable support to people in need, it made good sense for them to follow Grandpa's example and spend some time at the Quad house. On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June they spent the day there playing chess and making hamburgers and hotdogs, while on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June they worked on the garden and cleaned the Quad bus.



Scot, Dillon, Justin and Jared, thank you all for caring and setting such a fine example to each of us.



Support  
Southern Division's  
44<sup>th</sup>  
Masonic Spring Ball  
8<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
at  
Kelvin Grove Club  
Cape Town

TICKETS R450.00 PP  
021 4615400

## Almoner's Corner

We were saddened to learn of the recent passing of RW Bro Klasie Viljoen's wife, Trixie. Klasie (Brits) describes her as "an Angel sent from heaven". May he and the family be consoled by their memories of her.

Our deepest sympathies are also extended to RW Bro Ben Spies (Sonop) on the loss of his blood brother.

Wor Bro Brian Boucher (Isandlwana) and Bro Alan Tyrer (Theophilus) have both had recent knee operations. May you both make a speedy recovery.

Wor Bro Graham Jordan (Isandlwana) and his wife are both being challenged at the moment and we trust that the GAOTU will keep a watchful eye on them.

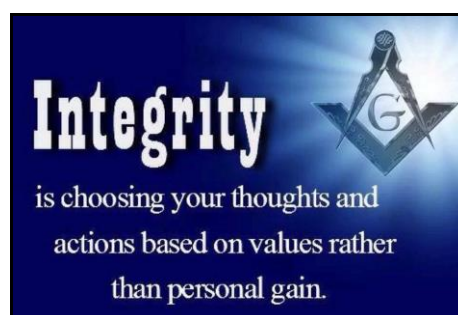
VW Bro Johan Haasbroek (Simon van der Stel) continues his fight back from a stroke but remains cheerful and loves recalling happy Masonic memories.

Wor Bro Corrie Grobbelaar (Simon van der Stel) is still fighting cancer but doesn't miss his Lodge or PGL commitments if he can possibly be with his Brethren.

Wor Bro Dawie van Rooyen (de Goede Hoop) will be having surgery on "golf" injuries to his shoulder and his hip while Bro Wouter de Goede (Westerford) needed attention to his nose after it was broken in a sparring "accident" at gym. Be well soon, Brethren.

Brethren, please be aware that our Grand Master is extremely concerned that, in far too many cases, our Lodge Almoner's roles are not being properly attended to. By definition, we are a Caring organisation and it is most important that we are fully aware of and reacting to the needs of our sick, our elderly and our widows at all times. The GLSA is working on this aspect of our Freemasonry and you will hear more in the near future.

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



**Integrity**  
is choosing your thoughts and  
actions based on values rather  
than personal gain.

If you ever have any input for Square & Compasses, please email it to [secretary@grandlodge.co.za](mailto:secretary@grandlodge.co.za)