



Send contributions to **The Square & Compasses**: MW Bro. Geoff Edwards OSM: [secretary@grandlodge.co.za](mailto:secretary@grandlodge.co.za)

Design and Layout of **The Square & Compasses**: Bro Manny de Freitas: [manny.defreitas111@gmail.com](mailto:manny.defreitas111@gmail.com)

Special  
Bumper  
Issue

## MASONIC WORLD CONFERENCE PLANS WELL UNDER WAY

By now most of you will be aware that the GLSA will be hosting the 2026 World Conference of Regular Grand Lodges in Cape Town in May 2026. Preparations are well under way. Our Grand Master, MW Bro Godfrey Place, and the Chairman of the Organising Committee, MW Bro John Smith OSM MSA, attended the 19<sup>th</sup> World Masonic Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges in Foz do Iguazu, Parana, and Brazil during the last week of November 2024.



GLSA delegates at the 19<sup>th</sup> Masonic World Conference

The conference and the outings for the delegates and their partners were well organised and the hotel accommodation was very good. The Grand Master's presentation of the 20<sup>th</sup> Masonic World



Conference in Cape Town during May 2026, accompanied by an excellent promotional short video, was very well received and we have received many promises of attendance.



The theme of the conference was: *Freemasonry as a means to a purposeful life*. The following topics were discussed:

- Freemasonry, an enabler of trust in times of distrust;
- Freemasonry, an enabler for deeper connections and
- Freemasonry, keeping the current generation engaged and attracting and retaining future generations.

Although 86 Grand Lodges were registered at the conference, there were between 400 and 500 delegates and members who attended and participated in the conference. The attendance at the mixed banquet on the final night of the conference was approximately 1000 people.

		<p>XX WORLD CONFERENCE OF REGULAR MASONIC GRAND LODGES CAPE TOWN 2026 A MEETING OF MINDS UNITED IN PROGRESS</p>
--	--	---

XX WORLD CONFERENCE  
OF REGULAR GRAND LODGES

CAPE TOWN  
SOUTH AFRICA

18 TO 21 MAY 2026

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU  
NOUS SOMMES RAVIS DE VOUS ACCUEILLIR CHEZ NOUS  
ESTAMOS ANSIOSOS POR VOS RECEBER  
ESPERAMOS DARLE LA BIENVENIDA  
WIR FREUEN UNS DARAUF, SIE WILLKOMMEN ZU HEIBEN



## GM's Cookie Challenge exceeds expectations!

When our Grand Master, MW Bro Godfrey Place, initiated the Cookie Challenge he hoped that our Grand Lodge would impact on the lives of needy people at Christmas. Well, we distributed over 3 000 kilograms of biscuits and made over 8 000 people very happy. Northern Division, in particular, excelled and donated some 2 180 kilograms on their own, while most other Divisions also played a part.



**PGM Simon Nash got personally involved in the distribution process**

with his Westerford BB, they raised enough money to provide 40 hampers for the extremely appreciative members of Hamlet Selfsorg. Bro Rob Boyd assisted with the distribution.



**Westerford's Bro Rob Boyd with the recipients**

## Eastern Cape AGM went really well!

On Saturday 9 November 2024, the Eastern Cape AGM was held at the Gqeberha Temple on Richmond Hill. It was smoothly run by RW Bro Ric Gillmer. He and his new team; Wor Bros Ian Hetherington (Deputy PGM), Dennis Nienaber and Hendrik Rademeyer (Assistant PGMs) are committed to addressing the challenges ahead.



**Above: Even the GM's 101 year old mom assisted. She did the quality control!**



**The Grand Master, MW Bro Godfrey Place with RW Bro Ric Gillmer on his left**



**Lodge Makalani in Namibia did well in the cookie challenge!**

## A record 3 BB become Masonic Education Fund Life Members in 1 night!



Three Brethren from Lodge de Goede Hoop became Masonic Education Fund (MEF) Life Members and were awarded their MEF jewel at the Lodge de Goede Hoop Christmas working on 11 December

## Westerford spreads our Charity message

RW Bro Basil de Kock now lives in Prince Alfred Hamlet, some 175 kms from Cape Town. Together



2024. Standing with the MEF Roving Ambassador MW Cobis Wilson (extreme left) are the 3 BB who are now Masonic Education Fund (MEF) Life Members, (from left to right) , BB Luther Delport, Dirk Agenbag and Guy Taylor.

years and secondly they passed Bro Brian De Scande to the Fellowcraft degree. Wor Bro Willie Luck was in the Chair.



The Brethren surround Wor Bro Willie Luck and Bro Brian de Scande.

**RW Bro Neville Klein OSM turns 80**

While most of our younger Brethren may not be familiar with Neville, he is one of the GLSA’s true legends and is our longest living OSM. He’s now lost his legs and is in a wheelchair, but it takes more than that to get him down! He turned 80 on 26 November 2024. RW Bros Vic Mühlenbeck and Johan van der Merwe and Wor Bro Henry Selzer celebrated with him.



**A Special Night for the Gillmer’s**

Every father dreams of welcoming his son into Freemasonry. For RW Bro Ric Gillmer, this dream came true on Monday, 4 November 2024. On that night his son, Josh was initiated into Tolerance in Gqeberha. Enjoy the journey, Bro Josh, you have an excellent Mentor!



Ric and Josh Gillmer



**Trichardt’s Memorable Evening**

Lodge Trichardt had a very special evening on Thursday, 14 November 2024 at the Mendel Spitz Temple in Kinross. Firstly they welcomed back Bro Martin Janse van Vuuren after a break of several

**GLSA win Southern Division Potjie**

The GLSA team of Gary Hendricks, Sean Stuart and Dennis Knight won the Southern Olympics Potjie competition. Gary, of course, is well known for feeding 100s of needy people twice a week – and, based on this achievement, they are eating very well!



Sean Stuart, Dennis Knight and Gary Hendricks

**Lodge Springbok Takes Off!**

On Saturday, 7 December 2024, Lodge Springbok met virtually for their Rededication and Installation ceremony for our first-ever “virtual” Lodge. It’s membership is widespread and their Master, VW Bro Tony Bosman, for example, lives in Portugal. Activities must protect our Masonic principles. Online meetings will not include workings or anything which undermines our international relationships.



Lodge Springbok: Reminds one of Covid!



## Celebrating a Masonic Homes Christmas

Southern Division's Masonic Homes project started 50 years ago. We provide affordable housing for retired people in need of assistance and, as part of the related activities, had a Christmas Dinner at the de Goede Hoop Refectory. It is always much enjoyed and this year was no exception.



Masonic Homes Chairman, Mike Burchell with Desmain Lodge resident, Joan Halls. In the background is Ria Crofton holding gifts for the residents.

## Cape Town RA Chapter Installations

With a few days apart at the end of November, both Cape Town RA Chapters installed their new Principals, both first time MEZs.



Chapter de Goede Kaap were first and they installed Jonathan Curtis (MEZ), Bradley Bordiss (EH) and Corne Burger (EJ).



It was then Chapter Mutual's turn and they installed Cyril Engelke (MEZ), Frank Begot (EH) and Avron Jacobson (EJ).

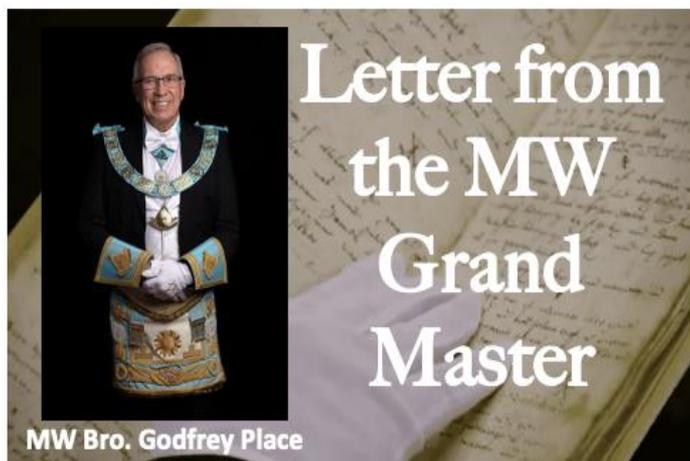
Both Installations were excellently performed by MEC Louis van der Linde and his Provincial team.

## AASR have an excellent 32<sup>nd</sup> degree working

On Saturday 9 November 2024, the Sovereign Grand Commander, MP Bro Vic Mühlenbeck, and his team advanced Ill Bros Hein Buys and Hendrik Rademeyer to the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree. The well conducted ceremony took place in the Gqeberha Temple.



Vic Muhlenbeck with Hendrik Rademeyer, Hein Buys and Sister Council representatives



## Involving Society in Freemasonry: Building Bridges Beyond the Lodge

Freemasonry is seen as an exclusive or secretive organization, but at its heart, it is deeply committed to benefiting society. The Masonic principle of "*making good men better*" extends beyond the walls of the Lodge, encouraging Freemasons to actively engage in their communities, foster social connections, and contribute to societal well-being. It is imperative that we demystify Freemasonry, and to do so, we need to educate the general public about what Freemasonry is.

Over the next few months I want to share some ideas and thoughts on how we can achieve our objective, removing the shroud of secrecy which has to some extent been forced on the organisation, not only in South Africa, but around the world.

So, how does one involve society in Freemasonry? This entails hard work from all of us, not only the leadership at Grand Lodge or Provincial Grand Lodge, but down to all members even at Lodge level. Many of our members have heard me talk about being visible in our communities, but not enough effort has been done to make us visible. Our Festive season Cookie Challenge is one way in which we can visibly show the world that we are indeed good men working for the betterment of society at large, and



we should shout this from the roof tops, get into the local newspapers with photos of regular guys and families doing things which benefits a cross section of society.

Here is the start of ways for our Masonic fraternity to work and connect with and positively impact the broader community:

### 1. Charitable Initiatives and Community Service

One of the most direct ways in which we as Freemasons can involve society is through charitable activities. Freemasonry has a long tradition of supporting local communities through fundraising, donations, and volunteer work.

In the past Masonic lodges were seen to sponsor events such as charity dinners, auctions, and benefit concerts, where the funds raised go to support local causes like disaster relief, scholarships, or food banks. These efforts have seemingly dried up and need to be resuscitated. By organizing and participating in these events, Freemasons not only help those in need but also create opportunities for the wider public to get involved.

For example, in America the Shriners, are a well-known branch of Freemasonry. They operate a network of hospitals for children, providing free medical care for children with serious conditions. We do not have the same number of members as in America, but that does not mean we cannot start such initiatives, even if on a very small scale, but we need to make sure our efforts are visible. The Shriners sponsor one of the PGA golf tournaments, where their members are proud to wear distinguishing items of apparel which identifies them as being a Shriner.

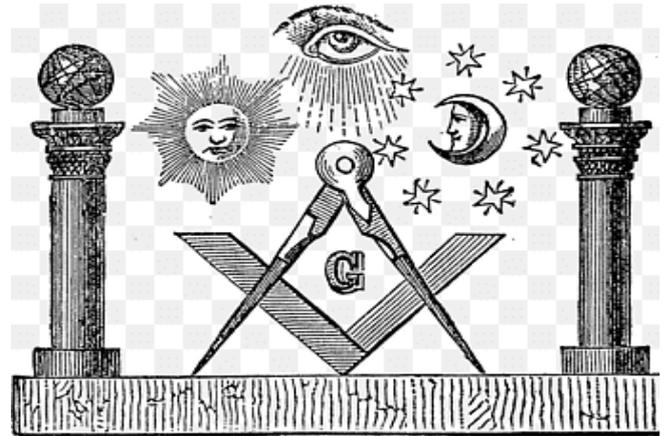
By working on large-scale charity efforts, Freemasons offer both tangible support and a way for society at large to participate in meaningful causes.

### 2. Educational Programs and Scholarships

Freemasons place a high value on education and self-improvement, and some Divisions in South Africa in conjunction with our Sister Constitutions have programs which offer financial support to students (being children or grandchildren of Freemasons) in need. These scholarships are sadly not open to non-Masons in South Africa. There are rules in place which set out requirements for worthy students to qualify for assistance. Providing

opportunities for further education has a direct impact on the lives touched by these programmes which ultimately helps Freemasonry extend its reach into society. We can celebrate the success of the students assisted by publishing photographs in the local newspapers with messages of congratulations showing that we have made a difference in someone's life.

The next article will look at Public Open Houses and Community Engagement and Mentorship and Leadership Programs.



#### These are our Almoners

If anything is known about a Brother in distress, please share it with your Divisional Almoner.

Southern Wor Bro Llew Lloyd-Jones	072 9653572
Northern Wor Bro Herman Roos	082 3184238
Central Wor Bro Barend Esterhuizen	072 4727236
Eastern Wor Bro Rudi Swart	072 5868135
E Cape Wor Bro Ian Hetherington	082 9545297

Disclaimer: Although we try to include as many photos as we can, it is often not possible to include all those supplied as the newsletter must be within 40 MB so that it can be easily transmitted to you.



**Do you have ideas or suggestions on how to improve the *Square & Compass*?**  
Please email us on [manny.defreitas111@gmail.com](mailto:manny.defreitas111@gmail.com)

