

The Square and Compasses.

A newsletter for the Grand Lodge of South Africa. No. 44 September 2015



Most Worshipful Brother Geoff Edwards OSM.

Vision 2020 - Some Inspiring Examples

I well remember MW Bro Watty Watson OSM's advising us, way back in 2008, that he would build our strategy for his term as Grand Master on 2 pillars, these being the promotion of Brotherly Love and the doubling of our membership by the year 2020.

Vision 2020, as the latter became know, came about after a number of years of negative growth and, while acknowledging that the problem was common to virtually all societies in the modern world, this simply didn't make the trend acceptable to us.

One of the problems that we faced at the time was that the malaise was common to all of our Divisions and our Lodges and we really weren't to sure as to where to start to set about fixing it.

Anyway, we decided that the first thing that we needed to do was create some challenging role models - Lodges who were really showing positive progress and were setting the sort of examples that others could follow. We produced some basic strategy documents like the 3 Rs (Retention, Recovery and Recruitment) and we set targets for our Divisions to aspire to.

Well, the good news is that we do now have some excellent role models and they are spread across our Divisions. Some of our Lodges are growing at an impressive rate and it is well worth looking at how they are achieving this. There are also some common patterns worth drawing your attention to.

As a general rule, the Lodges that are thriving set very high standards in their ritual work; they have active social / charitable activities; they encourage their younger Brethren to play a real part and expose them to mentoring and Masonic education; they are doing something constructive about pursuing new members. It goes without saying that, perhaps because

they are simply too busy, there is very little bickering amongst their Brethren and they are happy Lodges.

Over the coming months I would like our Newsletter to explore some of them in more detail and provide you with some ideas that you might like to implement in your Lodge. In the meantime, don't hesitate to contact the Brethren involved and ask them what they are doing that helps them to succeed.

While I do not suggest that this is a complete or even a comprehensive list, some of the Lodges that have really caught my attention include Koh-in-Nor in Pretoria, Prins Fredrick and Friendship in Johannesburg, Peace and Harmony in Kimberley, Tolerance in the Eastern Cape, de Goede Hoop and Westerford in Cape Town and Isandlwana in Durban.

Brethren, our ongoing growth is essential to us and, while it's still early days, we really are starting to make some progress that we can happily shout about.

**MW Bro Geoff Edwards OSM
Grand Master**

RW Bro John Smith awarded an OSM

RW Bro John Smith OSM was raised in Graaff Reinet and educated at Union High School. His father was a Freemason and, as a young man, John joined Lodge de Vereeniging (No 3 GLSA) in 1976.

John studied law and, in the course of his career, moved to Cape Town where he joined Lodge de Goede Hoop in 1985. He progressed through the Master's Chair and spent a short time in PGL before returning to the Eastern Cape where he practised as an Advocate. It was in 2004 that John, having returned to Cape Town, rejoined de Goede Hoop and his Masonic career really took off. He rejoined the PGL team, soon became Deputy PGM and, in 2008, was appointed as Provincial Grand Master - Southern Division.

John excelled in his new role and played a major part in implementing new ideas and developing his Division. He served on and chaired committees such as Property, Finance, Masonic Homes, Spring Ball, Ritual and Constitution and Laws, in every case making a real



difference. He was also a member of GLSA's very successful 50 year Celebrations organising committee.

In 2012, John was appointed to serve as an Assistant Grand Master, where his involvement in and dedicated contribution to Freemasonry and the GLSA remains at an extraordinarily high level. He is a most worthy recipient of the GLSA's highest honour.

The Northern Division Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the Northern Division took place at Orange Grove on Saturday 18th July 2015 in the presence of the Grand Master.



The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Alan van der Vyver reported on a very successful Masonic year in the Division. Many of the challenges that they had faced had been or were being addressed and a strong emphasis has been placed on the recognition of excellence. Overall, there was a positive growth in membership and he was pleased to report that most of the Lodges under the Northern Division had now grasped the challenges of "Vision 2020" and were reacting accordingly. A number of interventions have been tried that were now showing positive results and so adding to the possible solutions to enhancing individual Lodge opportunities.

The marketing and branding initiative is also showing positive results and the number of applications to join the Order is now well above the number required to achieve the desired growth. It is acknowledged, however, that there is no point in bringing candidates into Lodges that will simply lose them due to a poor ambiance and addressing this is a major focus of the PGL Team. Visitations have been made and assistance is available, when requested, in an effort to ensure that the Candidate gets a "quality Masonic experience" at his initiation.

Later in the meeting Wor Bro Sarel Mulder was installed as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master. As Master of Ceremonies Wor Bro Sarel had excelled and shown the necessary love of and skill in our Ancient Craft.



The annual Fritz Odendaal Memorial Awards were then handed out,
(left to right)

Best Ritualist -
Bro M Shackleton
Best Presiding Master -
Wor Bro A Ndubuisi
Best Mason -
Wor Bro S Nash.



The Division places major emphasis on the continued development of fraternal relations with our Sister Constitutions. We

are all Freemasons and the scope of the enjoyment of our Brethren in the Craft is that we can visit other Constitutions to witness and enjoy their versions of the Craft Degrees.



(left to right) RW Bro Tommy Adlem (PGM Irish) and RW Bro David Kennedy (DGM Scottish) were made honorary members of Northern Division.

Not every Brother of talent has the opportunity to serve in the Provincial structures. Nevertheless, they are appreciated for the tireless work that they contribute to the running of their Lodges in the Division. Past Provincial Grand Lodge Rank was therefore conferred (left to right) on Wor Bro H Schober (Lodge Germania) and Wor Bro T Prinsloo (Lodge M W Pretorius) for their excellence of service.



Overall, the meeting was a great success and bodes well for the future of Northern Division.

Lodge First United Potjiekos Competition.

We are pleased to announce the latest event for Lodge First United, who really must be one of the most socially active Lodges in the GLSA.

Potjiekos competition
Saturday 19 September 2015
 Moth Museum grounds, Old Fort Road
 Entry R 200 per team
 Make it FUN and choose a THEME for you TEAM!
Great Prizes to Be Won!
 Drinks and food will be available
 Enquiries: Johan vD Merwe at 083 3010219 or jimber@telkomsa.net
 Details and Rules will be sent to all teams entering
 All teams to confirm entry by latest 31 August 2015

In matters of conscience, the law of majority has no place.
Gandhi

Seen at the Southern Division Spring Ball.

On Saturday 22nd August 2015, on the night of Southern Division's Annual Meeting, the Division's Masonic Spring Ball celebrated its 41st consecutive year. This premier Masonic social event was held at Cape Town's Kelvin Grove club and is the main fund raiser for the Division's Masonic Homes Project, which caters for Senior Citizens and Quadriplegics in need of assistance. Each year the event raises upwards of R200,000 for this worthy cause.



Unathi & Thobani Popo



Gillian & Ken Manefeldt



Avron Jacobsen & Megan



Shelley Mitchell, Val Edwards



Alf & Chrissie Brönnner, Dave Duncan, Edelweiss & John Smith, Val & Geoff Edwards



Alf & Chrissie Brönnner with the Central Division "team".



Brandon & Marie Topham



Shane & Anabella Farrell



Mark & Samantha v Dijk, Michelle & Anthony Hawthorne



Registration Number: 2002 / 031211 / 23

**Masonic Tour to Israel
"In the Footsteps of Freemasonry"**

Join the Grand Master on this wonderful tour during September 2016.
Please call Henda Heyneke on +27 (0) 11 764 2783 or +27 (0) 83 256 6682 or email
heyneketours@telkomsa.net for more information on this tour and other arrangements.



Celebrating Burns Night after the AGMs.



Brandon Topham, in familiar pose, explaining the workings of the Burns Night which he and the Lodge Koh-I-Nor Brethren had organised to coincide with the AGMs of Northern Division and that of the Grand Lodge of South Africa.

We were entertained with music from a Scottish Pipe Band of which Wor Bro Godfrey Place is a member. The repertoire included both traditional and contemporary pieces, all being much enjoyed. The Brethren and their wives appreciated being able to relax together after a long day on the square attending the AGMs.



"The Duncans" - ; Louise, Dave, Vicky and Alan.



It's the girls that bring the smiles!



Dressed for the party?

"Oh would some power the giftie gie us, To see ourselves as others see us." — Robbie Burns

Almoners Corner.

It is with sadness that we have to report the passing to the Grand Lodge above of 2 members of Lodge de Goede Werwachting, being Wor Bro Jurgen Welack and Bro Sabino Carloni, as well as Wor Bro Siegie Weiss of Lodge Helderberg. Our heartfelt condolences go to the families of these Brethren and whilst we cannot change what has happened, we hope that knowing that you have our support and well wishes will help in some small way.

Tragedy yet again struck Coenie Bronkhorst's (Losie Sonop) family with the passing of their grandson so soon after the loss of their son. Also, our sympathy is extended to Bro Skottowe Lourens (Lodge Westerford) who lost his sister who was only 25 years old. Brethren, our thoughts and condolences are with you at this sad time.

Wor Bros Dan Buckle (Losie Oranje) and Hannes Jonker (Lodge A J Haak) have both been hospitalised recently and we are pleased to report that they are making good progress. VW Bro Swenny Crofton (Simon v d Stel) is also struggling with side effects of his chemotherapy and we hope he knows how much we care about him at this challenging time.

Some good news; Bro Lakkis (Lodge Perseverance) became the proud father of a son. (*Is someone taking Vision 2020 seriously?*)

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, phone RW Bro Neville Klein OSM at 071 4148869 or send him an email to:

kleinneville@gmail.com



"Success in life consists of going from one mistake to the next without losing your enthusiasm."

Sir Winston Churchill

GRAND LODGE REGALIA ITEMS

"Wear them with pride".

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



The price of the tie is R100.



The cufflinks cost R140.

Both of these items are only available whilst the current stocks last.