

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 114 July 2021



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

Masonic Advancement

As our Country starts to recover from the recent civil unrest, it is indeed a blessing to see members of communities, who are from all walks of life and who were either oblivious to each other or just ignored each other prior to this unrest, initially united in a common goal to protect the malls in their communities and prevent the destruction of its infrastructure. During the past few days these persons have continued with this new found unity and have successfully restored peace to their neighbourhoods, cleaned up the mess left by the looters and assisted each other repair the damage and start to rebuild that which had been destroyed. They are talking to each other, taking each other's hands and are sharing food and other necessities with each other.

Communities throughout the Country are seeking leaders who are law abiding, truthful, moral and empathetic. These desires fall squarely within the principles upon which Freemasonry is based, namely Truth, Morality and Brotherly Love. I therefore believe that this will be the catalyst for the long awaited positive change in the general attitude amongst most South Africans and this is our opportunity to promote Freemasonry wherever we can.

I again thank the Provincial Grand Masters for raising the sum of R200,000.00 in pledges at a single zoom meeting during the course of last week to assist our members in the Eastern Division. In addition to this, we are truly blessed that we are able to continue to work well together with the Brethren from our Sister Constitutions and I congratulate the committee

members of the Masonic complex in Bloemfontein, which is owned and operated by all four Constitutions and which has donated R50,000,00 to the Freemasons in Kwa-Zulu Natal to assist all members there who have been adversely affected by the civil unrest.

Ek het vir SV Br Frans Appelgryn versoek om my opregte dank aan al ons lede en ook aan die lede van die Suster Grootmagte oor te dra, wat betrokke was by hierdie besluit. Ek het ook briewe in hierdie verband aan die Grootlosies van Engeland, Ierland en Skotland per epos gestuur. Ek het reeds antwoorde van hierdie Grootlosies ontvang waarin hulle die gees van samewerking onder ons onderskeie lede loof en prys en hulle daarvoor gelukwens.

Freemasons are not immune to life's trials and tragedies. Our frequent referral to the Volume of the Sacred Law and the lessons contained in our rituals prepare us, in some measure, to cope with such events. We should therefore not be afraid of them as we have, on our Masonic journey, spiritually and intellectually contemplated these awful subjects and we should be prepared to deal with them when we physically encounter them. While this may set us apart from other persons, we must use our knowledge and the fortitude which we gain there from to support and assist all other persons who may not be as well equipped as we are. Remembering that we labour for the good of humankind, we must therefore continue to bear this responsibility bravely and strive to assist others whenever and wherever we can. Let us therefore take the lead in our communities and work places and show our fellow South Africans what Freemasons can do.

Notwithstanding the Covid pandemic, we have had a busy year as is reflected in my annual report which has been sent to every member. I believe that next year will be even busier and far more exciting. We have, for an extended period, been forced to be separated from each other and our movements have been restricted. As we return to normality, our fraternal ties will be a strong attraction to many good men who may now be used to working from home and who will be seeking friendship and camaraderie from other good men, like ourselves. At my installation I gave each Commissioned Officer a pocket book of Masonic meditations for every day of the year. The meditation for today is: *Grant that our labours may produce the fruits of Wisdom and Love.* The author notes that the excellence of character which we seek to cultivate does not come about by accident, but rather by the way we direct our actions. Let our words and actions therefore be the seeds and let us aim to produce the best and most worthwhile of fruits.

I thank all the members who have volunteered to serve on the Grand Committees. I will discuss the composition of these Committees with the present

Chairmen and we will finalise their structures in time for the Grand Committee meeting in August. As we face this new Masonic year, let us not be fearful and let us remember the words of Steve Jobs, who said: *When we work at something we really care about, we don't have to be pushed. The vision and the excitement on achieving our goal will pull us along.*

Broeders, voor ons praat, laat ons luister; voor ons reageer, laat ons dink; voor ons kritiseer, laat ons die saak eers goed oorweeg; voor ons bid, laat ons almal eers vergewe en voor ons opgee, laat ons weer 'n keer probeer. Elkeen van ons is die kunstenaar van ons eie lewens. Moet dus nooit die verfkwas vir iemand anders gee nie.

And so Brethren, let us embrace this new Masonic year with all its present and unknown challenges. If people say we are crazy to think we can change the World, let us show them that we can.

**MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA
Grand Master**

Lodge Jeffrey's Bay - Some really good news!

Just before South Africa and the GLSA went into level 4 lockdown, the Eastern Cape Division Brethren were able to constitute Lodge Jeffrey's Bay. This new Lodge was founded on Saturday 26th June 2021 and, even if only on Zoom at this stage, it's heart-warming to see our new Brethren getting fully involved with the GLSA and sharing in such activities as our AGM.



Eastern Cape's PGM, RW Bro Keith Hutton (Front Left), assisted by his PGL team, expertly performed the ceremony with Wor Bro Christoffel Uys (Front Centre) being installed as the Worshipful Master and Wor Bros Christiaan de Vos and Hendrik Rademeyer as Wardens.

Overall, it was a most memorable occasion.

Secretary of the Year - Bro Michael Shackleton

This year's "Secretary of the Year" really did get thrown in the deep end. His predecessor had to step down at short notice and, as a result, Bro Michael Shackleton took over. He immediately built up a reputation for getting Agendas and Minutes completed timeously and accurately. His work is neat and his follow-ups well judged and appropriate. He is in a big, demanding Lodge and has done so much more than merely survive. He is setting a fine example and is a Brother who is really making a difference to both Lodge Koh-I-Noor and our Order. He will receive the floating trophy and his certificate at the first available opportunity.



We've got your back Brother!

I was recently copied in on an email which had been sent by VW Bro Johan van der Merwe (Acting PGM of Eastern Division) to his fellow PGMs, While I don't have the space to publish the full email, the context is so special and so very Masonic that I felt I had to share it with you.

As we all know, Kwa-Zulu Natal (and Gauteng) were subjected to the most atrocious looting and destruction and, inevitably, the locals were concerned for the well-being of themselves, their families and their communities. Johan (left) shared this with his fellow PGMs and, without any hesitation, they had reacted as one, raised R200,000 and were looking for the best way to assist. This included food relief, even to the point of arranging "mercy flights" to the areas involved.



In his email, Johan says that "Every Division of the GLSA was simply amazing in their moral and other support, and we knew that Grand Lodge had our backs because the Grand Master became involved personally."

"RW Bro Tommy Hardiman initiated the talks among the PGMs and coordinated relief efforts."

"RW Bro Godfrey Place used all the resources at his disposal to boost the planning of possible food relief, even to planning air couriers if needed."

"RW Bro Keith Hutton pledged funds from his Division and himself and drew attention to a Brother from Eastern Cape who was in Natal and in distress."

"RW Bro Frans Appelgryn mobilised the Free State Brethren from all Constitutions and they raised an additional R50,000 of support and made a real difference with their food support efforts."

Overall, Brethren the support was quick and quite outstanding and makes me very proud to be a Mason.

Cape Town make a tentative return

As far as Bro Robert Kakesse was concerned the President's Sunday announcement came just in time. He wanted to go through his second degree ceremony before leaving the country for 6 months on the Tuesday and some quick organising ensured that the working, fully in line with strict Masonic Covid protocols, was able to take place on the Monday. Congratulations to all involved on a job extremely well done.



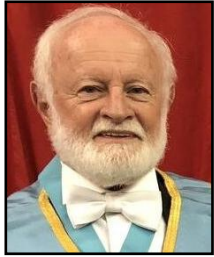
Lodge Cape Town with the Worshipful Master, Wor Bro Edgar Baron, and Bro Robert Kakesse in front.

Exceptional Service Awards

Each year the Grand Master highlights Brethren who have, in one way or another, truly excelled. The Brethren included here were formally recognised by MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, at our GLSA AGM.

RW Bro Brian Rossouw OSM

Brian was appointed as the Chairman of the Heritage Committee a year ago and was tasked with compiling a book covering the development of Freemasonry in South Africa over a period of 250 years - from the formation of Lodge De Goede Hoop in 1772 to its 250th anniversary in 2022. Brian set about this project with great enthusiasm and he and his Committee, along with several co-opted members from the Sister Constitutions have exceeded all expectations and are well on track with the book's production. Sales are now open and every GLSA Mason and, indeed, every Freemason in South Africa, should order a copy. The link for ordering is : [Purchase the Heritage Book](#)



SV Br Johan Britz

Johan is 'n oud Meester van Losie Libertas, 'n aktiewe Groot Eerste Opsier van Grootlosie en die Eerste Groot Prinsipaal van die Opperste Groot Koninklike Gewelf Kapittel van Suid-Afrika. Niteenstaande sy senior status in ons Grootlosie, is hy deur sy Losie aanbeveel om hierdie toekenning te ontvang ter erkenning van sy finansiële vrygewigheid, sy gereed beskikbaarheid om enige Broeder by te staan en, in besonder, sy nederigheid in alles wat hy doen. SV Br Britz, U is voorwaar 'n voorbeeld vir ons almal en ek is geeërd om U as 'n lid van my span te hê. Baie dankie vir U volhoue ondersteuning en pligsgetrouheid, dit word opreg waardeer.



VW Bro Rex Ingle

Rex is a Past Master of Lodge Star of the East, which should have celebrated its centenary in 2020. When lockdown prevented this, Rex set about producing a book on the history of his Lodge, which he released at the belated centenary celebration in June 2021. This book was clearly a labour of love and it contains very many interesting stories, extracts from the Lodge's minutes and a host of photographs. His wife, Heather, did all the typing and actively supported Rex in this very noble endeavour. He has also been a stalwart on the Heritage Committee, producing a number of excellent papers which will be included in the Heritage Book.



Wor Bro Edgar Baron

Edgar was locked down in America in 2020 and, to keep himself Masonically active, started an online Masonic discussion group - the International Masonic

Town Hall. The Grand Secretary and I have attended all 12 sessions and have established relationships with Grand Masters and senior Brethren in America, Canada and India. This project has successfully introduced our Grand Lodge to Grand Lodges with whom we would not normally have had the opportunity of developing fraternal relationships and we are certainly reaping the benefits thereof.



Wor Bro Marco Petroonio

He and his family have privately and quietly supported many worthy charitable projects during the past year. He has also introduced us to certain of these projects and many Brethren and Lodges have made charitable contributions in response thereof. These efforts have touched the lives of the many recipients and I thank you Wor Bro Petroonio, not only for your financial generosity but also for regularly reminding us of our Charitable duties.



Bro Gary Hendricks

He quietly started providing a cooked Sunday lunch to an ever growing number of disadvantaged persons during the previous lockdown period. When the Provincial Grand Master of the Southern Division became aware of this, he requested assistance from the members in his Division and the Provincial Grand Lodge and certain Lodges in this Division now either purchase the food or reimburses Bro Hendricks. This has enabled him to serve even more Sunday lunches and I thank you my Brother for showing us how a true Freemason should conduct himself. Well done and keep up the good work.



Losie Jakob de Mist

Hierdie Losie het die Lily Rose plakkerskamp 'n paar jaar gelede aangeneem as 'n liefdadigheids projek. Die inwoners was destyds meestal bejaarde persone wat of hulle werk verloor het of hulle werk moes opgee as gevolg van hulle ouderdom en wat nie genoeg geld gehad het om in gewone woonbuurte te kon woon nie. Die eerste bydraes het meestal uit kos en gebruikte klere bestaan. Aangesien daar geen water toevoer tot die kamp was nie, het die Losie toe besluit om geld in te samel om 'n boorgat daar te stel. Hulle het ander lede, ander Losies, die Provinsiale Grootlosie, die suster Grootmagte en die publiek genader in hierdie verband en binne 'n paar weke was genoeg geld ingesamel en 'n boorgat kontrakteur is aangestel. Water is gevind; die gat is geboor; pype is aangelê; was, stort en toilet geriewe is gebou en die inwoners van hierdie gemeenskap, wat nou tot meer as 100 persone van alle ouderdomme gegroei het kan, tot 'n mate, 'n meer normale lewe handhaaf.



Almoner's Report

Tragically, Covid is not behind us yet and we have to report on yet another deceased Brother who has been taken by it. Bro Gerhard Engelbrecht (Orange) was just 40 years old and leaves a wife and 2 children. They have our deepest sympathies in this time of grief.

Sadly, we also have to report on the tragic passing of Bro Justin Mclean (Star of the West) as a result of an accident. Our condolences go to those close to him.

RW Bro Boet du Plessis (Star of the East) is in hospital and the latest news is that they will be fitting him with a pacemaker. Get well soon, Boet, we (like Theresa) care and we want you up and about again!

Wor Bro Andre Germishuys (de Goede Hoop) is really being challenged at present. He was due to get his neuron simulator fitted to ease his back pain when he was diagnosed with Covid. Best of luck Andre - there must surely be an end in sight.

Other than that, RW Bro Tommy Hardiman's 3 year old daughter, Rebecca, has had her tonsils removed and I'm assured that she is back to full throttle.

I've received little other input recently. Brethren. Please keep us updated when you are being challenged. We care about you and we want to support you.

Having said all that, Brethren, I am well aware that a number of our Brethren and their wives and families have been and are still being afflicted by Covid to some or other extent. Tragically, several of them have passed away as a result.

This virus is a nightmare and the only known way in which we can beat it is through herd immunity - and that means getting people vaccinated as fast as possible.

What horrifies me is when I hear Brethren speculating about whether or not to get the jab.

I listened to an American report a few days ago. At this stage 50% of their population has been vaccinated. Their current Covid deaths, however, are that 99.4% are from people who are unvaccinated and .6% from vaccinated. This really is a "no-brainer" Brethren, For your sake and everybody else's, get vaccinated now!

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 Paul Nash	083 3774843
Central Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern Wor Bro Marais Viljoen	083 4413670
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

Lockdown Laughter

Edelweiss Smith sent me a selection of Lockdown Laughter items and I selected a couple to share.

- To all those ladies who wanted their husbands to spend more time at home, how are you doing?
- 2019 - Avoid negative people.
2020 - Avoid positive people.
2021 - Avoid people because you don't know whether they are positive or negative.
- I never thought that my hands would consume more alcohol than my liver.

The return - post zoom



The Grand Lodge AGM and the future

As you are all well aware, this year's Grand Lodge AGM took place under Zoom. Based on the feedback received, it was a great success and more than achieved its objectives of attending to our annual business requirements and providing our members with a proper update on what was happening in our Grand Lodge.

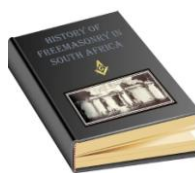
Statistically, we had some 180 of our Brethren register for the meeting and \pm 160 online. It is also worth noting that there were more Brethren online at the end of the meeting than there were at the beginning. As we elected to keep this meeting closed to non GLSA Masons, these were all our own members.

Another new innovation which was introduced by the Grand Master, was the circulating of his Annual Report prior to the meeting itself. As he noted, many Brethren find the reading of the report somewhat long and tedious and, by sending it out in advance, it gives every single Brother a chance to read it properly and to be better prepared for the meeting itself. This Report is the single most important document in preserving our history each year and everybody should read it!

Next year we will, hopefully, be open again for "normal" Masonry. We will be looking to celebrate our 250th birthday with not only our own members but with Grand Lodges from all around the world. The reality is, though, that the last couple of years have taught us new skills and some of these just have to be continued with.

The Heritage Book - pre-sales are now open!

In 2022, South African Freemasonry celebrates its 250th birthday. To mark this event, we are publishing a Heritage Book summarising our history across all Constitutions and Divisions. The A4 book will be published in hard cover and leather bound versions and only pre-ordered and paid for books will be printed. To reserve your Collector's Item, click on:



[Purchase the Heritage Book](#)