

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 83 December 2018



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

The Lodge as a Leadership School.

In everyday life, there are leaders and there are followers. The fruits of every successful undertaking belong to the leader; the followers merely get a share of the generosity shown by their leader.

Which one are you?

Which one do you want to be?

The learning of leadership skills is often a very hard and rough road. Education systems rarely teach these life skills formally and we are left to muddle through; learning by our mistakes. These mistakes are often painful and many a friendship has been destroyed by the lack of leadership skills when we are called upon to take charge of a situation, be it social or material, and not knowing how to handle it. This is often referred to as the school of "hard knocks".

But does it really have to be this way? I believe that it does not.

When a new member of the Order enters the Lodge, he enters upon a journey of discovery. It is a journey on which he will commence by discovering himself in the Apprentice degree and then, in the Fellow Craft degree, he will learn to develop his ability to interact with others. Firstly, by correcting the obvious faults in his own personality and then learning the skills of leadership in a social environment. He will learn that there are many types of leadership and that these do not always operate from the front with razzamatazz. Often the most effective leadership style

is the quiet facilitation of the team to remain focussed on the ultimate goal.

How does the Lodge achieve this?

Remember that the Lodge is the sum of the attitudes of its Members and it is the brotherly love shown at every interaction that makes a Lodge a happy and fulfilling place. This is why we, at Grand Lodge, focus so much on the ambiance of a Lodge as a measure of its success.

As an Apprentice and a Fellow Craft, the member is guided through the nuances of the structure and workings of the Lodge. He will be guided and mentored on the protocols and norms of behaviour expected from a member of his rank.

As a Master Mason, he will become part of the formal structure and be expected to put into practice everything that he has learned and to develop the ability to become a teacher and a leader. The structure of the Lodge from Steward to Worshipful Master is designed to achieve this. At each rank, the level of responsibility is increased so that an opportunity is created to progress in knowledge and understanding of how to interact with his superiors, peers and subordinates. By trial and error, he will learn the lessons of leadership in a benign environment. An environment in which he will receive positive reinforcement for his successes and gentle correction when he fails. It is this demonstration of brotherly love, based on the tolerance of the failings of a Brother during the learning process, that makes our Leadership schools so successful in positively changing the lives of our members and why so many Freemasons have risen to high rank in business and social life.

As is so often repeated: Freemasonry cannot make you a better man, only you can achieve that. Freemasonry can however, provide the environment in which you can achieve this goal. It all depends on you and this is why your full participation in the opportunities afforded by Freemasonry has to be uppermost if you want to be successful.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

As we approach the traditional holiday period in South Africa, it is time to reflect on yet another year passed. Has it been a good one? Have there been challenges which we have overcome? Have there been times when, perhaps, we have done that which we ought not to have done?

Through reflection, we are practising that which we were taught in the First Degree. If we truly understand how we have performed, we can develop our strengths and correct our failures.

Our families must always come first in our daily lives and the holiday period over this time of the year is when we can really demonstrate our gratitude for the support of our loved ones.

Time is our most valuable commodity and it is now that we really should spend it wisely.

From myself, as the Grand Master, and all of the Grand Lodge Officers, we wish each and every one of you a peaceful and happy holiday period in which to focus on the most important people in your lives and gather strength for the year ahead.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

Grand Master attends Gabon AGM

On Saturday 3rd November the Grand Master had the privilege and pleasure of representing the GLSA at the GL of Gabon AGM in Libreville.

The meeting was intended to reinstall the current Grand Master, MW Bro Ali Bongo, who is also the President of Gabon, for a further term of office. Due to the sudden illness of MW Bro Ali Bongo, whilst on official Government duty in Saudi Arabia, he was not available and the meeting became a “Declaration”.



The Grand Master with the GLSA contingent

There were over 500 Masons at the meeting, representing some 37 Grand Lodges. The GLSA delegation comprised 11 Brethren. The size of the delegation reflects the close ties that the GLSA has with Gabon, as many of their Nationals come to South Africa for business and study purposes. There were also 6 Brethren from the Grand Lodge of Gabon present who were initiated in South Africa.

In his interactions with the representatives of the large number of global Grand Lodges present, our

Grand Master appreciated being able to listen to views on Freemasonry worldwide - and the sentiment is positive. Our challenges in South Africa are not unique and some creative interventions were discussed.

The weekend was most enjoyable and the hospitality of the hosts was quite exceptional.

Armistice Day Parade in Durban

On Sunday 12th November the world remembered the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1. As has become a tradition now, the 4 constitutions in the Eastern Division



made tribute to those who had paid the ultimate price. Wor Bro Bruce Lamprecht represented the GLSA Eastern Division and participated in the laying of a wreath at the Cenotaph in Durban, while RW Bro Vic Muhlenbeck also played a significant role in the morning's activities.

Wor Bro Fred Kitching is a Master Ritualist!

On Friday 2nd November Wor Bro Fred Kitching was, after an excellent first term, reinstated as the Master of Losie AJ Haak. The evening was well attended by Brethren from the GLSA as well as from the Sister Constitutions. The Master's comprehensive Annual Report reflected a successful year with positive future plans.



Wor Bro Freddie Diener was Installing Officer and performed his duties extremely well.

A highlight of the evening saw the Deputy PGM, Wor Bro Simon Nash, awarding Wor Bro Fred Kitching his Master Ritualist jewel. This set a fine example to all of the Brethren present and encouraged them to set similarly high standards.



Wor Bro Fred Kitching (centre) with RW Bro Peet Roos (on his right), Wor Bros Simon Nash and Fred Diener (on his left) and surrounded by Grand Lodge, PGL and Sister Constitution Officers and members of AJ Haak.



RW Bro Keith Hutton, PGM Eastern Cape, (centre) with MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM and RW Bro John Smith OSM MSA on his right and Grand Lodge, PGL, Sisiter Constitution and visiting Brethren.

Eastern Cape AGM held in Port Alfred

On 17th November the senior Brethren of the GLSA were in the Eastern Cape where they attended the Eastern Cape Division AGM. The weekend took place in the picturesque little town of Port Alfred, now the home of our No 3 Lodge, de Vereeniging.

On Friday evening the Brethren relaxed together over an informal meal, on Saturday morning the Grand Committee meeting took place, on Saturday afternoon there was the AGM and on Saturday evening a most impressive and thoroughly enjoyable banquet.

The Eastern Cape, while still the GLSA's smallest Division, is really making good progress nowadays and the PGM, RW Bro Keith Hutton's, report was an extremely encouraging one. He has installed a strong team of Officers to assist him in the year ahead and there is good reason to be optimistic about the future.



Wor Bro Hein Buys (Assistant PGM), RW Bro Keith Hutton (PGM), Wor Bro Marius Terblanche (Deputy PGM) and Wor Bro Nowellyn van Vuuren (Assistant PGM).

1st Degree at Neerlandia is its first in 20 Years!

On 20 November 2018, Lodge Neerlandia initiated Bro Tashreek Bhudoo as its first initiate in more than 20 years. By doing so they demonstrated the new direction on which the Lodge is embarking. They have effectively laid the foundations for the new style Neerlandia and, by following the path set, will ensure

the Lodge's continued existence and growth for future generations to enjoy the benefits of.

The Brethren of Lodge Neerlandia did their working with much care, ensuring that Bro Bhudoo had the quality experience to which he is entitled. The working itself was followed by a formal festive board which was much enjoyed by all.



RW Bro Basil de Kock, Bro Tashreeq Budhoo, Wor Bro Jeremy Rundle

de Goede Hoop visits Parliament

Those of you who explore local Masonic history may already be aware that when, in 1854, the Cape Colony established South Africa's first Parliament, they held their first meeting in Lodge de Goede Hoop's Banqueting Hall. In fact, they met in the Lodge's premises for the next 30 years until they had grown large enough to require premises of their own.

Today, the Lodge and Parliament still share the same grounds and it was fitting, therefore, that a recent Lodge fund-raiser saw us visiting and enjoying dinner together in the current Parliamentary complex.



Thanks are extended to Bros Manny de Freitas and Chris Hunsinger for a memorable evening.

RA Chapter Amajuba 316's Consecration

On Saturday 17th November the Royal Arch First Grand Principal, MEC Johan Britz, consecrated Chapter Amajuba 316. The beautiful ceremony was conducted with suitable decorum and all present felt the excitement which comes from starting anew.



Immediately after the completion of the Consecration ceremony, the Grand Superintendent of the Northern Division, MEC Martin Kotze, took charge and duly set about installing the new Chapter's

Martin Kotze, Raymond Fullard Principals. The MEZ is *and Johan Britz* MEC Raymond Fullard, the EH is Comp David Boardman and the EJ is Comp Stephen Smith. All are optimistic about the future.

Lodge Koh-I-Noor Installation

On Monday 3rd December, the GLSA's largest Lodge, Koh-I-Noor, had their annual Installation. The Grand Lodge delegation was led by RW Bro Alan van der Vyver (accompanied by 8 Grand Lodge Officers) and RW Bro Peet Roos led PGL.



RW Bro Alan van der Vyver introduces RW Bro Peet Roos to the Grand Lodge Officers.

The retiring Master, Wor Bro Janho Engelbrecht, reported on a very busy year, initiating 9 Brethren, passing 7 and raising 3. The Lodge has also launched Project KIN which aims to provide emergency response capabilities to any situation at short notice.

The new Master, Wor Bro Reyaan Uys, was then installed by Wor Bro Reuven Coenen. This was Reuven's first ever installation. It is reported that both he and the incoming Master were extremely well prepared and that the whole event was a great success.



RW Bro Alan van der Vyver, Wor Bro Reyaan Uys and Wor Bro Reuven Coenen

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

Another Year with Bobbi Bear

Over the last year or two Lodge First United have supported the Durban based Bobbi Bear charity. This year saw Wor Bro Johan van der Merwe representing the Lodge and delivering a large pile of gifts, including toys for the children, to the Bobbi Bear organisers.



Almoner's Corner

Our 2 Southern cancer patients, Louise du Preez and Wor Bro Corrie Grobbelaar (Simon van der Stel) are still putting up an impressive fight and we really are proud of them. Corrie went to the inter-constitutional potjiekos last week and his pot got 3rd prize!

RW Bro Kenny Manefeldt (de Goede Trouw) and Heinz Smekal (Hiram) are both struggling with back problems and have our deepest sympathy.

RW Bro Bernard Neuhaus (Alpha) is another good man that won't be kept down. He is recovering from his knee problem and visiting with Grand Lodge.

Gill, the wife of Wor Bro Jock Wood (Marina), has had a hip replacement and is slowly getting back on her feet. Keep her in your prayers.

I hear that Wor Bro Otto Conradie's (Bultfontein) son is showing some improvement in his fight with his immune deficiency issues. The only thing worse than being sick is having your partner or child afflicted and Otto and the family have our strongest support.

Brethren, our Provincial Almoner's are still, with the notable exception of Wor Bro Cobis Wilson (Southern) not appearing to be getting to all of our ailing Brethren. This really is extremely important, Brethren, and we trust that we do not have too many Brethren who are being missed. If you know of anyone who could use our support and encouragement, please advise the Grand Almoner so that we may react.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please phone RW Bro Nuno Calvet at 083 5607838 or send him an email to nunocalvet@gmail.com

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou