

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 87 April 2019



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

## *“to promote the aims of Freemasonry .....”*

I hope that we all recognise the origin of the above sentence and can complete it without reference to the ritual. We made a promise, before the Great Architect, to do just that. But do we really honour it?

I have no doubt that every Brother believes that he contributes to the well-being of the Order to the best of his ability. That he goes beyond the expected and really is an exemplary Member who can incite the younger Members to emulation.

But, in the spirit of *“know thyself”*; do we critically evaluate our contribution to the Order on a regular basis? Do we consider the impact that our deeds and actions have on other Members of the Order? Do we truly practice Truth, Morality and Brotherly Love in everything we do?

Being a Freemason imposes a responsibility upon each and every Member to be an Ambassador for the Order. We can increase our numbers and hence our impact in civil society by being reference points that *“good men”* can identify with. Not the Order per se; but with each and every one of us. If we behave in a *“uncaring way”*, how do we convince non-Masons to join a *“caring organisation”*.

One of my greatest concerns is that in many cases, we are not always demonstrating the fact that we are a *“caring organisation”*. Times are hard and the economic and social pressures being experienced by many of our Members are going un-noticed by their Brethren in the Lodge. No Brother wants to admit that

he needs help or to receive what he may perceive as *“charity”*. But when approached with empathy on a one on one basis, it is often the stimulus that will allow a Brother to unburden himself and receive positive reinforcement by just having a *“shoulder to cry on”*.

The practice of Brotherly love is one of the major attributes that separates Freemasonry from so many other civil and social organisations. If we merely pay lip service to it, we are no different to anybody else.

Brethren; we are special; we are very special. We need to remember this at all times and make sure that we continue to value and practice those distinguishing characteristics that make us so special.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM  
Grand Master**

## **Conflict Resolution**

Thousands of books have been written on this subject and professional practitioners make a very good living by advising us on how to resolve conflicts. Freemasonry, however, offers us sage advice for free.

Right at the start of our Masonic journey we are exhorted to *“ever be forbearing towards the faults and frailties of a Brother”* and to not be self-indulgent.

If we perfected this in our practice of our Masonry, we would eliminate any conflicts within our Lodges. We would truly have created places of peace and tranquillity in which brotherly love would thrive.

But have we? Too many of our Lodges are not places of perfect tranquillity. Petty squabbles occur over issues perceived to be *“matters of principle”*. Who’s principle? Ours or those of the Order?

The *“I win, you lose”* philosophy is at the root of all conflict situations. We all pride ourselves as being real Freemasons and of being members of the greatest Fraternity that has ever existed but, like it or not, far too many conflicts still occur.

For me, the Lodge has always been a place to which I can escape from the negative influences of everyday life. It is a sanctuary in which I can seek peace and tranquillity. It is a place where I can develop my life skills in a benign environment filled with support and encouragement and not recrimination.

The basis of the Order is the Apprentice degree, which promotes the concept that you cannot make progress towards enlightenment unless you know yourself. Do we review our behaviour and attitudes often enough in terms of the fundamental issues of tolerance and self-indulgence?

Brethren, this basic awareness is critical if we are to create true harmony in our Lodges.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM  
Grand Master**

## Eastern Cape Legend has served 60 Years

VW Bro Melville Gush was initiated into Lodge de Vereeniging on 14 October 1958. As time moved on he joined Lodge Fidelity and served there as the Worshipful Master. He was also a member of the PGL team and served as an Assistant PGM with some distinction.



In this picture the Eastern Cape Deputy PGM, Wor Bro Marius Terblanche, presents a 60 year jewel and certificate to VW Bro Melville Gush.

VW Bro Gush was awarded Past Grand Orator rank a year or two ago and recently turned 94 years. He no longer attends Lodge as his wife is not well and he does not want to leave her at home alone at night.

## Using Technology to simplify Lodge Payments

With GLSA's Technology Committee Chairman, RW Bro Avron Jacobson, as a member of their Lodge, it's not surprising that De Goede Verwachting are leading the way in implementing a cashless Lodge. For their members, it's no more carrying cash and no more cards to swipe – they have implemented Snap Scan.

Brethren can now make easy and safe (and cheaper) payments when visiting this Lodge. After downloading the App from either Apple App store or via Google Play for android phones, you simply add your bank details, choose a 4-digit pin and voila!



In this picture RW Bro Avron Jacobson (AGM) is scanning a Quick Reference or QR-code so that Lodge De Goede Verwachting can

enable Bro Serge Tshisuaka to take the meeting's benevolent collection. With Snap Scan all you need to do is scan the QR Code and select the amount you'd like to pay. That's it.

For more information visit [www.glsa23.co.za](http://www.glsa23.co.za) or email Avron at [avron@mweb.co.za](mailto:avron@mweb.co.za).

## Sovereign Grand Commander visits Germany

H Jackson Brown Jr once said "Don't work for recognition, rather do work worthy of recognition". This comes to mind when considering our Supreme Council's extensive efforts to raise the spectre of the AASR for South Africa's standing amongst the African and Global Supreme Councils and the most successful visit to attend the Supreme Council for Germany's 2019 AGM in Berlin at the beginning of March.

Attended by all the Central, Northern and Eastern European, as well as four African Supreme Councils, South Africa was warmly greeted as we attended for the first time in many years.

The attendance of the AASR for South Africa again highlighted that Supreme Council activities around the world are healthy and active and our delegation was engaged on numerous issues pertaining to Freemasonry in South Africa and Africa. It really is both important and encouraging to realise how valuable a member we are considered to be by this international



Masonic community. This, of course, demands that we strive to improve the standards of our Order at every possible opportunity and to ensure that we are worthy of the respect extended to us as a Sovereign Supreme Council.

The full weekend of activities, saw some 40 Supreme Councils with over 120 delegates attending the German AASR AGM which was held on Saturday 2 March 2019. Highlighting the importance with which South Africa is today viewed, the Sovereign Grand Commander of Germany, MP Bro Eberhard Desch, who is also the Chairman of the European Supreme Councils Confederation, awarded our Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Boet du Plessis 33°, Honorary ASSR for Germany membership. This is a rare honour indeed and one that was not extended to any other participating country present.



To further emphasise our expanding relations, The SGIG for Central Germany Bro Peter Hochreiter 33°, was given Honorary membership of our Supreme Council in reciprocity of Puis Bro Vic Mühlenbeck's appointment as Grand Representative to Germany, thus further deepening the bilateral relations of the ASSR for South Africa.

## De Goede Kaap RAM Installation



Congratulations to MEC Steve Marsh on his recent installation as the Worshipful Commander Noah and Most Excellent Chief of the de Goede Kaap Royal Ark Mariners Lodge. They have been making good progress recently and the Companions are confident that the year ahead will be better still.

## Marina rising from the Ashes!

There is something particularly exciting about seeing a Lodge which has been through trying times, start to make a real recovery. Lodge Marina is such a Lodge. A few months ago they installed Wor Bro Raymond Eyiomen as their Worshipful Master and his energy and commitment is making a real difference. With the full support of his Lodge they had 2 very successful 1<sup>st</sup> degree workings in just one week – the first on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, which was followed by a combined working with Lodge de Goede Verwachting on Thursday night.



*Wor Bro Martin Slabbert, Wor Bro Raymond Eyiomen, Bro Michael Kearn, Wor Bro Dawie van Rooyen, Bro Cyril Engelke, Wor Bro Anthony van Dijk*

Wor Bro Dawie van Rooyen, (Assistant PGM) commented that they were both “exceptionally well prepared and performed 1<sup>st</sup> degree workings” and that both Wor Bros Raymond Eyiomen and Anthony van Dijk can feel very proud of the high standard that their respective Lodges attained.

## Cape Cycle Tour a Fund-raising success!

A couple of our Divisions have discovered that working at big sporting events can make a major contribution to fund-raising. Eastern Division are long established supporters of the Comrades Marathon while Southern Division are now well established at both the Cape Town Cycle Tour and Marathon events. The work is exhausting - but it's great fun and very worthwhile.

While the cooler weather this year was great for the cyclists, it certainly wasn't what we are used to on a summer Sunday in Cape Town. As you will see from our pictures, our marshalls wore plenty of extra clothing to keep themselves warm in the unseasonal weather. Did they really mind? Not at all, it all adds to the overall camaraderie that all of us enjoyed.



*RW Bro Ron Smith, RW Bro John Smith and RW Bro Avron Jacobson.*

Wor Bro Jan Venter, on crutches after a recent knee operation, seen with Wor Bro Dennis Benadie still managed to coordinate the activities of our various Cycle Tour marshalls, while Bro Marco Petronio did an excellent job of assembling enough people to ensure that we were able to perform all the duties which had been allocated to us. Both of them, and all of the other Brethren, their wives, partners and friends involved, really did the Southern Division proud – and, of course, both the Division and the Lodges raised much needed funds.



## Ordering Lodge Aprons via Grand Lodge

Grand Lodge has established an effective working relationship with a Pakistani manufacturer of Masonic regalia. The aprons, for example, are all made of genuine lambskin and the detail is superb. If you are interested in obtaining a quotation, we will require:

- A close up, high resolution image of your current apron with exact dimensions of the apron, the flap and the ribbon borders.
- The pantone colour of the ribbon borders.
- A high resolution, digital image of your Lodge Logo (if required to be embroidered on the apron) with pantone colours of all logo items.
- Any other distinguishing details that need to be described (eg - silver tassels and t bars).

You should be able to identify the colours at any reputable printing company with a pantone colour chart.

While this all may sound onerous, it is a once-off exercise that will never have to be repeated. The details can be saved against your Lodge records and any future orders of the same item will be a very simple process.

For further details, contact the Grand Secretary at: 087 550 2965 or [secretary@grandlodge.co.za](mailto:secretary@grandlodge.co.za). The delivery time is up to 8 weeks and pre-payment is required before the order can be placed.



*A Lodge de Goede Verwachting apron from Pakistan*

## Almoner's Corner

Sadly, Lodge Star of the Rand lost its third brother to the Eternal East this year when Bro Dawood Momla passed away on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> March. He suffered from a long term liver disease and a donor simply wasn't available. Our sincere condolences are extended to his wife and daughter.

Bro Andrew Nell (Westerford) who has only recently been initiated had a bad fall and seriously damaged his shoulder. After several weeks battling to get it right, he is now well on the road to recovery.

Wor Bro Fred Kitching (AJ Haak) continues to receive treatment for the cancer in his shoulder but has regained some use of his arm. He remains cheerful.

Louise, wife of Wor Bro Koos du Preez (Johan van Riebeeck) continues her battle against cancer but advises us that she's due to see her doctor this week for a major check-up and is optimistic about it.

Wor Bro Paul Nash (Star of the Rand) has now been pronounced as cancer free but continues to be afflicted by the resultant voice loss.

Bro Rob Eden (Westerford) is a pilot and flies in Northern Mozambique. A few weeks ago the convoy he was travelling in was attacked by terrorists and Rob is suffering from severe post-traumatic stress. Be strong, Rob, the sun will "unexpectedly break through".

On a happy note, Bro Jesse Bossenge-Nkoy (de Goede Hoop) recently married the lovely Jacky. Best wishes to both of you for a long and happy life together.

The Northern Division PGM, RW Bro Peet Roos, was admitted to hospital for a minor procedure and is now at home and getting back on his feet again.

RW Bro Nuno Calvet (Star of the West) is out of hospital after his heart bypass and has now started his extensive home recovery. Keep his charming wife Fleureine in your thoughts –it can't be easy for her!

Wor Bro Pat Smith (Brits) continues to receive treatment for fibro myalgia.

Wor Bro Rob Heyneke (Perseverance ex member) recently lost his wife to cancer. We extend our sincere condolences - please keep him in your prayers.

The indestructible Wor Bro Corrie Grobellaar (Simon van der Stel) continues his unfailingly cheerful fight against cancer. Wish we could do more than just offer encouragement – but hope that helps anyway!

Our back sufferers, Wor Bros Heinz Smekal (Hiram) and Ken Manefeldt (de Goede Trouw) are both battling along but experiencing significant pain. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Wor Bro Ken Marcus (de Goede Hoop) stepped into a pot-hole and badly broke his leg. Hope it won't be too long before you're up and about again, Ken.

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please ensure that your Divisional Almoner is aware of him:

Southern	Wor Bro Cobis Wilson	083 2844684
Northern	Wor Bro Simon Nash	082 4148604
Central	Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern	Wor Bro Johan v d Merwe	083 3010219
E Cape	Wor Bro Roy Handley	082 8625804



Interesting items for you to benefit from!

- We were asked whether there is a GrandView App available. The good news is that, while there is no App as such, GrandView is optimised to run on any mobile device just using [portal.grandlodge.co.za](http://portal.grandlodge.co.za). The look and feel may differ somewhat, but the functionality is exactly the same.
- The basic Introductory package comprising the set of articles Introducing Freemasonry and the GLSA and the Application Form are now available to every GrandView user. Log in, go to your "Home" page, click on "Resources" and there, filed under "Candidate" are "Introducing Freemasonry" and the latest "Membership Application Form". Download them and send them to your prospective applicant.
- As an additional service to our Brethren we will be creating a GLSA Contact list which will be readily available to every GrandView user. This will be updated monthly, will include details for each and every member and will contain such information as Name, Lodge, Mobile No and eMail Address.
- GrandView is in the process of releasing a new version of their package which includes several enhancements which should be beneficial to us. These include more structure in the filing of Masonic Resources, additional flexibility with regard to recruitment and several new reporting options. This release will be implemented over the weekend starting Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April. We've also been assured that the examination module will soon be completed for imminent release.

**Amity**  
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WORLD'S OLDEST FRATERNITY

Last month we introduced Amity and gave you some ideas on how it can assist you on your Masonic journey – particularly with regard to your interaction with foreign Constitutions whilst travelling.

By now you should have received an email from Amity with details on how to register and have hopefully responded to it. If you have not yet registered, you are encouraged to do so without delay so that you can enjoy the many benefits that AMITY provides. If you have misplaced your registration (welcome) email, or have not received it as yet, please control / click on <https://welcome.amity.copiri.com> and you will be directed to an AMITY web page where you will be able to request a new welcome registration letter. Enter your personal email address as is recorded on GrandView and your welcome letter will be emailed to you, providing you with details on how to register and how to obtain your electronic GLSA Membership Card.

Should you encounter any problems or have any queries pertaining to AMITY, the person to contact is RW Bro Avron Jacobson at [avron@mweb.co.za](mailto:avron@mweb.co.za).

Things do not just happen. Things are made to happen.  
*John F Kennedy*