

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 96 January 2020



Most Worshipful Brother David Duncan OSM.

Using Brotherly Love to make a difference.

Another Festive season has come and gone and life returns to normality. For many however, normality is not a place that any of us would like to be in. Over the festive season there was an outpouring of generosity in which many of the Brethren donated toys and other goods to needy children. Children who will probably never experience a festive season within a natural and loving family. Many of these deserted children live in small orphanages, formal and informal, run on a shoestring and with very little financial help. The gesture of gifts at Christmas is invariably greeted with excitement and appreciation, not only from the children, but also from the dedicated Carers who struggle every day just to feed and clothe them. To most, the provision of Christmas presents is many steps too far.

The problem that the Orphanages have is that Christmas comes but once a year. Their challenge is for 365 days a year. In an economic climate, such as we are presently experiencing, we all have our own challenges and resources are getting scarcer by the day. Whilst our hearts go out to these children, it seems impossible to assume the responsibility for their welfare. All we can do is to try to help along the way. But, have we ever stopped to consider the value of the things that we throw away each month? Clothes and appliances all have a second life when distributed to those in need.

The Orphanages, particularly the informal ones, not only have a financial problem, but many are run by ladies with no formal education, just a big heart. They

do not have the skills and ability to manage their operations in a manner that will eventually make them self-supporting. The emphasis is on providing a meal for today and worrying about tomorrow; tomorrow.

In our Lodges we have Brethren with the skills and abilities to make a difference. If we undertook to help with training and guidance of the Carers in the running and management of the Orphanages, we could make a vast difference without having to donate scarce financial resources – and we all know that time and effort are priceless.

How often have you heard in Lodge that true Charity is often providing a shoulder to cry on, offering a helping hand and not always, a handful of shekels?

The above could be turned into a Lodge project in which all Brethren could contribute and derive a benefit from knowing that they are making a difference in the lives of young people who will eventually play a part in the future of our country. Experience shows that focussed Brotherly Love will bring the Brethren closer together spiritually and raise the image and wellbeing of the Lodge, both internally and in the local community. In a small way, the Brethren of the Lodge can demonstrate to their world that they do care and rightly feel proud to be making a real difference.

**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM
Grand Master**

Freemasonry is a fraternity, but it also qualifies as a philosophy. If you look up philosophy in the dictionary, you discover that it is the love and pursuit of wisdom by intellectual means and moral self-discipline, and a system of values by which one lives.

Christopher Hodapp
Freemasons For Dummies

#kindlequotes

Did you know that **Sir Johannes Truter**, who was our Deputy Grand Master National of the Netherlands from 1805 – 1845, was the first South African to be knighted by a British Monarch. This was for his services as the first Chief Justice of the Cape. He also had the distinction of being the only South African to have ever headed up 2 Constitutions at the same time, having spent 9 years as the District Grand Master of the UGLE.



The Companions of Chapter Johannes Truter seen with visitors from their own and sister Constitutions. In the front row are MECs Graham Sumner, John Smith OSM MSA, Johan Britz (1st Grand Principal), Dawie van Rooyen, Avron Jacobson MSA.

Chapter Johannes Truter Installation

The Chapter Johannes Truter December working is always looked forward to with high expectations. The Chapter has now relocated to Worcester, but this doesn't seem to have dampened any of the enthusiasm.

This time the event was enhanced by both the Installation of MEC de Vos Rabie as the new MEZ of Chapter Johannes Truter. The Grand Superintendent of Southern Division, MEC Dawie van Rooyen, performed the ceremony. The evening was further enhanced by the fact that the Grand Chapter delegation was led by 1st Grand Principal, MEC Johan Britz, who



was accompanied by several of his senior Officers.

As always, the ambience at the evening was more than special and all present agreed that it had been an evening to remember and well worth taking the trouble to make the long drive through the du Toit's Kloof tunnel.

Left: EC Mahmoud Patel



MECs Graham Sumner and John Smith MSA OSM

Unie's Widows Son leads Charity initiative

On 28th December the Central Division branch of the Widow's Sons, led by Wor Bro Phillip Early, a Past Master of Lodge Unie, visited a local old-age home and presented a wheelchair to a delighted resident.



Wor Bro Phillip Early and his team present the wheelchair

Lodge Senekal also had a year-end function where 14 under-privileged children were given Christmas presents and served a much appreciated 3 course meal, and the Widows Sons, along with another Biker's Club, assisted a Bloemfontein home on various jobs and tended to their needs.

Central set a high standard in their 2019 Christmas activities and made a real difference to their local communities.



Lodge de Goede Hoop's Christmas Working

It has become something of a tradition down South that the last working of the year is a 1st degree under the auspices of Lodge de Goede Hoop. This year's candidate was Bro Cornelius Nieuwenhuis (Marina) and he enjoyed an excellent working and, as has become the custom, this was followed by a Christmas dinner.

RW Bro Tommy Hardiman (PGM) led the PGL delegation while the Grand Lodge delegation had the privilege of being led by MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM.



During the course of the evening's working, Bro Jesse Bossenge-Nkoy qualified as a Master Ritualist. The PGM had great pleasure in presenting him with his jewel and then announced, to the approval of all in attendance, that Bro Jesse was now going to be running Southern's Ritual Excellence Program.

The other important announcement was made by the PGM and Convenor of the Spring Ball Committee, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman. He advised Masonic Homes Chairman, RW Bro Brian Rossouw OSM, that the Spring Ball had raised R200,000 for the Homes.



RW Bro Tommy Hardiman with RW Bro Brian Rossouw OSM

Masonic Homes Christmas Lunch

Another Southern Division Christmas tradition is the hosting of a Christmas lunch for the residents of our five Masonic Homes. They all join the various Committees of the Homes for a much enjoyed lunch and are spoiled with a variety of gifts provided for them by the Brethren of the Southern Division.



Father Christmas (aka Brian Rossouw) has as much fun handing out the presents as the recipients have in receiving them.

The 5 Homes, being the Desmain Lodge block of 13 flats, Burchell House, Ted's House and Andy's House for single retired people and the Masonic Home for Quadriplegics, make an enormous difference in the lives of the residents – and the residents much enjoy being able to share time with their Masonic benefactors.



The residents of Desmain Lodge



Andy's House residents with Father Christmas.

Lodge First United Christmas Lunch

Eastern Division's First United is a Lodge that knows when and how to make Freemasonry fun.



This year they took all their wives and partners for Christmas lunch at the Makaranga Lodge in Kloof and I'm assured that everybody had a really good time.

Andy's House enjoys a Fish Braai

It's always special when the Brethren visit the Homes and spend time with the residents – and this was no exception. Wor Bros Jan Venter and Koos du Preez set up the event and I hear that RW Bro Ken Manefeldt, bad back and all, braai'd the fish!



Processing a New Candidate – GrandView style!

The advent of GrandView has assisted us in many of our administrative processes, not least being the managing of a new candidate's application. In this article we define the procedures that a Lodge will have to follow when somebody expresses an interest in joining them.

The Initial Application

New Applicants will either be received through:

- a) the internet, in which case the Lodge will be provided with his completed Application Form A, or
- b) a member of the Lodge, in which case the member of the Lodge will interact with the interested party and obtain his information. Every single brother now has access to GrandView and can, therefore, download the Application Articles and Application Form A and send them to the prospective applicant. To do this, log into GrandView, click on "My Portal", click on "Resources" and download the 2 documents filed under "Candidate". Send them to the prospective new member and ask him to complete them electronically.

The Application Questionnaire

Once a Lodge has a completed Application Form A, the Secretary must now take responsibility for managing the whole application process through to its conclusion. The Application Form A must, therefore, be forwarded to him. He will immediately send a copy to his PG Secretary for onward transmission to the Grand Secretary. The applicant's name will then be captured on to GrandView and circulated to all GLSA members for at least 21 days, during which any Masonic objections can be raised.

The Secretary then sends the applicant a copy of the "Application Questionnaire" and a summary of the Lodge's Financial Obligations. The Questionnaire is obtained by going into GrandView, going to the Lodge, clicking on "Resources/Forms" on the left and downloading the relevant document. Once more the applicant needs to complete the document electronically. If, having completed the Questionnaire, the Applicant is comfortable with the Masonic expectations and wishes to continue with the Application process, he must then return it to the Secretary, along with a signed acknowledgement of the Lodge's Financial Obligations.

Having received the completed Application Form A and the Application Questionnaire, the Secretary should forward copies of these documents to all the Lodge members, giving them 48 hours to raise any Masonic reasons why the processing of the applicant should not be allowed to continue.

Interacting with the Applicant

The Secretary must now ensure that:

- a) the home visit has been properly completed;
- b) any required references have been checked;
- c) the Committee of Enquiry has been held;
- d) the Ballot for the applicant has taken place.

The information obtained from these activities must be electronically captured on to Form B/C and Form/s D.

The applicant must be advised as to the Ballot's outcome and, assuming that it was in favour, the proposed date of his Initiation should be discussed with him.

The Final Steps

If the Application is successful, the applicant must now be invoiced for his Joining Fee and a pro rata share of his Annual Subscription. The Lodge will have to pay PGL for his Initiation package and a pro rata share of the Annual Capitation before he can be initiated and PGL will have to settle the related account with Grand Lodge.

The Secretary will send copies of all the documents and completed Forms to PGL at least 7 days before the initiation and, once again, PGL will forward them to the Grand Secretary for loading on to GrandView.

Grand Lodge will then send the Lodge an Initiation pack which will contain the Book of Life (+ updates for the 2nd and 3rd degrees), an Apprentice Apron, 2 pairs of gloves, fellowcraft and black rosettes and ritual books for all of the 3 degrees, the later 2 being presented when due.

Almoner's Corner

Sadly, Wor Bro Ron Kessler (de Goede Hoop) has finally lost his battle with cancer. Ron was a well loved American Brother who came to South Africa 16 years ago. He was a Past PGL Officer and a 50 year jewel holder. Our sympathies go to Natasha and the boys.

We were equally saddened to hear of the passing of Wor Bro Eddie Mackenzie (Trichardt) the day before he was to receive his 50 year jewel. Eddie had also been a member of Vaalrivier for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Annetjie and the family.

We also have to report the passing of the stepson of Wor Bro Koos du Preez (Johan van Riebeeck) and the mother of Wor Bro Stefan Schmid (Hiram). May your memories help you through this difficult time. Koos himself, incidentally, is due to go in for a heart procedure.

Wor Bro Alex Thompson (Star of the East) fights ongoing complications following his latest procedure and he and his family are being assisted by the Brethren.

To our horror, we hear that Bro Cameron Mackenzie (Golden City) is recovering from a gunshot wound sustained in a robbery at the entrance to his home.

RW Bro Cedric Moroukian (Cape Town) has been in and out of hospital with stones and heart related problems. He has played a very significant role in Southern Division and we all wish him a speedy return to full health.

Wor Bro Heinz Smekal (Hiram) is not at all well. He has been fighting cancer for 3 years, has recently had a hip replaced, with complications, and picked up bronchitis while in hospital. Keep him and Alison in your prayers.

Wor Bro Fred Kitching (AJ Haak) has been in and out of hospital and is really looking forward to being well enough to attend his Lodge. Keep him in your prayers.

Brethren, Freemasonry is a Caring organisation! Let's be sure to practise this with our Brethren in need..

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 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