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GLSA AGM a great success!

The weekend of 12 July 2025 saw the Grand Lodge AGM being held in the Parktown Temple. The weekend also included a Conference of African Grand Lodges held at Orange Grove (see the report on page 2). The AGM saw us welcoming 19 visiting Grand Lodges – 13 from Africa, together with Washington DC, Germany and Greece and of course, England, Ireland and Scotland. The positive meeting was extremely well run.

The Installations of RW Bro Frans Roodt as Deputy Grand Master and RW Bro Simon Nash as an Assistant Grand Master were promotions well received, while the Annual Awards went to:

- Secretary of the Year: Gerhard Muller
- Installing Officer's Address: Simon Nash
- Most Balanced Lodge: Losie Trichardt
- Charity Jewel: Ari Abatzoglou, the Presiding Master of Central Free State, for his exceptional contribution to the needy.



The Grand Secretary with Gerhard Muller



The Grand Master with Trichardt's Willie Luck



MW Bro Godfrey Place with Simon Nash

In the evening we all attended a Banquet at the Radisson Blu Gautrain hotel in Sandton. This was to celebrate the GLSA AGM as well as RW Bro Marius Mostert's Installation as Northern PGM. The extremely pleasant atmosphere summed up the weekend's success.





Register today!





Godfrey and MW Bro Michael Volkwein (Germany)



Angela and Marius Mostert, Godfrey and Linda Place, Michael Volkwein and John Smith

GLSA hosts the Conference of African Grand Masters

Following the XVII Conference of African Grand Masters held in Abuja, Nigeria on 31 October and 1 November 2024, the conference agreed to call a special meeting of the Conference which would coincide with the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of South Africa. Representatives of the various Grand Lodges in Africa attended the meeting held on Friday, 11 July 2025 hosted at the Orange Grove Masonic Centre in Johannesburg. Business for the day focussed on communication within the conference, as well as debates on changes to some of the articles which were proposed by the Grand Lodge of Burkina Faso.

All the members of the African Conference attended the installation of the new Provincial Grand Master of the Northern Division held on the morning of Saturday, 12 July 2025 and also the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of South Africa held that afternoon.

Feedback from the delegates was very positive as this was the first time many had witnessed one of the GLSA's workings with the installation ceremony, taking away many happy memories of the weekend.



Northern Division change the guard

On the morning of 12 July 2025, Northern Division held their AGM. RW Bro Simon Nash first gave his report and attended to the business related to the Division's work over the past year. His report was an extremely encouraging one. There's much to be done, but much is happening. The Award Winners were:

- Secretary of the Year – Gerhard Muller
- Master Mason – Hugh Roarty
- Best Ritualist – Abel Sisya
- Paper of the Year – Fernando Carvalho

RW Bro Nash then handed the gavel to the Grand Master who duly disinvested him and set about installing RW Bro Marius Mostert as his successor. Marius then Installed Wor Bros Willie Luck, Jacques Fouche and Maxwell Matjane as his Assistants.



The Grand Master with Marius Mostert





Marius with Max Matjane



The 33rd degree Brethren

AASR host AGM and 33rd Degree

On Friday, 11 July 2025 the AASR held their AGM in the Parktown



MP Bro Vic Muhlenbeck

Temple. MP Bro Victor Muhlenbeck was in the chair and the meeting ran according to plan. His report was positive and inspiring. The Sovereign Grand Commander then announced that he was bestowing a Merit Award (MA) on M Ill Bro Henry Selzer for his outstanding service to the AASR. All agreed that this was extremely well deserved.

Other Awards went to Ian Huntly and Eric Dyer for their contribution to our Education Manual and to Mike Combrink for his contribution to his Chapter and Consistory in Central Division.

After the AGM the 33rd degree Brethren met for the purpose of advancing Ill Bros Juan de Villiers and Eric Nienaber. The ceremony was a most successful one, supported by our Sister SGCs.



Henry Selzer with Vic



Have You Booked for the World Conference?



Brethren, we hope that you will be joining us at the World Conference of Regular Grand Lodges which will be held in Cape Town from 17 to 21 May 2026.

We have said that the conference will be one where we will experience a MEETING OF MINDS, UNITED IN PROGRESS. Some of the ideas set out in previous articles in our *Square and Compasses*, as well as those from this series, will form part of the deliberations in which each one of the delegates will have a voice.

I urge you to book your places and be part of the powerful movement of shape shifters in the World of Freemasonry, where at the end of the three days of work, you will be given tools which you will be able to apply in your Lodges, and the Provincial Grand Lodge Officers will be able to apply at their Lodge level, but at Provincial Grand Lodge Level, and similarly, Grand Lodge Officers will be able to apply across all levels of Freemasonry in South Africa.



If you have not booked your seats yet, please do so without delay by clicking on the following link: www.xxwc2026.com.

AASR Northern increase their membership

July 2025 saw 2 of the AASR Northern Chapters perform 4th degree workings, thus welcoming new members. Chapter Prosperitas advanced Bro Dean Liversage with Ill Bro Gerald Bosch as MWS, while Chapter Ortu Phoenix advanced Bros Lucky Dinake and Khanyisile Mdonko-Nderezina with Gerhard Nortje as the MWS. Both workings were much enjoyed by those taking part.



MEC Avron Jacobson, Malcolm, Carel, Geoff, Kelvin, MEC Mahmoud Patel

Bellville Cryptic Council have a busy July

July 2025 saw Bellville Cryptic Council perform 3-degree workings. On 22 July 2025 EC Jonathan Curtis and Comps Carel du Preez, Hein Mulder and Kelvin Irvine were honoured as Royal Masters, while



Lucky and Khanyisile with Gerhard over Lucky's shoulder



Gerald next to Dean (center)

de Goede Kaap RAM perform Knight of the Sword

On Tuesday 1 July 2025 Chapter de Goede Kaap RAM advanced MEC Geoff Edwards OSM and Comp Kelvin Irvine to the Knight of the Sword degree. MEC Louis van der Linde MSA was in the chair.



Front row: Geoff, Louis and Kelvin with their Companions

on 29 July 2025, MEC Geoff Edwards, EC Malcolm Gessler and Comps Carel du Preez and Kelvin Irvine were greeted as Most Excellent Masters and then as Super Excellent Masters. In all cases MEC Louis van der Linde MSA was the Thrice Illustrious Master.



From second from the left at the back; Carel, Kelvin, Jonathan and Hein with Louis center front



Following in Father's Footsteps

Bro Mario Oriani-Ambrosini was an exceptional man and Mason who, after a fight with cancer, was taken to the Eternal East far too soon. His son Luke had determined to follow in his father's footsteps and being initiated into de Goede Hoop on 21 July 2025 saw 1 of the steps accomplished. Wor Bros Tony Monzoto and Bradley Bordiss were in the chair.



Achille, Leroyd and Jeannot



(From 3rd from the left) Luke, Tony and Bradley surrounded by the Brethren

First United win the Travelling Gavel

Lodge First United proudly brought home the coveted Eastern Division Travelling Gavel following their visit to Port Natal Lodge EC on Thursday, 9 July 2025, Wor Bro Craig Engelbrecht received it on his Lodge's behalf and he and his brethren will now try to keep it



The First United team with Craig holding the gavel

Consistory EMM have 3 new Illustrious Brethren

Consistory Eendracht Maak Magt advanced Ill Brothers Achille Katumbay, Leroyd Bergsteest and Jeannot Boussougouth to the 30th degree (Knight Kadosh). The Eminent Commander was Ill Bro Jacques Fouche and the event was well supported by the Brethren. The AASR is making excellent progress at present and it is showing in the range of activities.

Masonic self-development

Programme continues to grow

The Masonic self-development program has been running for more than two years now, aimed at assisting brethren to achieve their objectives on joining the order and

making themselves better men. The apprentice program has been running on the second Wednesday of the month on zoom and we have now started the fellow craft program which will run on alternative dates to be confirmed. The material is also available on grow.safreemason.co.za, the Grand Lodge's e-learning program.

There are many BB who are making a difference in the world, outside of their masonic activities. We want to hear from you and the great work that you are doing out in the profane world.

De Freitas Foundation hosts Christmas in July breakfast

The de Freitas Foundation, an official NPO launched in 2010 and run by the de Freitas family, has raised over R1,5 million rand in food and also well over 1 tonne of clothing that are supplied to the less fortunate in Gauteng.

The de Freitas Foundation feeds an average of 100 families every month and supports a Seniors Centre, amongst other projects.



On Saturday, 26 July 2025, the foundation hosted its successful annual Christmas in July breakfast where guests are requested to donate toiletries which goes to the needy.

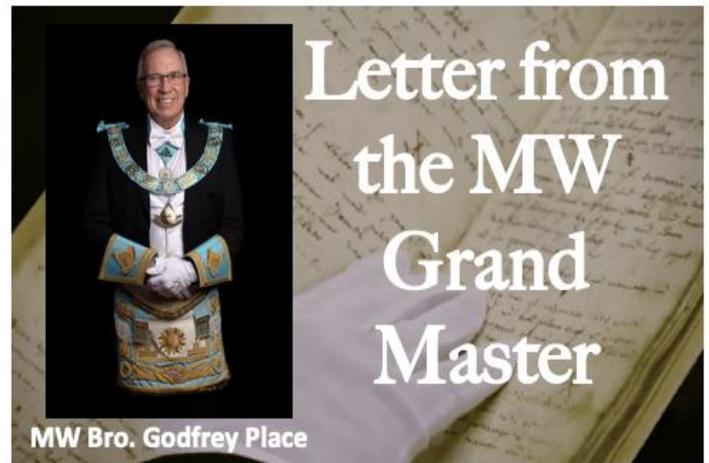


At the de Freitas breakfast; Bro Manny de Freitas with his mom and sister, Rosária and Jeanette respectively

These are our Almoners

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 Joseph Ngafoua	072 0809682
Central Wor Bro Pieter Kruger	083 7973500
Eastern Wor Bro Craig Engelbrecht	081 7378289
E Cape VW Bro Marius Terblanche	082 7283201



The Stumbling Blocks Facing Freemasonry in South Africa



The topic above is complex and is certainly one which cannot be published in one edition of our Square and Compasses. As such, we will break the subject down into three parts which are set out as follows:

PART ONE (July)

- Introduction
- Declining Membership and Ageing Lodges
- Misunderstanding and Mistrust

PART TWO (August)

- Social and Cultural Change
- Resistance to Adaptation
- Financial Pressures

PART THREE (September)

- Lack of Public Visibility
- Globalisation and Competing Priorities
- Finding a Path Forward

The solution to these matters does not rest only with the Grand Lodge and its Officers, or the Provincial Grand Lodges and their Officers, but with each and every Freemason who is a member of the Grand Lodge of South Africa. We all need to play a significant role (no matter how small you may perceive yours to be), as we should be united in purpose. We know the power of compound effort,



if we all believe and we all contribute, we can achieve great outcomes.

PART ONE

Introduction

Freemasonry is the world's oldest fraternal order. It has for centuries stood as a beacon of moral refinement, brotherhood, and charitable endeavour. The principles of Freemasonry are noble, being Truth, Morality and Brotherly Love. Our sister constitutions include Relief as one of their principles. They all make up the essence of Freemasonry.

Freemasonry in the 21st century, faces a complex set of challenges that threaten its growth, relevance, and perception. It changes not in its essentials but remains similar to what it was in far off days. This means that while the essence of the Craft remains unchanged, the world around it has shifted dramatically — and not always in its favour. We live in a world which is under severe stress, faced with ideologies which disturb the calmness of nations, greed, egotistical maniacs at the helms of government, wars, poverty, famine, and so the list goes on.

Let us look at contributing factors which face Freemasonry in South Africa, and perhaps also in the rest of the world. We need to focus on our own country, but perhaps some of what follows is also applicable in other Grand Lodges elsewhere in the world.

Declining Membership and Ageing Lodges

The most pressing concern is the steady decline in membership, which also applies to traditional churches and religions, as well as to social organisations. The average age of members has risen sharply across many jurisdictions,. This means that younger men are joining in smaller numbers, often deterred by perceptions that the Craft is outdated or overly formal. In South Africa, as elsewhere, some Lodges now struggle to fill offices or even open regularly.

Some underlying causes could be that modern lifestyles leave many with less time for structured meetings. There could be a generational shift away from joining traditional civic organisations, such as traditional religious bodies, or entities such as Lions, Rotary or Round Table, to mention a few. There is also a perception by some that Freemasonry has little to offer in a digital, fast-paced world.

Misunderstanding and Mistrust

Freemasonry has long been the target of conspiracy theories, misinformation, and religious suspicion. In South Africa, this mistrust can be magnified by the country's complex religious and cultural landscape. Some church leaders openly ridicule Masonry, forbidding members of their congregations to be part of our Order, twisting and expounding untruths to support their narrative, because they fear the real truth, that as an Order, our members practice and embody the very principles which they profess to have.

Globally, sensationalist portrayals in media and online platforms often overshadow the Craft's charitable and moral teachings. As a world-wide Order, we do little to debunk these portrayals, and silence in a way lends credibility to them. We need to be more vocal and counter these narratives setting the record straight. Sadly, good news does not sell newspapers or draw readership to platforms where such portrayals are debunked.

The impact of such misrepresentations and misunderstandings could well discourage potential candidates and sometimes place existing members on the defensive rather than the front foot. We must be proud of being Freemasons.



The Altar in the de Goede Hoop temple

