

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 37 March 2015



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

A Fresh Beginning!

Remember Friday 20th February 2015! For those of us fortunate enough to have attended the GLSA Chains Conference in Bloemfontein, this will always be a very special date in our Masonic lives.

Each of the conference delegates was an active chain-bearer of our Grand Lodge and the Provincial Grand Lodges – and all of our Divisions were well represented. The purpose was to update delegates on the various Grand Lodge initiatives and to create a platform where we all worked together to the overall best advantage of the Grand Lodge of South Africa.

In this article I will provide a brief summary of what transpired at the conference and outline just some of the activities taking place as well as some key decisions affecting our Masonic practises.

After my welcoming address in which I defined our prime goals, I explored our structure and individual responsibilities, RW Bro Dave Duncan then provided a Vision 2020 overview. He projected some excellent slides on our current situation and our target market and we all soon realised that our problem certainly wasn't a lack of opportunities.

VW Bro Brandon Topham then updated the Brethren on our current financial situation and his plans to assist our Lodge Treasurers in their efforts. We also realised the importance of our submitting timeous financial reports to Grand Lodge as this is needed for managing our SARS relationships and is also essential for us to obtain our PBO status.

RW Bro Dave Duncan then discussed the importance of managing the "3 Rs" and gave us some ideas on what constituted a



successful Lodge. Simply put, we have to ensure that all our members, old and new, have to enjoy a Quality experience. Without this, Lodges will inevitably go into decline and ultimately hand in their charters.

It was then the turn of our Grand Secretary. RW Bro Sakkie Heyneke first reviewed the Grand Lodge administrative activities and plans and then gave us an overview of our relationships and interactions with foreign Grand Lodges. We have reorganised the GLSA Foreign Representatives and are keen to make sure that all their communications with other constitutions works to the overall best interests of both parties involved. We are respected in African and, indeed, in world Freemasonry and are determined to maintain and develop these relationships in the future.

We then moved on to Protocol – and overshot the allotted time by a considerable margin! Truth is, that over the years the different Divisions have grown further and further apart in their practice of GLSA protocols and it was agreed that it was time to bring us all together again. RW Bro John Smith expertly



handled this potentially divisive session and we succeeded in resolving all of the areas of difference without any blood being shed! We all realised that it is not about the interests of individual Divisions, it's about doing what is right for our Grand Lodge as a whole and the mature and constructive

manner in which our senior Brethren participated here made me very proud to be able to call them my Brothers. There will be various circulars coming out on protocol issues Brethren, so please ensure that you are aware of them and implement them in your Lodge.

Education was the next topic on the agenda and RW Bro Vic Muhlenbeck introduced the Brethren who were not familiar with it to the "Masonic Book of Life". This will be released in English and Afrikaans and will be our foundation document for Education. It will be given to every new candidate joining the GLSA and, as he progresses through the degrees, he will receive further input to his book. For those seeking still more stimulation, we will provide a link to a database of further material. We will also be looking to provide Mentors for the program so that our Brethren have somebody to turn to for guidance.

RW Bro Avron Jacobson then gave us a most exciting presentation on where he sees us advancing to from a Technology perspective. We are currently working on finalising our centralised member's database. Once this is in place, we will be able to implement a range of practical options impacting on our communication with our members, financial and administrative tasks, promotions and other areas.

After RW Bro John Smith had updated us on Ritual issues, VW Bro Brandon Topham had given us his initial thoughts and ideas on Public Relations and RW Bro Dave Duncan had talked about the responsibilities of our Commissioned Officers, the floor was taken over by our Provincial Grand Masters.

Each of our PGMs talked about their past Interventions and Successes and we were able to gain some insight as to what specific actions proved the most effective in helping us to meet our challenges.

Overall, it was an extremely successful Conference and all of us involved went away looking forward to getting on with our agreed actions.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards
Grand Master**

Bro Simon Nash, Master elect of Lodge Star of the Rand, is “Making a real Difference”.

The Diepsloot Mountain Bike Academy was established in 2006 in an endeavour to provide an opportunity for underprivileged children from the Diepsloot community to participate in the sport of Mountain Biking. Since then the project has evolved into a multi faceted youth empowerment program.

In the last 12 months, the DMA has produced a professional cyclist, 4 South African athletes and 16 provincial athletes, while still maintaining a full weekend program for 70 kids, all achieved within a R300 000 budget. The sports development and youth empowerment program has created a sustainable model of cycling and life skills training which has the power to transform previously disadvantaged teenagers into World-class, Olympic Athletes.

The multi faceted approach combines academic support, nutrition, mentorship and participation in cycling activities and enables kids to discover their innate ability and potential. Using the mountain biking as a vehicle for change, the DMA ignites hope and creates young role models who can lead by example. Through this, the program produces well rounded, skilled athletes who are empowered to pursue goals beyond their present state of awareness, and who are inspired to become active participants in the social upliftment of their community.

The DMA has received numerous accolades in the past year, including the Murray and Roberts Jack Cheetham award and the Discovery Sport Industry Award for Development program of the year.



Founder Simon Nash and professional athlete William Mokgopo receive the Discovery Sport Industry Award.

The Central Division Annual General Meeting

On Saturday 21st February, the Grand Master and Officers of our Grand Lodge and representatives of the Sister Constitutions joined the Central Division’s Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro A Brönner, Officers of PGL and members of the Division for their Annual Meeting. The Lodge was packed and the ambience very positive - a fitting tribute to the work that has been done in the Division over recent years to bring it back to its former glory.



The Lodges in the Division are separated by large distances and we sometimes fail to appreciate the mileages that the PGM and his Officers travel on a regular basis. Truth is, most of us would look on such distances as befitting a “weekend” out of town.

This dedication to duty is exemplary in their discharge of the obligation they took to “uphold and maintain the glory of the Division”.

The camaraderie amongst the Officers of the PGL is exceptional and their hospitality unsurpassed. The Brethren of the Division really do treat their Freemasonry as a family affair and it is wonderful to visit their Lodges and experience this first hand.

RW Bro Alf Brönner started by installing Wor Bro Frans Appelgryn (right) as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master.



He then invested his 3 new Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, each of whom will take personal responsibility for a clearly defined region.

Every one of these Officers was clearly looking forward to their challenges and this could not help but impress those of us sharing the occasion with them.



Wor Bro Frank MacNicol



Wor Bro Cor van Zyl



Wor Bro Auret Weir

Two stalwarts of the Division retired from their active PGL roles and can both feel proud of the contribution that they made. VW Bro Fanie Strydom and Wor Bro Fred Meiring were thanked for their loyalty and support. Inevitably, both will continue to participate in retirement and have a very real role to play as the Division's senior Statesmen.



VW Bro Fanie Strydom

Wor Bro Fred Meiring

The afternoon was concluded with an informal celebration in the form of a much enjoyed spit braai, in which the guests and the members of the Division and their families all participated. Once again, the warmth and hospitality were outstanding.



MW Bro Geoff Edwards, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver and RW Bro John Smith.



RW Bro Sakkie Heyneke with VW Bro Brandon Topham and RW Bro Alf Brönnner

Well done Central Division! Your progress report was an inspiration to each and every one of us and we are really looking forward to coming back next year.

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.

Cherokee Expression

A MASON'S WIFE

by Robert Pinkerton

From active Masons, resolute,
Our wives and families we salute;
We surely know the price you pay,
Who sit alone while we're away.

No high degrees on you conferred,
In Lodge, your name is seldom heard;
You serve our cause though out of sight,
While sitting home alone tonight.

Masonic papers list our names,
Awards are given, fit to frame;
But yours is absent ... you who strive,
To keep our fortitude alive.

You're part of every helpful deed,
On your encouragement we feed;
Without your blessings, how could we,
Continue acts of charity?

And so, this poem, we dedicate,
To every Master Mason's mate;
And offer our undying love,
Rewards await in Heaven above.

Maynardville Carnival – a Great Success!

Cape Town's Community Chest Carnival is held on an annual basis and Freemason's Square has become a very major part of it, having supported the event for over 20 years now. The Carnival is held at the Maynardville Park in Wynberg and attracts a very substantial following. The objective is to raise as much money as possible for the needy and this is achieved by providing eats, drinks and entertainment for the very enthusiastic supporters over a 4 day period between Wednesday and Saturday at the end of February. It's extremely hard work – but leaves a feeling of great satisfaction for a job well done.

This year Freemason's Square, under the chairmanship of Wor Bro Andre Engelbrecht, billed over R250 000. The Brethren are now waiting, with keen anticipation, to hear what this equates to in terms of profit and where it places us in terms of our overall performance as a participating stand.





Over the years Maynardville has become an extremely important part of the Southern Division year. It's a project where all the Constitutions work together and it really is a very effective way of showcasing Freemasonry to the community.

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself"

Ralph Waldo Emerson

GRAND LODGE REGALIA ITEMS

"Wear them with pride".

The following items of regalia of the Grand Lodge of South Africa are available from the Grand Lodge Office.



The price of the tie is R100, and the cufflinks cost R140 – both only whilst the current stocks last.

Almoner's Corner.

Brethren, one of the basic tenets of our ancient Order is Brotherly Love and we ask you to share in your thoughts, sympathy and support for Brethren in distress.

We were sad to see Wor Bro Dave Bareira (Lodge Fidelity) taken to the Eternal East. He was an active Grand Lodge officer and a loyal and dedicated Mason and will be sorely missed.

Wor Bro Lionel Pithey (Lodge Marina) and VW Bro Mervyn Metcalfe (Lodge Mutual) have recently had sojourns in hospital and we are happy to report that both are making good progress.

We share in the sadness felt by the Brethren who lost loved ones during the month just passed. Wor Bro Piet van Rooyen (Lodge de Morgenster), Wor Bro Anton van Rooyen (Lodge Meerensee), Wor Bro Jan Venter (Losie Johan van Riebeeck) and Wor Bro Tommy Hardiman (Lodge Westerford) all lost a parent. There are no words to express the feeling of the loss of someone so near and dear but please know that you are in our thoughts.

Wor Bro Mervyn Metcalfe and Wor Bro Sarel Mulder (Losie Vaalrivier) had their wives in hospital and we wish them a speedy recovery.

VW Bro Swenny Crofton (Lodge Simon van der Stel) continues with his course of chemotherapy, but he still maintains a very positive attitude and plays a very active role in looking after Andy's House and ensuring that our residents' needs are met.

It is with great relief that we can report that RW Bro Manny Ramos is going well and again regaling us with his humour. Manny suffered the indignity of having a fall and banging his head. The damage has healed and he is back to his cheerful self.

Brethren: Please note a change in the telephone number of our Brother Almoner.

Grand Almoner

Brethren, the Grand Almoner is only as effective as the information he receives. Please, if anything is known about a Brother in distress, be sure to phone RW Bro Neville Klein OSM at 071 4148869 or send him an email to:

kleinneville@gmail.com

