

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 92 September 2019



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

## Do We Know Who You Are?

We are all familiar with the sentiments of the truism that we must *"adapt or die"*. The Grand Lodge of South Africa is a living organisation and so these words are as appropriate for us as they are for any biological entity.

In order to face the challenges of a changing society and make the Grand Lodge more *"fit for purpose"*, a purpose that reflects on the opportunity for the spiritual growth of each and every member, we have undertaken a series of interventions that have updated the way in which we cater for the essential services that we provide to you. Services that have reduced the work load on the Provincial Grand Lodges and allowed them to focus more on *"doing Freemasonry"*. The programs for mentorship and education are being rolled out at Provincial level and by availing yourselves of these interventions, we know that you will be able to accelerate your understanding of the principles and tenets of Freemasonry. Understandings that will assist you in living your daily lives and facilitate our oft stated goal of *"making good men better"*.

*"GrandView"* is our Membership Management system. A modern internationally recognised computer system that caters for almost half a million Masons in 32 Grand Lodges around the world. Everyone knows the frustration generated by knowing that your personal information, held by the organisation of which you are proud to be a member of, is out of date and incorrect. Sadly, this can generate the sentiment of *"do they really*

*care about me?"*. Of course we care; but keeping track of changes to members' details by our previous decentralised system, operated essentially at Lodge level, proved ineffective in many cases and this led to the situation where the Grand Lodge did not know who many of their members were. A terrible condemnation when you consider that it is our responsibility to service the welfare of each and every member.

To correct this situation, we have centralised the membership system at Grand Lodge. The personal data held on Grandview can be accessed by the member and reviewed. It can be corrected if necessary, either directly by the member or by communication through the Provincial Grand Secretaries.

So, Brethren; if your records in the Grand Lodge system are incorrect, the one to blame is the one looking back at you in your shaving mirror. By logging on to the system, you are now master of your own records. Take advantage of the opportunity and make the process work. I never again want to hear the lament that my email address, phone no or home address is wrong, with an implied expectation that I will correct it.

In order to make it even easier, GrandView have now released an *"App"* so that you may use the full functionality of GrandView on your smart phone.

Remember that your data contained in GrandView powers this new GrandView App and, with a wealth of information now so readily available, can really change the way that you practice your Freemasonry.

You are also reminded of the Amity App which we have made available to our members. This App serves as an instant identification and confirmation of your status as a Freemason in many countries in the Masonic world. Several of our Brethren have already used this App during their international travels and found that it makes life so much easier when finding foreign Lodges to visit. It does not, however, do away with the protocols of visiting overseas. In many Jurisdictions, if you attempt to attend a meeting unannounced you will be turned away, however well you may prove yourself. Make sure that you know the rules before travelling.

Brethren; log into Grandview, make use of its App and also sign up on the Amity App and take advantage of the opportunities afforded by your Grand Lodge.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM  
Grand Master**

*If you want to know more about using GrandView or Amity, please contact our Grand Secretariat at [secretary@grandlodge.co.za](mailto:secretary@grandlodge.co.za) or 087 550 2965.*

**It's not the strongest of the species that survive,  
nor the most intelligent, it's those who are most  
responsive to change.**  
**Charles Darwin**



RA Chapter Fidelity's 3 new Principals, Ian Huntly (EH), Ignatius Muthien (MEZ) and Patrick Wanketa (EJ) are seen behind the First Grand Principal, MEC Johan Britz, surrounded by the Grand and Provincial Chain-bearer's and visiting dignitaries.

### Chapter Fidelity Installs new MEZ

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August, RA Chapter Fidelity held their 2019 Installation ceremony. The working was extremely well performed by EC Marius Mostert and the 3 Principals, MEZ Ignatius Muthien, EH Ian Huntly and EJ Patrick Wanketa have every reason to look back on the evening as a very special one.



EC Marius Mostert (c)

The Supreme Grand Chapter team was led by the First Grand Principal, MEC Johan Britz, and he and the Companions who accompanied him added much lustre to an already impressive ceremony.

### Golden City Install Wor Bro Coenen as WM

On Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August, Golden City installed Wor Bro Reuven Coenen as their new Master. The installation ceremony was performed by Deputy PGM, Wor Bro Simon Nash, well supported by the PGL Officers. The Installing Officer's extremely thought-provoking address was "Why take an Obligation?"

It was also a Grand Lodge call-out and the Grand Lodge team was led by the Past Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Alan van der Merwe who was accompanied by a number of GL Officers.



Wor Bro Simon Nash and  
Wor Bro Reuven Coenen

The turnout, in general, was most encouraging and with Grand Lodge, PGL, the Sister Constitutions, visitors and Brethren present, the ambience at the Festive Board was special and, overall, everybody who attended agreed that it was an excellent evening.

### Reflections on My Initiation

*We will be loading Apprentice and Fellowcraft papers on GrandView and this precis of a paper by Bro Eric Schonken (Koh-I-Noor) is an example.*

Upon being asked to do a short write-up on my initiation, the first thing that sprang to mind was that it was entirely unlike any other experience I have had before. I avoided attempting any prior research on the ceremony as I'd been warned that it could detract from my experience - and this was excellent advice.

As any initiated brother will attest, the experience of the ceremony is uniquely personal and it is almost impossible to present an exhaustive account of all the aspects that left an impression on me. It was, in certain respects, a bit overwhelming and bewildering (as it no doubt should be) and some elements are even now only starting to dawn on me properly. In general though, I regard the following initial impressions as paramount:

1. The solemnity with which the ritual was approached left me in no doubt as to the seriousness and gravity of the commitment I was making. The rich imagery of the words and symbolism used, aside from making for a quite striking ritual, also drove home the deep tradition and reflection that informed the initiation itself.
2. As was the purpose, the initiation ritual and the related symbolism is a most humbling experience, but never demeaning or degrading. Quite the opposite in fact, which brings me to the final point:
3. The kindness and patience I experienced from all involved was striking. This was possibly even more true of the Preparator – a stranger I only met before the ceremony, but who I cannot now think of as anything but a Brother.

My overwhelming feeling is a sense of intense gratitude. A group of strangers made a concerted effort on my behalf and for my benefit, not only to induct and welcome me into their fold in the most remarkable manner, but also to unreservedly present themselves to me as Brothers. I cannot thank them all enough!





*Wor Bro Roy Handley (centre), RW Bro Keith Hutton (4L) and RW Bro Avron Jacobson (6L) are seen at the Lodge Tolerance Installation with the Brethren of the Lodge, Grand Lodge Officers, PGL Officers, Sister Constitutions and visitors.*

### **Lodge Tolerance Installs Wor Bro Roy Handley**

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August the PGM of Eastern Cape installed Wor Bro Roy Handley as the new Master of Lodge Tolerance. The Grand Lodge delegation, led by Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Avron Jacobson, while small in numbers, enhanced the event and much enjoyed the hospitality extended by one of the GLSA's newest Lodges in a small but fast growing Division.

In his Address, the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Keith Hutton reminded the Brethren of the Cardinal Virtues and the importance of applying them as they followed their journey through life. Going forwards, much is expected of Tolerance and the Master and his team and they have all of our best wishes.



*RW Bro Hutton & Wor Bro Handley*

### **Bro Zane de Jager's Special Initiation**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 will indeed be a night to remember for AJ Haak's Bro Zane de Jager. Not only did he have the usual mixture of excitement and apprehension, he was also faced with meeting the new Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Godfrey Place, on his first official visit to a Northern Division Lodge. He was accompanied by his Deputy and Assistants to make quite sure that the evening was a really special one.



*The Northern Division "Chain Gang" are in the front row - RW Bro Godfrey Place (3L) and Wor Bro Simon Nash (4L). Immediately behind them are Wor Bro Fred Kitching and newly initiated Apprentice, Bro Zane de Jager.*

The excellent working saw the Worshipful Master, Wor Bro Fred Kitching, take the Chair. Unbeknown to the Brethren, Wor Bro Simon Nash, as part of the promotion of the Ritual of Excellence Program, was assessing the Brethren for REP points. Several new members were added to the REP list and have now started on their journey to formal REP recognition.

### **Walking Tall includes the Walking Small!**

Although comparatively small, these youngsters are certainly Walking Tall as they supported the Northern's Walking Tall feeding scheme initiative.

Bro Eric Houniet accompanied the Brethren from Prins Frederik and members of the Provincial Grand Lodge on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019. He was joined by his father, his wife and their two young daughters.

Paulina and Lexia had seen the disappointment of the Mandela Day beneficiaries who did not receive blankets and the family decided to do something about it. The additional blankets that they collected and provided, along with various other items such as shoes, brought much joy to all who received them.



### **Dagbreek Thatch the Bloemfontein Lapa**

Those of you who have had the privilege of attending a Central AGM will know just how much the Bloemfontein Temple complex's Lapa enhances the weekend festivities.

The entertainment area is behind the Temple itself and caters for a few dozen people. The roof was starting to look a little worn - and then Dagbreek stepped in and rethatched it. The most appealing new design includes a large square and compasses which have been cut into the thatch itself.





## Neerlandia welcome Bro Kilonga Sefu

Bro Kilonga Sefu was initiated into Neerlandia on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Seen with him in the picture are the Acting Worshipful Master, VW Bro Grant Futter, and the Wardens Wor Bros Henry Selzer and Schalk Jacobs.



## Jacob de Mist initiate Bro Marthinus Laubscher

On the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019, Jacob de Mist performed a 1<sup>st</sup> degree working to receive Bro Marthinus Laubscher as a member of the Order. Wor Bro Martin Slabbert (3R) was in the Chair, ably assisted by the Brethren.



## Southern's Inter-Constitutional Olympics

In the Southern Division Inter-Constitutional Darts competition, the GLSA team came 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Irish. The team comprised Sean Stuart, Graham Symons, Martin Slabbert, Mike van der Linde and Gary Hendricks.



## New PGM presents his Proposer's 25 Year Pin

The Provincial Grand Master (Northern Division) RW Bro Godfrey Place, presented a 25 year pin and certificate to his Proposer, Wor Bro Kevin Smith. This took place at the very successful Golden City Installation evening where both were present as members of the PGL team.



## Almoner's Corner

We were deeply saddened to hear of the recent passing of Wor Bro Jose Gobetz (Star of the East). He had been a member for 63 long years and was the GLSA's second longest serving member.



We were shocked to hear that Wor Bro Varkie Lee (Makalani) had been taken to the Eternal East. He was our Grand Inspector and a truly dedicated Freemason. Our thoughts are with his family as they come to terms with life without him.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of the wives of Wor Bro Andre Koekemoer (Brits) and Bro Leroyd Bergsteedt (Star of the Rand). Brethren, you and your families are in our thoughts and prayers.

Wor Bro Frik Brits (AJ Haak) was in hospital to have a gall bladder removed but it doesn't seem to have had any impact on his extraordinary Masonic work rate. Look after yourself, Frik, you are very important to us.

Wor Bro Ron Kessler (de Goede Hoop) has been in hospital undergoing tests regarding a serious kidney complaint. While he's always optimistic, our special American is battling right now and needs our prayers.

Wor Bro Derrick Hamilton (Aurora) is recovering from his stroke. I'm assured that he's making good progress but "growing old is not for sissies" and we must make sure that he gets all the support he needs.

Bro Rob Eden (Westerford) put his hand into a circular saw and made a bit of a mess of himself. He really has been through a difficult time over the past months and we sincerely hope that this is the end of it.

Bro Jabez Steenkamp (Marina) managed to fall off his motorcycle in the de Goede Hoop parking area and cracked both wrists. While we sympathise greatly, this is not good for Freemasonry, so please be more careful.

Wor Bro Koosie Snyman's (Johan van Riebeeck) recent check-up confirmed that he is making good progress after his radiation treatment.

Sonop's WM, Wor Bro Juan de Villiers and his wife Anita were blessed with the birth of their son, Retief. Congratulations – and enjoy every moment!

We have also had reports on a number of our Senior Brethren who are battling with a variety of aches and pains. Look after them Brethren, each and every Brother is extremely important to us.

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

Southern	Wor Bro Llew Lloyd-Jones	072 9653572
Northern	Wor Bro Reuven Coenen	071 6120577
Central	Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern	Wor Bro Johan v d Merwe	083 3010219
E Cape	Wor Bro Roy Handley	082 8625804

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.

*Cherokee Expression*