

# The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 102 July 2020



Right Worshipful Brother John Smith OSM MSA.

## Past, Present and Future

I believe that Freemasonry is more relevant today than ever before, so let us learn from the past, be grateful for the present and get excited for the future. Freemasonry requires that its members must know themselves and the Volume of the Sacred Law has many references to this, which is why most of its principles and tenets are based on the teachings contained therein. Jordan Petersen, a non-Freemason and a renowned Psychologist, holds the view that the way to know oneself is to understand that you do not and that once you accept this fact, you should have the humility to recognise your ignorance of who you are and who you could be. Our Apprentices are taught that Freemasonry does not only require them to know and comprehend what they have learned, but also who they are and what they may become.

In May I was elected as the next Grand Master. With my installation date being uncertain due to the current restrictions, MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM resigned as the Grand Master in an unprecedented and unselfish act to enable me to take over the leadership of our Grand Lodge in terms of the Constitution. This progressive step by our immediate Past Grand Master epitomises the characteristics of a true Freemason who has learned to know himself and who wasted no time in ensuring that our Grand Lodge enjoyed a smooth and stress free transition of leadership. As he still has much to offer to Freemasonry in general and our Grand Lodge in particular, I am pleased that he has accepted a position as one of my senior officers and advisors.

The present pandemic has affected all our lives and the way in which we used to enjoy our Freemasonry and most of our Lodges are conducting their monthly business meetings and holding lectures and discussions on Masonic topics via Zoom. The Provincial Grand Lodges are successfully conducting their meetings in the same manner. A large number of our members have seized this opportunity to become more proficient in the rituals; to read their Masonic “Book of Life”, to log into the many and varied lectures and discussions on Masonic topics which are being offered via the electronic media and even to don their PPE and offer their services at charitable havens like our Masonic Homes, shelters for the homeless, soup kitchens and at places where assistance is offered to persons less fortunate than themselves. These members are not only adhering to but are actively promoting the Golden Rule, “do unto others as you would have them do unto you”.

Grand Lodge has recently been registered as a Public Benefit Organisation, which means that any person or body who donates any money to it may be entitled to certain tax relief. The initiative started by our Past Grand Master during the lockdown to raise money for a charitable project was successful and will enable us to feed a large number of persons and to offer financial assistance to our members whose businesses have been adversely affected by this pandemic.

Our fund raising committee will be working hard to ensure that its projects will enable our benevolent fund to continue to assist persons in need. Our Public Relations and Social Media committees will continue to ensure that Freemasonry and our Grand Lodge has the attention of the general public. Our Education committee is producing invaluable material which our members are encouraged to access via Grandview to enhance and improve their Masonic knowledge. In 2022 we will be celebrating 250 years of Freemasonry in South Africa and our Heritage committee has commenced planning for these festivities.

Although we are uncertain when our normal Masonic activities will resume, do not be despondent as we have so much to be grateful for. While we mourn the loss of all who have passed on as a result of the Covid virus, everyone who is able to access and read this message has not only survived it but has been blessed with eyesight, hearing, intellect and certain financial ability. We will therefore use our time wisely in the interim and continue to strive to make better men and a better world where all persons can live in harmony and peace with each other and the environment, so keep well and stay safe.

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

# S & C CELEBRATES 100 ISSUES – Excerpts from issues 59 - 63.

## S&C's 8 year Journey - Continued!

The Square and Compasses was launched in August 2012 and, to commemorate this, we are having a "lockdown" series, recalling just a few memories from earlier issues. We hope that you enjoy them.



In November 2016, the Grand Master, MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM, attended the installation of the Grand Master of Benin. Over a special weekend,

he shared time with such Brethren as Ghana's RW Bro Kwadjo Butah and MW Bro Charles Stanley-Pierre.

"The Lodge that plays together, stays together" is an old, but very true, adage. Friendship's annual "Eddie Bravo Memorial Horseshoe Throwing" competition is a great example of a Lodge that takes just having fun very seriously. In the 2016 event, Friendship's Dudu and Francis Garcia recaptured the trophy from Lodge Libertas. Long may these very special traditions continue to unite our Lodges.



The Free Staters are of hardy stock and this is particularly well demonstrated by their PGMs. In this picture Alf Brönner (centre) is seen with two Central stalwarts, RW Bros Frikkie Botha and Peter Watkinson OSM who, between them, served our Grand Lodge for over 110 years.



December 2016 saw Southern Division host their annual Masonic Homes lunch. All of the residents of Desmain Lodge, Burchell House, Ted's House, Andy's House and Masonic Home for Quadriplegics join us at de Goede Hoop refectory for lunch and are given presents by our very own Father Christmas – aka RW Bro Brian Rossouw.



On Saturday 27 January 2016, the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge team had the privilege of attending the Peace and Harmony installation in Kimberley.



In a unique first in South Africa, the Grand Lodge of Ireland invited our Grand Master to join them at a Cape Town meeting which included their Grand Master. In this picture, MW Bros Douglas Grey and MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM are seen together at Lodge de Goede Hoop.



## The Provincial "Big 5" - March 2017



The Provincial Grand Masters of the 5 GLSA Divisions, before RW Bro Cor van Zyl's installation as the new PGM of Central Division. Above are RW Bros Alf Brönner (Central), Keith Hutton (Eastern Cape), Tommy Hardiman (Southern), Frans Roodt (Eastern) and Alan van der Vyver (Northern).

In November 2016 het De Morgenster'n fondsinsamelings projek geloods. Hulle kon vir 'n Kroonstad kinderhuis 'n opslaan swembad koop en vir al 14 kinders sowel vir die huis ouers'n ete by die Spur. geborg.



Agb Br Johnny Cambanis met Anna Mulder (Huis Ouer)

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017, the Northern Division hosted an extremely successful "What is Freemasonry?" event at the Park Lane Temple in Johannesburg. The Sister Constitutions also took part and the crowded Temple saw many non-Masons most impressed. The YouTube .clip of the event, incidentally, has had ± 60,000 views!





## THE NEW GRAND MASTER AND HIS SENIOR OFFICERS

While the physical restrictions imposed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic mean that we cannot invite the Masonic world to join us in South Africa to celebrate the Installation of our new Grand Master, our Masonic labours must still continue. The Grand Master Elect and Acting Grand Master, RW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, has appointed all of his senior Officers and the team is now actively leading the Grand Lodge of South Africa – and, yes, we are all much looking forward to formally installing our new Grand Master at the earliest possible opportunity.

**Grand Master Elect**



**RW Bro John Smith OSM MSA**

**Deputy Grand Master**



**RW Bro Brandon Topham**

**Grand Secretary**

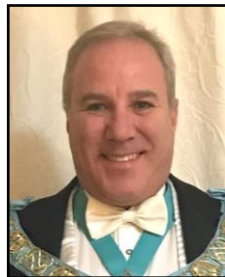


**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM**

**Assistant Grand Masters (RW Bros)**



**Alf Brönnner**



**Avron Jacobson MSA**



**Alan van der Vyver**

**Grand Treasurer**



**MW Bro Dave Duncan OSM**

**Provincial Grand Masters (RW Bros)**



**Southern**



**Tommy Hardiman**

**Northern**



**Godfrey Place**

**Central**



**Frans Appelgryn**

**Eastern**



**Basil de Kock**

**Eastern Cape**



**Keith Hutton**

### AASR Supports the Covid-19 Charity Drive!

While the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of South Africa is a totally independent body, it still works very closely with our Grand Lodge. Having been founded by GLSA members, the links have always been strong, so their extremely generous **R25,000** donation to the Grand Master's Covid-19 Charity appeal, while greatly appreciated, was really not an unusual gesture by them.



Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Boet du Plessis, is a Past Master of Losie Sonop, is a Past Grand Junior Warden and is a very active member of the GLSA Grand Committee.

### A Brother extends a Helping Hand

As Freemasons we are taught to practice Truth, Morality and Brotherly Love and to cultivate Charity in thought, word and deed. Bro Marco Petronio believes in this creed so when he got talking to Val, a single Mom battling to make ends meet, he decided to assist her.

Val works from home marketing a variety of different low margin products. Tasks like banking and administration were a real challenge. In fact, every time she needed to make a payment for stock, for example, she had to take a taxi to the bank to attend to it.

Marco bought Val a smart phone and then taught her how to use it for her business. This generous gesture has changed Val's life. She no longer has to leave her autistic son at home alone – and last month she doubled her sales. Val thinks Marco is “Mer Wonderful”.

## Almoner's Corner

I dread having to report on Brethren who have passed to the Eternal East, especially when we have 4 in a single month. All of them were well loved Brethren who leave grieving families, loved ones and Lodges. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. 3 of the deceased Brethren were 50 year Jewel holders.

Wor Bro Emmanuel Nwaubani (Alpha) was the PGL Orator and a respected Past Master of his Lodge. He was 39 years old, and reached a point where he could not breathe - appearing to have been taken by Covid-19.

Wor Bro Norman Smithies (Koh-I-Noor) passed away 2 days before he was to receive his 50 year Jewel. He was a dedicated Mason and committed Lodge member. His wife has subsequently received the award.

Wor Bro Eric Henkel (de Goede Verwachting) is another recent 50 year veteran. He has had several health challenges in the recent past, but never lost his love for the Craft and appreciated his very supportive Brethren.

RW Bro Ben Spies (Sonop) was a Freemason for 57 years. He and his wife, Cathy, were a much loved Masonic couple and her passing in June must have been devastating for "Oom" Bennie. In more recent times, he has made an enormous contribution to the AASR.

Wor Bro Hannes Jonker (Prins Frederik) still has intermittent strokes and other challenges, but he carries on regardless. He's cheerfully looking forward to his next year as a Grand Lodge Officer.

Bro Patson Malisa (de Goede Hoop) has been going through a challenging time health-wise and being at home on his own really doesn't help - particularly when you are used to spending your time flying around Africa as a member of the Diplomatic Corps.

Bro Sonwabo Zide (Star of the Rand) is in a rehabilitation centre recovering from the complications related to his neck tumour, but remains in good spirits. Those who saw his recent video were most impressed.

RW Bro Boet du Plessis (Sonop) has recently been hospitalised as a result of blood clot complications, but he is back home and Theresa is nursing him back to health again. The AASR needs you Boet, be careful!

Wor Bro Louis van der Linde (Jacob de Mist) is pretty much back to normal and is pleased to be working again after his recent hernia operation. We must admit that it's good to see him back as his usual cheerful self.

I sent Wor Bro Ric Gillmer (Sonheuwel) a recent email and the response was "in ICU with Covid-19. Will attend to it as soon as they let me out". We really love your commitment, Ric, but please remember that you are important to us, so look after yourself!

Wor Bro Giuseppe Ricci (de Goede Trouw) is receiving treatment for his prostate cancer, but the good news is that they caught it before it spread further.

Wor Bro Andre Germishuys (de Goede Hoop) is still struggling with his back, but it takes more than that to keep a good man down. There was a Covid-19 scare in the family but that seems to be under control now.

RW Bro Cedric Moroukian (Cape Town) has been in and out of hospital, but is now back home again - this time, he hopes, for good. In true Masonic style, he is extremely cheerful and positive.

Wor Bro Wikus Steyl (de Broederband) has been in hospital with Covid-19 and pneumonia but is now back home recuperating. Good grief, Wikus, isn't Covid-19 on its own enough? Get well soon, Brother, we are just delighted to hear that you are recovering.

RW Bro Peet Roos (Koh-I-Noor) has had a cataract operation on his one eye and tells us that his sight has never been better. This is great news RW Bro Peet, and best of luck with the other eye in 6 weeks time.

All of our previous Covid-19 cases are progressing well, but new ones such as Bro Leroy Bergsteedt (Star of the Rand) and Bro Ashley Behrman (Golden City) and his partner Shona, are arising all the time. This pandemic is serious, Brethren. Please be careful, wear masks, wash hands and observe social distancing!

We extend our sincere condolences to Brethren such as Bro Dean Liversage, Bro Peter Wolmarans and any other Brethren who have lost close family members. May the memories of good times keep you strong.

Finally, to finish on a brighter note, we extend our congratulations to Bro Gavin Brown and his wife Yula on the birth of their daughter. The baby's not a Lewis, but I'm sure that the proud parents are more than happy.

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 |

## Masonic Town Hall and other Adventures

The remarkable truth about adversity is that something good always comes out of it. This dreadful pandemic has spawned the use of online technology using products such as Zoom, and the Masonic world has, as a result, been changed forever.

It's not just about our having online BoMs and presentations by our own Brethren, but we are also being exposed to the world through such exciting activities as the "Masonic Town Hall" series, set up by our own Wor Bro Edgar Baron, and what I call the "Georgia Lectures" which is an outstanding series offering presentations by the likes of Robert Cooper, Andreas Inerfors, David Harrison and others who fit into the upper echelons of Masonic knowledge. We listen to their wisdom and can even ask them questions.



In special cases, such as in this past week at RA Chapter de Goede Kaap, we are even able to attract such leading international experts as MEC "Ted" Harrison to give us a personal address.

I don't think that any of us can wait for real, live Freemasonry to get up and running again. We need the contact and the interaction with our Brethren - but never let us forget the benefits that we have gained from our present experience and let's apply it wisely as we move into the future.