

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 131 December 2022



Most Worshipful Brother John Smith OSAI MSA.

A Brief Review of 2022

Globally, this year has been a year of war, protests, uncertainty and depression, but also of hope. We were shocked by the outbreak of the war in Eastern Europe and the continued consequences thereof. We watched with interest as several of the favourite teams were eliminated in the soccer World Cup and we rejoiced with Argentina when they eventually won this competition. We sent our condolences to the UGLE on the death of Queen Elizabeth II and we all struggled to manage our finances which were adversely affected by fuel hikes, load shedding and political uncertainty.

Notwithstanding this, our Grand Lodge was very active in 2022 and I remind you of some highlights. In January we introduced the Balanced Lodge program, which is not only designed to assist Lodges to ensure that they are balanced, but it also gives every Lodge the opportunity to win the annual competition. As many Lodges took some time to become acquainted with it, the first winner will be announced at the annual meeting of Grand Lodge in 2023. In February we reopened Lodge Vereeniging and, as the newly installed First Grand Principal of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of South Africa, I presented the Meritorious Service Award (MSA) to RW Bro Johan Britz. During March we held a successful "Chains" conference where all Commissioned Officers and Provincial Grand Secretaries and Treasurers were afforded an opportunity to express their views. During May we commemorated the founding of Lodge De Goede Hoop on 2 May 1772 and celebrated the centenary of Lodge Neerlandia.

In June we hosted Brethren from 13 foreign Grand Lodges and from Lodges, Districts and Provinces of all the Constitutions from all parts of the country when we celebrated 250 years of Lodge de Goede Hoop and held the Grand Lodge Annual Meeting. The audio-visual presentation, the Magic of Masonry was enjoyed by all, even the non-masons. The Heritage Book, encompassing 250 years of all South African Freemasonry, exceeded our expectations and was also presented to the Western Cape Premier, Alan Winde, who attended the banquet and ball.

During July we installed the new Provincial Grand Master of our Northern Division, RW Bro Simon Nash and I presented 50 year long service jewels to RW Bro Piet Naude MSA and Wor Bros Leon Sher, Marthinus Prinsloo and Jock Wood. During August we celebrated the centenary of Lodge Parys and announced a training program for Lodge mentors. RW Bro Victor Muhlenbeck, a past Assistant Grand Master, was elected as the new Sovereign Grand Commander of the AASR for South Africa. During September we attended the installation of the new Pro Grand Master of the UGLE, MW Bro Jonathan Spence and during October, Wor Bro Skottowe Lourens of Lodge Orange qualified as a Grand Ritualist.

In November we dedicated the new Eastern Cape Masonic Temple in Port Elizabeth and I presented the Order of Service to Freemasonry (OSM) to RW Bro Keith Hutton, the Eastern Cape Division Provincial Grand Master. I also presented a 60 year long service jewel to Wor Bro Hylke Jorritsma and Builders' jewels to Wor Bro Marius Terblanche and Wor Bro Nowellyn van Vuuren for their exemplary contributions to the renovations of the new temple. During December I attended the annual communication of the National Grand Lodge of France and was able to spend quality time with many of the Grand Masters of the other 61 Grand Lodges in attendance.

Inevitably, we again unfortunately mourned the loss of several Brethren who passed away, including RW Bro Boet du Plessis, a past Grand Junior Warden and the Sovereign Grand Commander of the AASR for South Africa and RW Bro Frikkie Botha, a past Provincial Grand Master of the Central Division.

Mahatma Gandhi said: *happy is the person who remembers the past, lives in the present and plans for the future.* Ons het opwindende planne vir 2023 en ek hoop dat U hulle saam met ons sal deurvoer. Dit is wel bekend dat iemand sy toekoms kan verander as hy sy houding verander en ek wens U almal 'n baie gelukkige, voorspoedige en geseënde nuwe jaar. Let us therefore seize every opportunity during 2023 to continue promoting the tenets of Freemasonry and helping to make the World a better place for all people.

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

Grand Master's visit to France

As part of our Grand Lodge's foreign relations program we try to ensure that we have regular physical contact with other Grand Lodges around Africa and the World. Costs and time prevent us from attending as many international events as we might like to, so we try to ensure that the events that we go to are attended by significant numbers of international Grand Lodges.

Earlier this year MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM and RW Bro Brandon Topham represented us at the Installation of MW Bro Jonathan Spence as the new



MW Bro Jonathan Spence with MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA as their Grand Master, MW Bro Jean-Pierre Rollet, had proved to be a very supportive friend on his visit to Cape Town in June, we decided to join them.

MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, accompanied by his wife, Edelweiss, arrived in Paris in time for the Friday 9th December opening cocktail party and Grand Master's dinner. This was on a river boat on the Seine and John and Edelweiss sat at a table with the current Grand Masters of Austria, Cameroon *MW Bro Armino Azevedo (Portugal)* and Ivory Coast and a Past Grand Master of France, together with their wives / partners.



On Saturday Edelweiss joined a large group of ladies on a conducted tour of Versailles, while our Grand Master attended the Annual Communication.

The Masonic meeting was in the afternoon at the *Espace Passy* of the *Palais des Congres*, and was attended by well over 1,000 brethren. The morning was spent interacting with various foreign Grand Lodges and MW Bro Smith spent time with numerous Grand Masters and senior Brethren. At a buffet lunch, he was seated with the Grand Masters of Finland, Israel, Belgium and Benin, along with various other Brethren



MW Bro John Smith with African Grand Lodge Officers

After lunch the Grand Lodge delegations robed and were assembled in order of seniority. There were 62 visiting delegations and the GLSA was admitted as the 29th, so MW Bro Smith was able to enjoy the ceremony from a seat in the second row in the East. The annual communication was conducted in French

with much decorum and dignity.

The stage was set up as a Lodge with the Wardens in the West.

Brethren who were neither Grand Lodge officers or part

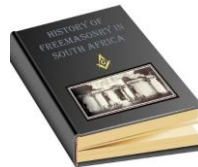


of a visiting with *MW Bro Jean-Pierre Rollet (France)* delegation, were seated where the audience would be in a theatre, which represented the West.

On Saturday evening John and Edelweiss attended the Annual Communication Dinner in the ballroom of their hotel. There were some 800 people present and they sat at the GM of France's table with the Pro-GM of the UGLE and the GMs of Ireland, Portugal and Senegal and their wives / partners.

MW Bro Smith spent time sharing ideas with MW Bros Jonathan Spence (UGLE) and Douglas Grey ((Ireland) as well as other Brethren present. Overall it was an interesting and productive weekend where the Grand Lodge of South Africa gained much of value.

The Heritage Book – Orders still being taken!



In 2022, South African Freemasonry celebrated its 250th birthday. To mark this event, we published a Heritage Book relating our history over all Constitutions and Divisions.

A few copies of the A4 book are still available through our GLSA online Shop - click on:

[Purchase Heritage Book](#)

Chapter Johannes Truter's Annual EM

Each December Worcester based RA Chapter Johannes Truter holds an Excellent Mark Master working at which Sister Constitution Brethren are able to experience this South African degree. The evening is relaxed and celebrates another year of Royal Arch Masonry. It is well supported by senior RA Officers.



In front - MEC Avron Jacobson MSA, MEC John Smith OSM MSA, MEC Hylton Oates, MEC Mahmoud Patel and MEC Louis van der Linde.



Wor Bro Mark Hiles (4L) with RW Bro Keith Hutton OSM on his right and Wor Bro Ric Gilmer on his left. They are surrounded by PGL Officers, Visitors and Lodge members.

Royal Protea Reinstall Mark Hiles

In the GLSA, when we talk East London, we automatically think of Wor Bro Mark Hiles. After seeing the Lodge through the Covid era, he is now settling into another term as Worshipful Master. The Lodge is a small, happy one that really needs a growth spurt. At the Royal Protea Installation, the PGL team was led by RW Bro Keith Hutton OSM, who performed an excellent ceremony, and Wor Bro Ric Gilmer. The harmony was special and all present were impressed by it.

Balanced Lodge Program Questionnaire

Some 12 months ago RW Bro Brandon Topham initiated the “Balanced Lodge Program”. This was tested extensively in 2022 and the Lodges taking part were very excited by the benefits that they obtained. RW Bro Godfrey Place was then appointed as the “Balanced Lodge Program” Chairman and he and his Committee tasked with implementing it at all Lodges.

A few minor adjustments were made and the updated questionnaire was rolled out. At the end of each month the Master of every Lodge must now answer the questions HONESTLY, setting out the Lodge's performance for the month gone by. While only the Master accesses the Questionnaire, here are the questions so that all our members can be involved.

Category - Admin

- How many members does your Lodge have (excluding honorary or nominated members)?
- Was the agenda for the official meetings sent out 14 days before meeting to members and Province?
- Were the minutes of the last Board of Management meeting circulated to the members for review and adoption at the meeting?
- Were the Lodge's financial statement presented at the Board of Management meeting for adoption?
- Was the Lodge Board of Management meeting quorate this month (i.e 7 Master Masons present)?
- If the PGL AGM was held this month, did at least 2 of the expected Lodge officers attend the meeting?

Category - Social

- Does Lodge have active, friendly WhatsApp group?
- Is the atmosphere within the Lodge friendly?
- Did your Lodge have any family interaction or social event this month?
- Was this social event attended by at least 33% of the members of Lodge?

Category - Benevolence

- Did your Lodge conduct a fundraising event this month which raised funds towards benevolence (not the benevolence collection in the Lodge)?
- Did your Lodge conduct a charitable / benevolence activity this month (e.g. help out at the local old age home with repairs and maintenance etc.)?
- Has your Lodge recorded the value of Benevolence donated to organisation's your Lodge supports?

Category – Ceremonial Meetings

- Did the Lodge open on time? (within 5 minutes of advertised time).
- Did your Lodge open in accordance with one of the 3 degrees, with 7 Master Masons from your own Lodge in attendance?
- Were at least 50% of the members present at your Lodge's Ceremonial meeting this month?
- Was a regular working (one of the craft degrees) performed this month?
- Was a regular meeting conducted on behalf of another Lodge to assist them progress a candidate?
- Did the Lodge initiate a new member this month?
- Was this month your Lodge's Installation meeting?
- If this month was your installation meeting, were 65% of your Lodge members present?
- If this was your installation month, did your Lodge make a donation to Grand Lodge and / or PGL?
- Did your Lodge visit another Lodge this month with at least 5 or more members?
- Was the visit an official visit with 7 Members or more including the Master / Deputy Master??

Category - Education

- Has your Lodge facilitated or participated in an education activity for your members this month?
- Did any Lodge members earn points in the Ritual Excellence Program?
- Are your Lodge members actively participating in the Mentoring Program in the Lodge?
- Do all your Apprentices and / or Fellow Craft have assigned Mentors and are they working with them?
- Did the Apprentices and/or Fellow Crafts meet with their Mentors this month and update their BoL?
- Are any of your Lodge members active participants in the “Masonic Self-Development Program”, run by RW Bro Simon Nash?

Supporting the Magersfontein Marathon

The Magersfontein Marathon is an annual event on Kimberley’s athletics calendar. This year the local Freemasons, with Wor Bros Francois Dauth and Hannes Marais of Peace and Harmony and Magersfontein playing prominent roles, set up and manned a watering facility for the runners. They provided refreshments and their objective was simply to make Freemasonry more visible amongst the local community. Well done Brethren, this is a great initiative which other Lodges are urged to follow!



Hannes Marais (L) and Francois Dauth (c) and Brethren

AASR Central working the Degrees

On a Saturday in late 2022, AASR Central, under the guidance of M Ill Bro Cor van Zyl, gathered in the Kimberley Temple to process a number of Brethren through their degrees. 4 Brethren of Chapter Ronnie Bausar, with Ill Bro Mike Combrink in the chair, were advanced to the 18th Degree while 4 members of Chapter Unie, with V Ill Bro Marcel de Kock in the chair, were elevated to the 28th Degree. It was a long and busy day but a very special one!



The AASR Central team with P Bro Cor van Zyl in the centre of the front row.

Northern Division still Walking Tall

“Walking Tall with Pride” is an initiative which Northern Division first got involved in a number of years ago. The project provides food and clothing for people who are destitute and our Brethren make a real difference to their lives.

Bro Eric and Pauline Hopuniet have achieved almost legendary status among the homeless people that they work so tirelessly to assist.



Bro Eric and Pauline Houniet with RW Bro Simon Nash

Almoner's Report

While the December holidays are a wonderful opportunity for everybody to get their breath back, they do interrupt our normal routines – such as reporting on Brethren in distress. Could the PGL Almoners please make certain that we get your Division’s input

Wor Bro Andre Germishuys (de Goede Hoop) is our Grand Almoner and epitomises a true Freemason. His support of his Brethrenis needs continues to be exceptional, even though he is currently receiving radiation treatment for cancer. Please keep Andre and his family in in your thoughts and prayers.

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 Kevin Smith	082 8883890
Central Wor Bro Johnny Cambanis	083 9865397
Eastern Wor Bro Andrew Pover	084 2597108
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297