

DISTRICT GRAND CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICA, NORTH

Of Royal Arch Masons of England



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GRAND SUPERINTENDENT'S ADDRESS ANNUAL CONVOCATION – 6 OCTOBER 2018

Welcome to you all to this 115TH Annual Convocation of District Grand Chapter, and I extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests, some of whom have travelled far to be with us today and trust you have enjoyed our proceedings. I will acknowledge your presence at the end of this address. At this stage, I would like to welcome E Comp James Dow, Secretary of South Africa Lodge in London and a member of St James's Union Chapter No 180 under the London Metropolitan Grand Chapter. James is a former member of Bohemian Chapter – welcome home!

Many of the Companions have also travelled far to attend this meeting. In particular, I welcome E Comp. Dave Kitchen a member of Kosmos Chapter who has travelled from the Isle of Wight, to receive a first appointment. I also welcome our Members from the Chapter of Friendship in Mauritius and Swaziland Chapter at Manzini, as well as those from the far corners of our District in South Africa.

I welcome the First Principal of the Chapter of Friendship in Mauritius, E Companion Ajay Nunkoo and Companions, Kailash Juddoo, Rajah Bhageerutty, Lee Onsiong, Wilfrid Koon Kam King, Farojdeo Hemraj, Sanjay Ramguttty, Rajeev Nathoo, Mahen Bheekie and Asok Ramguttty. I would like to ask the Companions from Mauritius to stand and Companions please give them a warm welcome.

From Swaziland Chapter meeting at Manzini, Swaziland, I acknowledge and welcome; The First Principal, E Comp Nigel Taft, and E Comp. Marcus Zbinden, PAGDC, George Lutwama, Gaz Barlow and Paulo da Silva and Companions Nigel Fenwick, Pshesheya Malaza, Brett Hutton, Riccardo Nyoni & Sabelo Mdziniso. I would like the Companions from Swaziland to stand and Companions please also give them a warm welcome.

Congratulations are extended to those Companions who have received District Grand Rank today. I look to you all for future work in your Chapters and the District. There have been several changes of senior officers whom I would like to acknowledge. I welcome **E Comp Vaughn Williams** as 2nd District Grand Principal who has taken over from **E Comp Dave Gamble** and look forward to working with him. I thank **Dave Gamble** for his services over the past 4 years and wish him all the best in his retirement. I also welcome **E Comp Tom Korff** who takes over as 3rd District Grand Principal from **E Comp Howard Freeman** and likewise look forward to working with him. I also thank **E Comp Howard Freeman** for his services over the past 4 years. I also acknowledge and welcome **E Comp Lance Epstein** who takes over as Assistant to the District Grand Principals following the retirement of **E Comp Colin Robinson** who asked to stand down. I congratulate **E Comp Lance Epstein** on his appointment and look forward to working with him. **E Comp Mike Armour** asked to stand down as Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and I thank him for his

services after the past four years. **E Comp Lawrence Atrash** has joined the DC team as Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies and I wish him well with his new appointment.

Earlier this year, to mark his 50 years of service, the Most Excellent the First Grand Principal was pleased to appoint the following to Grand Rank, effective from the Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter held on 8 November 2017: **E Companion Christopher van Gaalen** received a first appointment as **PGStB** and **E Comp Howard Freeman** was promoted to **PAGSoj**. The Most Excellent the First Grand Principal was also pleased to appoint the following at the Grand Investiture of Supreme Grand Chapter held on 26 April, this year: First Appointments were received by **E Comp David Penrose to PGStB and EComps. Aussie Ball and Iain Purdon to PAGDC**. In addition, **E Comp Brian McDermott** received a promotion to **PAGSoj**.

The Royal Arch District is making excellent progress, with a total of **790** Members as at 31 March 2018, in **41** Chapters, representing an increase of **19** members. The total number of Royal Arch Members currently constitutes some **41%** of the total Craft Members in the District, similar to last year.

During the year, the emphasis of your Executive has been focused on Recruitment and Retention, bearing in mind that only some 41% of the Craft Members are Members of the Royal Arch. I would like to thank my Deputy, E Comp Tim Smith for his enthusiastic approach. I think all of you will have observed the pull-out banners at the main entrance, which E Comp Smith has organised. These banners will be used by the District at all recruitment and information drives at various Masonic Centres. Clearly, the posters point out the pathway from Initiation to Exaltation and stress the fact, that in our Constitution, the Royal Arch is the completion of Regular Freemasonry.

A series of booklets have been compiled by the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Tim Smith and are available from the Office of the District Grand Scribe Ezra at a minimum cost to cover printing. Despite the fact that the list of booklets has been sent out to Scribe Ezra's of Chapters, I am conscious of the fact that awareness of these booklets has not been transmitted through to all Companions. We have made the m available today at a table near the front entrance of the Hall.

The first two booklets are suitable for both Royal Arch and Craft Masons and are:

- ***The next regular step in Freemasonry;*** A pamphlet issued with the Grand Lodge Certificates, which should be presented to Master Masons when they receive their Certificate. Extra pamphlets are also available at the District Office and are most useful to hand to prospective candidates and can be used as an introductory lecture in lodges.
- ***The Relationship between the Craft Lodge and the Royal Arch Chapter.*** As stated in the title of this booklet, it explores the relationship between the Craft and the Royal Arch. The booklet is designed for Master Masons to read and likewise it can be delivered as a talk in a Craft Lodge.

The next three booklets are designed specifically for Royal Arch Masons, namely:

- ***A Guide for new Royal Arch Masons.*** This is a guide for the new Royal Arch Mason. Sections of this guide could be presented as a talk in a Royal Arch Chapter.
- ***Royal Arch Exaltation explained.*** The booklet gives an explanation of the Royal Arch and the ceremony of Exaltation. It could be presented in a Royal Arch Chapter, but is not suitable for a Lodge presentation.

- *Fifty Questions and Answers about the Royal Arch.* This booklet is designed for the Royal Arch Companion and may be used in a Royal Arch Chapter.

Hopefully, some of this literature will encourage Master Masons to join the Royal Arch and the literature designed for the Royal Arch Mason will give him a better understanding of our ceremonies and I would encourage Chapters and individual Companions to purchase them.

I am delighted to report that King Edward Royal Arch Chapter, attached to Pyramid Lodge, meeting at Buffelskloof Farm, near Naboomspruit (Mookgophong), has had a most successful start at its new locality and the reports I have received of the first meeting of the Chapter at its new venue were outstanding. The Chapter is in a favourable position to attract new members and I thank E Comp Joe Moore and his team for championing the move of the Chapter.

Discussions are currently underway between representatives of Belfast, Astrea at Waterval Boven and White River Lodges for the support of Belfast Royal Arch Chapter and I look forward to hearing the outcome.

In conclusion Companions, I would like to thank the District Grand Directors of Ceremonies, E Comp Ian Fraser and E Comps Mike Armour, Rory Jones and Lawrence Atrash for the Ceremony today. In addition, sincere thanks are extended to the District Grand Scribe Ezra, E Comp Guss Southgate, together with Mrs Fern Rowles and the administrative staff, here at Park Lane. I thank E Comp Chris van Gaalen, Chairman of the Organising Committee and members of his committee and the substantial work of E Comps David Whitfield and Stanley Elms in organising seating, ticketing and printing, together with work carried out by E Comp David Johnston and the District Grand Janitor, E Comp. Jerry Davies.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Craft meeting later this afternoon.

E Comp Prof E Guy Charlesworth
Grand Superintendent,
6 October 2018