

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 104 September 2020



Right Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

Grand Master Elect's Abbreviated AGM Address

I wish to thank the Immediate Past Grand Master and the Grand Secretary for their tireless commitment to the Grand Lodge. In addition to the special Awards of Excellence, there are many other members who sacrifice their time, energy and money to ensure that their Lodges, the Provincial Grand Lodges and the Grand Lodge are managed properly. To all these worthy Brethren, I thank you most sincerely for your continued zeal and enthusiasm. I have taken over a fully functional and dynamic Grand Lodge. As every member of our Grand Lodge, irrespective of rank or position, has the opportunity and, indeed, the responsibility to help us shape our future, I will depend on each and every member to provide opportunities to make other good men better and thereby ensure that we leave a legacy of which we can be justly proud.

To ensure that we achieve our Aim and Objectives, we need members who want to be Freemasons and who comply with their obligations. To achieve this, I want our Lodges to read the Aim and Objectives of the Grand Lodge at every Board of Management Meeting so that we can be reminded of these very important foundations of our Masonic structure. With monthly repetition we will become confident to speak about them to each other, to potential Candidates and to non-Freemasons who always ask us why we are members of this Order.

We also need balanced Lodges in which our members can enjoy practising their Freemasonry. A balanced Lodge will have sufficient members to elect Lodge Officers on merit alone and will be financially

solvent. It will strive to impart the lessons which are contained in our Rituals to Candidates in such a way that they do not only have a meaningful experience, but an experience which they will never forget. It will devote equal time to the Recruitment and Retention of members, to Ritual excellence, to Social activities, to Masonic Education and to Charity and will be a haven for its members and their families and a place wherein they will, not only be exposed to the principles of Freemasonry, but where they will become better persons while they enjoy themselves doing so.

Vir die afgelope 5 maande kon ons nie ons Vrymesselary behoorlik beoefen nie. Met die verslapping van die Regering se beperkings, is ek hoopvol dat ons binnekort ons Losies sal kan heropen. Wees geduldig Broeders en laat ons seker maak dat ons nie die veiligheid van ons lede in gedrang stel nie. Laat ons intussen hierdie tyd gebruik om ons Masonieke kennis uit te brei en te verskerp deur die Rituele te bestudeer, deur ons Masonieke Lewensboek weer deur te lees en deur die vele aanlyn lesings en besprekings oor Vrymesselary, by te woon.

Grand Lodge is continually streamlining the general administrative work to make the task of Lodge Secretaries easier. The GrandView system allows us to have instant access to all Grand Lodge notices, Masonic education material, the Square and Compasses monthly newsletter, the Grand Lodge year books and podcasts. I therefore encourage every member to make it a daily habit to log on to GrandView to read the latest news. I also encourage you all to regularly visit the Grand Lodge website and to refer it to your family and friends.

Om ons Losies en ons Lede te ondersteun maak ons gebruik van Grootlosie Kommittees, wat spesifieke opdragte het om Vrymesselary so toeganklik en genotvol soos moontlik te maak. Meeste van die Grootlosie Ampsdraers dien op hierdie Kommittees. Ek het ook sekere ander Broeders, ingevolge die bepalings van die Grondwet, as Kommitteelede aangestel. Nieteenstaande die feit dat sommige van hulle nie 'n Grootlosie rang besit nie, het ek die volste vertroue dat al die Kommitteelede oor die nodige kennis en vaardighede beskik om waardevolle en betekenisvolle bydraes te maak. Die jonger bloed is ons toekoms en ek sien uit na hulle positiewe bydraes in hierdie verband.

I will chair the Grand Lodge Benevolent Committee. We have progressed well with the Charity initiative which was introduced shortly after the lockdown. I am confident that many of our Lodges will seize the opportunity to ensure that distressed and orphaned children in our Country do not go hungry and that they will make this an ongoing charitable project.

MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM will chair the Education Committee. Apart from producing invaluable

Masonic educational material, which will be available on GrandView, the Cadet Program, the Leadership Program, the Mentorship Program, the Advancement Program and the Ritual Excellence Program will all be managed by this Committee.

MW Bro David Duncan OSM will chair the Finance Committee and the Foreign Relations Committee. The Finance Committee will continue assisting Lodges to manage their finances. As Grand Lodge has been registered as a Public Benefit Organisation and is able to present Section 18A receipts, donors will now be able to claim certain tax relief. Although we are in Amity with more than 100 Grand Lodges, he will use his experience and diplomacy to expand our foreign relations and so increase our Amity with the Grand Lodges who have sought recognition from us. Many of our members will be identified and will be appointed as representatives to these foreign Grand Lodges.

RW Bro Brandon Topham will chair the Investment Committee and the newly established Entrepreneurial Development Committee. All Lodge investments, funds raised and donations received will be properly invested until they are actually required.



The newly formed Fund Raising Committee will be chaired by RW Bro Alf Bronner and I am confident that they will raise sufficient money which will enable the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund to financially assist our own members as well as non-Freemasons, when the need arises in the future. I therefore request all members to give your full support to all fund-raising initiatives, which will enable us to make meaningful donations to worthy causes in the future.

RW Bro Avron Jacobson MSA will chair the Technology and Social Media Committee. They have introduced many of us to the modern technology during the past few months through their facilitation of online communication. They are also responsible for the success of today's communication and for the Grand Lodge website, which is regularly updated and which is receiving an increase of visitors every week.

RW Bro Alan van der Vyver will chair the Public Relations and Marketing Committee. As the general public either does not know what Freemasonry is or may have a negative perception thereof, he and his committee will successfully promote Freemasonry and will make it a positive topic of conversation in every household in this country.



RW Bro Tommy Hardiman will chair the Ritual Committee, which will ensure that our Rituals remain pure and relevant and will continue to support and maintain our Aim and Objectives. They will also review any new ritual needs.

RW Bro Godfrey Place will chair the Constitution, Regalia and Procedures Committee. As the Constitution is a living document, they will ensure that it is kept up to date with our ever changing World.



The new Heritage Committee has been formed to safeguard the rich history attached to our Grand Lodge. It will be chaired by RW Bro Brian Rossouw OSM. As Freemasonry was established in South Africa in 1772, we will all be assisting Lodge De Goede Hoop to celebrate its 250th birthday in 2022. This committee will also collect and collate all the historical documents of our Lodges and will ensure that they are properly archived so that we can leave an accurate and meaningful legacy for the future.

Nieteenstaande die feit dat ons lede uit slegs manspersone mag bestaan nie, laat ons nooit nalaat om die Dames in ons lewens te vereer nie. Laat ons dus al die lede van die skoner geslag, wat ons op 'n daaglikse basis teekom, altyd op dieselfde wyse behandel as wat ons graag deur hulle behandel wil word. Dra asseblief my opregte dank aan al U dames oor vir hulle ondersteuning en alles wat hulle vir ons Order doen.

Let us be the leaders in our homes, in our businesses, in our communities and let us, through our good example, show all non-Freemasons what a happy and beneficial Organisation we belong to. Although we all want to resume our Masonic labours like we used to, please be patient Brethren. We are not only monitoring the Covid situation in our Country but we are and will continue to discuss the resumption of our Masonic activities. In the interim, let us symbolically form our Brother Chain, the symbol of that bond which joins us so intimately to one another that it encircles the whole World and let us again express our sincere desire to continue our labours in which we will, individually and collectively, strive to fulfil our Aim and achieve our Objectives. Let us symbolically stand together, hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder and dedicate ourselves anew to the great principles of Freemasonry. Let us solemnly undertake to support each other, our Lodges, our Provincial Grand Lodges and our Grand Lodge. Let us all be mindful of our duties and their faithful discharge and in doing so earn the continued blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe.

**RW Bro John Smith OSM MSA
Acting Grand Master**

Special Award Winners – 2019 - 2020

RW Bro John Smith OSM MSA made the following awards for Exceptional Performance or Service.

Secretary of the Year	Wor Bro Riaan Croucamp
Best Paper by a Chain	VW Bro Simon Nash
Best Education Paper	Bro David Lucas
Development of Web Site	Wor Bro Jeremy Rundle
Online Technical Support	RW Bro Avron Jacobson
GLSA Financial Restructure	RW Bro Brandon Topham

MP Bro Boet du Plessis awarded a MA

In a recent meeting, the Executive Committee of the AASR for South Africa decided that their Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Boet du Plessis, had more than earned a Meritorius Award (MA). This is the highest honour which can be bestowed on any member.

Over the past few years, MP Bro du Plessis has not only extended and upgraded our Rituals but has also made major strides with the supporting Education material. He has managed the mutual recognition between our Supreme Council and those of England and Scotland, has played a leading role as Charman of the African Confederation of Supreme Councils and has re-established our Supreme Council in the International Community. His close relationship with Arturo de Hoyos (seen in the picture with Boet) has proved of major benefit to the AASR for South Africa.



Bushy's Record Attempt "Back on Track"

Those of you who, like me are Bushy McKelvey fans, will be pleased to know that his new attempt on the Guinness world record for the greatest distance covered on a motorbike in 24 hours has now been rescheduled. It will take place at the Phakisa Raceway in Welkom from 6 pm on Wednesday 30th September.

Best of luck, Bushy! I, for one, will be pleased when the event has been successfully completed.

Grand Master's Covid Feeding Scheme

"Freemasonry is a caring organisation" and being aware of Covid-19 allied challenges, such as children being unable to obtain sufficient food to sustain them adequately, the immediate Past Grand Master, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM, decided that we would show how much we cared by helping some of the most needy.

MW Bro Duncan set the members of GLSA a target of a quarter of a million Rand and, much to his delight, the reaction well exceeded our expectations and the amount was more than achieved. This meant that we could now look at the most effective way of providing some real assistance. Supported by the Provincial Grand Masters, the "Feeding 1,000 children for a 100 days" initiative was launched around South Africa. and a very tasty vanilla flavoured porridge is now enjoyed daily by some 1,000 recipients.

To distribute the porridge most effectively, the Provincial teams got involved and delivered the 5 kg bags through a variety of outlets such as foster homes or orphanages around the country. This short report explores just a few of these initiatives.



Northern Division found a real need in Mamelodi and, working along with the Viva Foundation, they are now feeding 300 children for the 100 days. I'm given to believe that one of their Lodges plans to extend the end date but hope to tell you more about that next month. The Division is also feeding 50 children at Thato Ke Matla Orphanage and continues to support the Walking Tall Feeding Scheme on a monthly basis.



Thato's "angel" Disebo with Wor Bro Souami Mabiata

Southern Division had RW Bro Tommy Hardiman and Wor Bro Cobis Wilson do a delivery tour visiting orphanages in Wellington, Robertson, Piketberg and Mooresberg. They delivered a total of 104 x 5 kg bags



of porridge which equates to feeding 140 children for 100 days. The children are much enjoying the meals being provided and love the taste of their new breakfasts. The

Hannie Visser of Badisa with very touching "thank you"

Wor Bro Cobis Wilson message from Huis van Heerde (Mooresberg) summed up the impact that we are having on needy lives and our Brethren really are delighted to have been able to contribute.

In Central Division, RW Bro Frans Appelgryn and his team have also decided to focus on the desperately hungry in the outlying areas and are feeding 50 needy children in Reddersburg and 30 more in Wepener.

Eastern Division focused their feeding efforts on 2 Child Care facilities.



Bobbie Bear received 14 bags of porridge from RW Bro Basil de Kock and his PGL team, while Senzokuhle Child Care were allocated enough to feed 34 children for 100 days. The Senzokuhle visit was performed by Wor Bro Jeremy Rundle, who also presented them with clothes, toys and other items.

In the Eastern Cape, RW Bro Keith Hutton and his team assisted orphanages in both East London and in Port Elizabeth. As is seen below, the Freemasons and their families all had a great time being involved.



The following letter from Love Story, says it all.

Thank you for your incredibly generous donation of porridge. Your donation will go towards feeding families in need in the various underprivileged communities in our city, where there is an even greater need due to the current Covid-19 pandemic. Many people will be blessed through your generosity and we are so grateful.

Almoner's Corner

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please share it with your Divisional Almoner.

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



The recent past has seen us bidding a final farewell to several of our more prominent GLSA members – and this month is no different. On Sunday 23rd August, RW Bro Billy Prentzler (Mutual) was called to the Eternal East. “Billy”, who had been battling with his health for some time, was an extremely

knowledgeable member of the GLSA. He was a Past Grand Junior Warden and had excelled in Royal Arch, where he had risen to First Grand Principal. Our thoughts and prayers are with Natalie and the family.

RW Bro Johan Britz (Libertas) is scheduled for a back operation on 15th September. Best of luck Johan, we'll be monitoring your progress.

Wor Bro Tony Bosman (MW Pretorius) had his mother pass away recently. Our condolences to Tony and the family during this very difficult time.

RW Bro Cedric Moroukian (Cape Town) tells me that he's going in for another operation next week to replace an old stent and remove the final stones – after which he should be almost as good as new. We are thinking of you Set and have you in our prayers.

RW Bro Alan van der Vyver (Prins Frederik) has been diagnosed with heart complications and high blood pressure and is receiving specialists' attention. To his disappointment and, I suspect everybody else's delight, he's been told that he mustn't get into any fights!

Matty, wife of Wor Bro Kevin Smith (Koh-I-Noor), was in high care for a week with high blood pressure and 2 blood clots and is now recovering.

Wor Bro Andre Germishuys (de Goede Hoop) is up and about again after his stroke and hopes to be back in action as soon as is practically possible.

On a happy note, we are delighted to be able to announce that Margeaux, the wife of Wor Bro Donovan le Roux (Parys), has presented him with a healthy and happy new Lewis Congratulations to all of you – and we are pleased to hear that all 3 of you are doing well.



We were delighted to hear that Paulina Houniet had been appointed Director of Walking Tall with

Pride. When it comes to Charity, Bro Eric Houniet (Prins Frederik) and his family set a fine example.

Wor Bro Jan Venter (Johan van Riebeeck) has had an operation on his knee and is getting around on crutches – or, as his WM describes it, on all 4 legs

Our Covid-19 victims seem to be recovering, although I believe that Wor Bro George Shein (Jock of the Bushveld) has tested positive and is resting at home. Please Brethren, continue to treat this Virus with the utmost respect. Wear a mask and keep your distance.

Reading of the GLSA's Aims and Objectives

The Grand Master Elect, RW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, has decreed that the Aims and Objectives of the GLSA will now be read at all Lodge Board of Management meetings, with immediate effect. This must be included on the Agenda straight after the Opening Prayer. The material to be read will be available in English and Afrikaans and the English version reads:



The **AIM OF THE GRAND LODGE OF SOUTH AFRICA** is to build a multi-cultural brotherhood of good men who practice brotherly love, charity and truth and who are united in the enhancement of wisdom, high moral standards and justice for all persons. The strict adherence to these principles will inculcate the duties of loyalty, good citizenship and family values in its members and will promote reconciliation between and mutual respect of all persons. They will further strengthen the members' belief in a Supreme Being and will encourage the practice of equality of all persons and the adherence of human rights for all persons. They will also ultimately build stronger bonds of true friendship among its members.

It is **THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS GRAND LODGE:**

1. to encourage all free-thinking men who wish to and who may already contribute to peaceful and poverty-free communities, to become members;
2. to encourage every member to adopt high moral and ethical standards in his daily life;
3. to encourage every member to expand on and improve his spiritual growth and to share this with all persons with whom he comes into contact;
4. to make a good man a better man by encouraging him to know, understand and practice the lessons to be learned in the VSL, the Rituals and the Protocols and Customs of the Order;
5. to encourage the development of every member's social and spiritual character which will let him understand his weaknesses and take steps to overcome them;
6. to empower every member to implement what he has learned and thereby uplift the society in which he lives;
7. to inculcate the concepts of truth, integrity, brotherly love and charity in every member's life and make these a part of his being.