

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 95 December 2019



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

Time flies when you are having fun

Brethren, it's the end of yet another year that seems to have flown by. It seems as if it was only last week Thursday that it was Easter! I wish everyone well over the festive period and may you find rest and refreshment for your soul. My heartfelt thanks for your support during the past year. It is most appreciated. I hope that you will enjoy whatever you have planned for the holiday period and return to your Masonic labours in 2020 with renewed vigour.

The year end, for many, is a time of reflection. *"What have we done during the year to improve ourselves and our lot in life and what did we not do as well as we would like to have done?"*

"Was it a good year and did we have fun?"

Life is about choices and it is those that we make that determine the perceived success or failure of the period under review. It is always a personal evaluation, because we are all different and so the perception of success and failure is different for each of us.

When I retired from the pressures of business and joined the ranks of the *"Gentlemen of leisure"*, I believed that I would have the opportunity to do whatever I wanted to do and not what I had to do. This did not last long, as I realised that being selfish does not make one happy. I became aware that it is only in the service of others that one can gain that sense of achievement that makes you truly content. That the expression *"no man is an island"* is very true and that success in many an undertaking loses its value if there

is no-one to share it with. The loss of very close friends hammers this home. There is no *"fun"* when there is no-one to interact with.

The privilege of being a Freemason and particularly the Grand Master, has created the opportunity for me to have so much fun. The interactions are always exciting and whilst not always positive, they have always provided lessons to be learned. I hope that you have seen that these lessons are being translated into the changes that are occurring in your Grand Lodge; which I believe is in a very different place to where it was 5 years ago.

Brethren, Freemasonry is fun and if you have any doubts, please take a good look at the Masonic environment in which you find yourself. I am the first to admit that many of our Lodges are not perfect, but they are still vital communities. Communities are made up of people with differing wants and needs and so there will always be an opportunity for conflict. Successful communities self-regulate and so when you find that there are issues in your Lodge; address them. Only by participating in the resolution of an opportunity will you change your environment and gain the satisfaction of *"making a difference"*. That sense of success will generate a far better feeling than that sense of despair when you walk away from that opportunity.

"The right to happiness" is repeatedly stated as a fundamental human right. Remember; rights come with responsibilities. It is up to you. You have to work at it and the more effort you put into the service of others, the more fun you will have.

Brethren, may you and your loved ones have a most enjoyable festive period and I look forward to having lots more fun with you next year.

Faternally yours.

MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master



May 2020 be a very special year for each and every one of us. May it be filled with Peace, Health and Happiness - and may each of us, and our Order, Prosper and Grow.



At the Eastern Cape AGM were the Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM (4L), the PGM, RW Bro Keith Hutton (5L), the Grand Lodge Officers, PGL Officers, Representatives of Sister Constitutions and the Brethren.

Eastern Cape AGM - a most successful weekend

This year's Eastern Cape AGM was held in the Parliament Street Temple in Port Elizabeth on Saturday 8 November. The meeting was well organised and the report presented by the PGM, RW Bro Keith Hutton, was a most encouraging one. MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM led the Grand Lodge delegation and all of his senior Officers were in attendance.



RW Bro Keith Hutton welcoming MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM

The Grand Master complimented the PGM on the progress being made in the Eastern Cape and noted that all 4 of the local Lodges were stable and appeared to be enjoying their Freemasonry.

On the Friday night before the AGM the Division had hosted a very successful "What is Freemasonry?" event while, on Saturday evening, after the AGM itself, we all retired to the Port Elizabeth Golf Club for a thoroughly enjoyable banquet. The ambience was very special and all agreed that it had been a great weekend.



AASR of South Africa is making real progress

During 2019 the AASR of South Africa's Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Boet du Plessis, has travelled extensively around Africa and the world, attending conferences and AGMs and ensuring that our jurisdiction is more and more visible on the world map.

His efforts are regularly bearing fruit and this is borne out by the manner in which our Supreme Council is recognised by other international Supreme Councils.

Earlier in the year we were able to report that MP Bro du Plessis had been elected as Chair of the Confederation of African Supreme Councils and we noted the recognition that his Education initiative was enjoying around the world.

In October, MP Bro du Plessis attended meetings in Bulgaria and Turkey. The Turkish AGM also included a meeting of the heads of the international Supreme Councils to discuss arrangements for the 2020 World Conference to be held in Paraguay in April. MP Bro du Plessis has been elected on to the organising committee for this event, with his particular focus on Education. He is also part of the 5 man Selection Committee which will determine the venue for the 2025 Conference.



Sovereign Grand Commanders at the Turkey AGM,

Another major milestone recently achieved is the signing of a full Amity agreement between the Supreme Councils of Scotland and South Africa. This has been 41 years in negotiation and paves the way for full interaction between our Supreme Councils both on an international and local basis.

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



Royal Protea Installation (ECD)

Our East London based Lodge has, for a number of years now, been drifting along without new members. This year, however, things have changed - and the Lodge is on its way back to the position it deserves. Several new members have been welcomed into the Lodge and the Brethren are thriving.

Wor Bro Mark Hiles, who has done a sterling job over the past year, was reinstalled on Saturday 7 November. The ceremony was conducted by RW Bro Keith Hutton and his team, with the Sister Constitutions all there.

Simon van der Stel Installation (SD)

There's always something special about installing a first time Worshipful Master - and the installation of Wor Bro Louis Krige into the Chair of Simon van der Stel saw us doing just that. Louis rejoined the Lodge after some time overseas and is determined to make his mark.

The PGM, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman, led PGL and performed the installation in his usual excellent manner, while the Board of Installed Masters was done by Wor Bro Louis van der Linde. The formal festive board was particularly appreciated (last year, sadly, they forgot it ☺).



25 Year Pins are a great success



Over the past few weeks we have handed out a number of pins to Brethren who have been Freemasons for 25 years or more. The very attractive pins have proved extremely popular and are worn with much pride by the recipients. In this picture, the Grand Master is seen with Wor Bros Alec Saunders and Hannes Jonker, both 25 year pin qualifiers, from Prins Frederik.

Grand Superintendent) and his PGC team performed the ceremony while MEC John Smith OSM MSA (Deputy 1st Grand Principal) led the Grand Chapter delegation.

Lodge Mutual install their new Master

On Thursday 17 November, Lodge Mutual installed Bro Ashley Uytenbogaardt as their new Worshipful Master. The installation itself was performed by the Deputy PGM, Wor Bro Dennis Benadie, while Wor Bro Louis van der Linde did the Board of Installed Masters. This important day was well supported by the Brethren.



Wor Bros Louis van der Linde, Dennis Benadie, Ashley Uytenbogaardt and Jan Venter.

RA Chapter Mutual install a brand new team

Over the past few years, RA Chapter Mutual has had its ups and downs. That, however, now seems to be a thing of the past and they have recently installed 3 new Principals to guide them going into the future.



MEC Frank Begot is the Chapter's new MEZ and he has ECs Meiring van der Merwe and Hein van Rensburg as his EH and EJ respectively. MEC Dawie van Rooyen (the

Losie Magersfontein enjoy a memorable day

Our newest Lodge held a most interesting event at the Bloemfontein Masonic Complex. After an interesting and very interactive presentation by a University Professor, all retired to the lapa for the traditional Free State feast.



Friendship provide Christmas Cheer

On 30 November, Friendship's Worshipful Master,



Wor Bro Stephane Mabiala, along with 3 of his Brethren and their families, visited the Thato KeMatla Orphanage at Orange Farm, The Lodge's Brethren had donated and collected toys and other Christmas gifts for the Orphanage's 47 children, who are aged between 6 months and 17 years.

To demonstrate their appreciation the delighted children put on a dancing show for the Brethren and their families. The Grand Master reflected on the ever increasing number of abandoned children being given hope by the Centre and its dedicated staff and how much they deserve our encouragement and support.



Louise, a young resident and MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM



It was also heart-warming to note that Dave and Lou had taken along their great granddaughter, Leah, and encouraged her to take part in the activities. We must never allow ourselves to forget that, as Freemasons, we are extremely important role models to our families

- and this was a fine example for Leah to follow.

Almoner's Corner

RW Bro Manny Ramos (Golden City) is receiving attention for torn bicep tendons. Look after yourself, Manny, you're important to us!

Wor Bro Ron Kessler (de Goede Hoop) is in hospital fighting cancer. He is in our thoughts and prayers.

Bro Earl Starkey (Golden City) has been in and out of hospital with cardio issues, a kidney infection as well as having had an eye operation.

RW Bro Cedric Moroukian (Cape Town) has been in hospital with stones. He is scheduled to have an aorta operation before Christmas. Keep him in your prayers.

Wor Bro Juan de Villiers' (Sonop) wife Antia is recovering well from a small hospital procedure.

Bro Steve van Eeden (MW Pretorius) is recovering from knee surgery.

Wor Bro Ray Franks (Golden City) is recovering from his bout of blackouts and dizzy spells.

Bro Wynand Goosen (Star of the East) recovered from a snake bite incident and, sadly, saw his father pass away unexpectedly. Our sincere condolences.

Wor Bro Fred Kitching (AJ Haak) keeps fighting but is not yet able and strong enough to attend meetings.

Wor Bro Alex Thompson (Star of the East) has seen his health deteriorate recently and his family and Brethren have come to his aid. Alex is one of our respected veterans, so please keep him in your prayers.

RW Bro Ken Manefeldt (de Goede Trouw) is really struggling with his back problems - but he still manages to get to the odd meetings and call-outs. Vasbyt Ken!

Wor Bro Mervin Kruger (Golden City) has recently had a knee replacement and had kidney stones removed.

Ronel, the wife of Bro Jannie Roets' (AJ Haak), is recovering from having her appendix removed.

Another respected veteran, RW Bro Coen Willemse (Aurora), has knee troubles and walks with a walking aid.

Wor Bro Reyaan Uys (Koh-I-Noor) and his wife, Jacqui, were blessed with the birth of their son Lafras.

To all of our Brethren who, in this season of joy and optimism, are faced with personal challenges, please know that we care and that you are always in our thoughts and prayers. May the GAOTU sustain you at this time.

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 Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

"What is Freemasonry?" makes an impact

On Friday 8 November in Port Elizabeth, we held a well supported "What is Freemasonry?" event. The following letter was received from one of the attendees and makes our efforts seem so very worthwhile.

"Firstly allow me to thank and congratulate you on a well organised, very informative and interesting open day. I felt honoured and humbled to have been part of it. It was indeed a great opportunity for the local people from different cultural backgrounds and religions.

For me personally it was eye-opening and mind-stimulating and it helped to clarify some misconceptions that I have unfortunately stumbled across.

Fortunately, now I understand that the fraternity is about, amongst other things, good men becoming better men, good citizenship, understanding yourself better thus fulfilling your God given potential, growth in faith, non-discrimination, tolerance towards fellow people, personal development and growth, contribution in development and growth of our societies.

I felt it talked directly to me when stressing the principle "DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD THEY DO UNTO YOU"

I know the order is not joined for personal financial gains but encourages its members to be Free Thinking Men, in order to have a positive impact on their families and societies. I am humbly and sincerely asking you to allow me to be part of that, as I feel I can do better in life if I were to be afforded that opportunity.

I hope to hear from you soon and thank you once again in anticipation of a positive feedback."