

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa, No. 142 - November 2023



Most Worshipful Brother Godfrey Place.

Freemasonry and the Festive Season

As the festive season approaches, the joyful spirit should be seen to spread across the world, uniting people from all walks of life. Sadly, for many this will not be the case and violence, economic havoc, illness, family strife and such challenges will prevail. We, as Freemasons can make a positive impact to our communities and make this time of the year a little better for those less fortunate than we are.

The Festive Spirit in Freemasonry:

The festive season creates a perfect backdrop for Freemasonry to showcase its commitment to creating a more compassionate and inclusive world. We should embrace the festive spirit by having various activities and events that promote goodwill and unity.

I recently issued the Festive Season Challenge, whereby all Lodges were exhorted to make as many “cookies” as possible for distribution to the needy and under-privileged. I hoped to bring some fun into our Lodges and show that caring can be fulfilling.

Fellowship and Brotherhood:

As Freemasons we believe in fraternity and brotherhood. During this season, our Lodges should invite our members and their families to get together and share in the season’s festivities. The aim of the cookie challenge was to encourage this. This bond strengthens the sense of belonging and reminds us all of the importance of kinship and support. This can also then be taken into our communities.

Charitable Endeavours:

As Freemasons, we practice charity. The festive season provides an opportunity for our lodges to

engage in acts of kindness and benevolence. These may include organizing food drives, toy donations, or fund raising, looking out for the vulnerable in society. We should actively contribute to uplifting those in need during this time of year. These charitable efforts not only assist the less fortunate but also serve as a reminder to society of the importance of compassion and solidarity and the vital role that we as Freemasons play in society. We must be seen to be doing the right things and, in so doing, gain credibility which will attract those who are out there and not yet part of us.

Family-Oriented Celebrations:

As Freemasons we must recognise the importance of family and encourage members to involve their loved ones in lodge activities. A long-term project is the involvement in the Dementia and Alzheimer’s of South Africa project, which is the main charitable drive of Grand Lodge.

Over this festive season, our lodges should organize family-oriented events that bring together members' partners, children, and grandchildren. These provide an opportunity to celebrate the festive spirit as a cohesive unit and strengthen the bonds between families within our Masonic community.

Reflection and Renewal:

While the festive season is filled with joy and celebration, it also lends itself to introspection and renewal. Freemasonry emphasizes the importance of self-improvement and self-reflection, encouraging members to assess their actions and conduct, both personally and within their family units and society. This aligns us with one of the traditional aspects of the festive season – taking stock of the past year and setting goals for personal growth and positive change. These are referred to as our New Year’s Resolutions.

Conclusion:

As we celebrate this season, we should inspire others to practice acts of kindness, spread joy, and make a difference in communities. Through fellowship and charity, Freemasonry brings light to the lives of those in need, and this is the true spirit of the festive season. A seemingly insignificant gesture may be seen as something unimaginably important in the life of the recipient. Never underestimate how a little good can go a long way in making others happy!

I and the Grand Lodge Officers, wish every one of our Brethren, their families and loved ones, a happy and peaceful festive season. We hope that despite all the troubles in the world, we can find a ray of hope and pray that peace maybe restored wherever there are conflicts. When we return in the new year, may we all be renewed and invigorated to continue with our important work, making our world a better place for all who live in it, one little step at a time.

MW Bro Godfrey Place
Grand Master



RW Bro Ric Gillmer (7L) with MW Bro Godfrey Place (6L) and the Grand Lodge, PGL, Sister Constitutions and Visitors

Eastern Cape AGM a Great Success

On Saturday 11 November the GLSA had their final AGM for 2023, being that of the Eastern Cape. The meeting was held in their refurbished Temple which really does look extremely impressive. As the outgoing PGM, RW Bro Keith Hutton OSM, read the Division's very positive Annual Report

Having completed the normal formalities, it was time for the Grand Master, MW Bro Godfrey Place,



to perform the installation of Wor Bro Ric Gillmer as the new PGM. Our Grand Master is an excellent ritualist and he and his team set a fine example as to how an installation should be performed. Having

accepted the gavel, RW Bro Gillmer then installed Wor Bro James Liddered as his Deputy and Wor Bros Paul West and Ian Hetherington as Assistants.

In the evening we attended a celebratory banquet at a popular beach front hotel and just enjoyed the camaraderie.



Pictured right are Lindy and Wor Bro James Liddered, while below are MW Bro Godfrey Place together with Heather and RW Bro Rex Ingle.



Season's Greetings

We are now at that time of year where we take a break from our daily routine and focus on sharing time with our families and loved ones. Let us not forget, however, those less fortunate than ourselves and let's do what we can to make it a better time for all.



De Broederband raise Bro Paul Botha

De Broederband is one of our more active Lodges and keeps their members very involved. On Wednesday 15 November they raised Bro Paul Botha to the sublime degree of Master Mason.



Bro Paul Botha (4L) with Wor Bro Max Matjane (3L), Wor Bro Fritz Ganz (5L) and the Brethren of his Lodge.

AASR Central celebrates a triple Installation

On Saturday 4 November the AASR Brethren of Central Division met in Welkom to install their Leaders. PB Cor van Zyl installed MWS Francois Dauth (Chapter Ronnie Bauser), MWS Hendrik Prinsloo (Chapter Vrystaat) and EC Jan Coetzee (Consistory Unie). Francois and Hendrik are Brothers-in-Law who started their Masonic journey together.



Westerford Brethren win Ritual Award

A couple of years ago Bro Steve Horwood of the Scottish Constitution in the Western Cape, initiated a ritual excellence challenge for all of the local Lodges.



Pictured left are the Bros Yannick Punga, Frank Winter (Scottish DGM) & Chad Beyer. Chad is holding the champions compasses.

This year, for the 2nd time in a row, the winners came from the GLSA's Lodge Westerford. As a "trophy", the winners received a pair of compasses.



On Tuesday 14 November **AJ Haak** reinstalled **Wor Bro Jacques Fouche** as their WM. The ceremony was performed by **Wor Bro Wikus Steyl** and was well supported by PGL, the Lodge and visitors from all Constitutions.



On Saturday 4 November **Royal Protea** installed **Wor Bro Vic Tabanelli** (4L) as their new Worshipful Master. The Grand Lodge delegation was led by **RW Bro Keith Hutton OSM** (3L), while **Wor Bro Ric Gillmer** (6L) led PGL. The ceremony was performed by **Wor Bro James Lidderd** (7L). It was well supported and much enjoyed.

Chapter de Goede Kaap celebrate 50 years

RA Chapter de Goede Kaap was consecrated in 1973. On Saturday 18 November the Chapter had a Rededication ceremony followed by its Installation.

First Grand Principal, MEC John Smith OSM MSA, and his team performed the Rededication while MEC Louis van der Linde and the PG Chapter attended to the Installation. It really was a special day.



Back **EC Malcolm Gessler**, **MEC John Smith OSM MSA**, **MEC Louis van der Linde**; Front **EC Jonathan Curtis** (EH), **MEC Alex Costopolous** (MEZ), **EC Bradley Bordiss** (EJ)

Central Division's special Weekend

On Saturday 18 November Central Division's Brethren and families had a team-building exercise at the Aldam Resort. While there, **Wor Bro Jan Coetzee** did the Senekal installation with **RW Bro Alf Brønner** going into the chair as the Worshipful Master. The Division is delighted to have had 7 Apprentices and a Fellowcraft taking part in the proceedings.



Front: **Bros Kevin Vague** (Senekal), **Blaine Dyason** (Parys), **Juan Botes** (Dagbreek), **Pieter Botha** (Senekal), **Pieter Kruger jnr** (Dagbreek), **Pieter van Vuuren** (Central Free State), **Phillip Barnard** (Senekal)
Back: **Bro Laurens Kritzinger** (Fellowcraft) (Parys)
Wor Bro Jan Coetzee, **RW Bro Alf Brønner**



On Wednesday 1 November **Star of the East** raised **Bro Gerhard Nortje (6L)** to Master Mason. He is pictured with the Worshipful Master, **Wor Bro Willie Luck (5L)**, and the Lodge's Brethren and visitors.

Pretoria RA Exalt Comp Dean Liversage

On Thursday 2 November, the Master Elect for **Losie De Broederband**, **Bro Dean Liversage**, was Exalted in a Pretoria RA Chapter. Bro Dean's Master's Plan for his term in the Chair of de Broederband includes the promotion of the side degrees and he's setting a good example. He is pictured here with the Chapter's MEZ elect, **EC Wikus Steyl**.



Chapter's MEZ elect, **EC Wikus Steyl**.

RA Chapter Mutual Instal New Principals

On Tuesday 28 November Chapter Mutual had their annual Installation. The ceremony was performed by Grand Superintendent, **MEC Louis van der Linde**, and his Provincial team.



MEC Louis van der Linde, EC Anthony van Dijk (EH), MEC Stephane Rogovsky (MEZ), EC Cyril Engelke (EJ)

Marina Explore the de Goede Hoop complex



The de Goede Hoop complex is a real treasure trove for the Masonic Historian and on Tuesday 21 November Marina decided to have some of it's secrets revealed to them – and who better to do so than the Past Grand Master, **MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA**.

Almoner's Report

It was with some sadness that we received the news of the passing of **Wor Bro Mike Rhind (Unie)**. **Wor Bro Rhind** had been a Mason for over 60 years and, while almost all of this had been with the Scottish Constitution, he had shared the last 4 years with us as a member of **Unie**. Our condolences are extended to his family at this difficult time

Brethren, we are entering the festive season where we are surrounded by family and loved ones. Let us remember that not everybody is in this situation and pay special attention to the older members of your Lodges as they often find themselves feeling lonely and neglected. Let's show them that Freemasons care!

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 Herman Roos	082 3184238
Central	Wor Bro John Meyer	073 3525832
Eastern	Wor Bro Bushy McKelvey	076 8912058
E Cape	Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

Westerford's Double Whammy

On Thursday 2 November **Westerford** performed a double 2nd Degree for **Bros Rodger Wegener (2L)** and **Randall McPherson (4L)**. **Wor Bro Sean Stuart (3L)** was in the chair and, as always, the quality of the working performed was excellent.

