

# DISTRICT GRAND CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICA, NORTH

Of Royal Arch Masons of England



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## GRAND SUPERINTENDENT'S ADDRESS ANNUAL CONVOCATION – 7 OCTOBER 2017

Welcome to you all to this 114<sup>TH</sup> 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 formally acknowledge you all at the end of this address.

Many of our Companions have also travelled far to attend this meeting. In particular, I would like to acknowledge and welcome our Members from the Chapter of Friendship in Mauritius, Swaziland Chapter at Manzini, Swaziland and Gaborone Chapter in Botswana, as well as those from the far corners of our District in South Africa.

I welcome E Companion Esmael Patel, Second Principal of Chapter of Friendship accompanied by E Companion Mustapha Adamjee and Companions Koon Kam King, Kailash Juddoo, Rajeev Nathoo, Mithilesh Lallah, Sanjay Ramgutti, Ajay Baijnath, Koomar Gokulsing and Sudhir Misri. 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; E Comp Nigel Taft, Second Principal and E Comps. Marcus Zbinden, PAGDC, Gaz Barlow, George Mavhunga, Kobla Quashie, Nigel Fenwick, Pheshaya Malaza, Edward Fenwick, Brent Hutton, Riccardo Nyoni and Keiren Thurgood. I also acknowledge and welcome E Comp Tim Ellwood and Gerald Peinke from Gaborone Chapter, Botswana. 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 which I would like to comment upon. I particularly welcome E Comp **Richard Moore** as President of the District Committee of General Purposes who has taken over from E Comp Brad Gillies. I wish Brad Gillies all the best in his retirement after some 18 years in service as President of the Committee and I wish both himself and Sue better health with Brad's retirement. **E Comp Guss Southgate** takes over as District Grand Scribe Ezra from E Comp David Pickard and **E Comp Charles Burn** was elected Treasurer following the retirement of Hilly Rosin. I thank E Comps Pickard and Rosin for their service and I congratulate **E Companions Guss Southgate and Charles Burn** on their appointments. In addition E Comp Vaughn Williams has stood down as Director of Ceremonies and I thank him for his services. **E Comp Ian Fraser** takes over as Director of Ceremonies and I wish him well with his new appointment.

Earlier this year, the Most Excellent the First Grand Principal was pleased to appoint the following to Grand Rank: **E. Companions David Pickard and Barry Winter** received first appointments to

**PGStB** and **E Companion David Gamble** was promoted to **PAGSoj**. I extend congratulations to them all and I look to them for their on-going support of the District.

To mark his 50 years of service this year, the Most Excellent First Grand Principal has been pleased to announce that he will be making an additional first appointment and a promotion to this District. I am pleased to announce that he has appointed E Companion **Christopher van Gaalen** as **PGStB** and **E Comp Howard Freeman** has been promoted to **PAGSoj**. Congratulations are extended to these companions who will receive their special appointments at the November 2017 Communication of Supreme Grand Chapter. These appointments are in addition, to the annual appointments which will be made at the Grand Investiture in April, 2018.

The Royal Arch District is making excellent progress, with a total of 771 Members as at 31 March 2017, in 41 Chapters, representing an increase of 6 members from last year. I might add, that according to London as at 1<sup>st</sup> September we had 829 registered in the books of Grand Chapter. The total number of Royal Arch Members currently constitutes some 42% of the total Craft Members in the District, slightly increased from the 41% of last year.

There has been a recent request for a Royal Arch Chapter to be attached to Pyramid Lodge that meets at Buffelskloof Farm, near Naboomspruit (Mookgophong). I am pleased to announce that King Edward Royal Arch Chapter, which currently meets in Carletonville, have agreed in principle, to move the Chapter to Pyramid Lodge, early in the new year, and such a move has my support. For those interested in joining the Chapter at Pyramid, and for further information, please contact E Comp Joe Moore, who is championing the establishment of the Chapter. It is the intention of the remaining local members of King Edward Royal Arch Chapter to join Royal Albert Royal Arch Chapter in Klerksdorp.

Companions, I would like to use this opportunity to appeal to Scribe Ezras of Chapters to send their Summonses to Senior Officers in the District, for all meetings- not just Installation meetings. District rules state they should be sent at least 10 Days before a meeting to the ME Grand Superintendent (That's Me!), The Deputy, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> District Grand Principals, Assistant to the District Principals, the President of the Committee of General Purposes and District Grand Scribe Ezra and if a Chapter meets here at Park Lane then also to the District Grand Janitor. This will allow the District Executive to see what work is being done in each of the Chapters.

Chapters have had permission to send out the Summonses by email for some time and I would seriously suggest a separate mail list is set-up for those Senior District Officers mentioned – addresses are in the Installation book, available to all Scribe Ezras. Companions to illustrate the problem, there are 41 Chapters in this District and I only receive summonses from about 10 and two of them are from my own Chapters to which I subscribe. I am also an Honorary Member of several other Chapters, many of them do not bother to send me summonses. Companions this is an extremely serious situation. Communications are vitally important both from the First Principal and Scribe Ezra of the Chapter, if Chapters and our District are to grow.

A series of booklets are available from the Office of the District Grand Scribe Ezra to improve the understanding of the Royal Arch and our ritual. They have been compiled by the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Tim Smith and I would encourage Chapters and Companions to purchase them. They are also available today at a table near the front entrance of the Hall. 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 a better understanding of our ceremonies.

In conclusion Companions, I would like to thank the District Grand Directors of Ceremonies, E Comp Vaughn Williams and E Comp Ian Fraser and the DC team for the Ceremony today. In addition, sincere thanks are extended to the former District Grand Scribe Ezra, E Comp David Pickard, 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 Comp David Whitfield in organising seating, ticketing and printing, together with work carried out by E Comp David Johnston and Stanley Elms 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,  
7 October 2017