

DISTRICT GRAND CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICA, NORTH

Of Royal Arch Masons of England



FREEMASONS' HALL, 8 PARK LANE, PARKTOWN, JOHANNESBURG, 2193. PO BOX 17037, HILLBROW, 2038. Tel: 011 643-3311/2. Fax: 011 643-2460. EMAIL: district@freemason-jhb.org.za

GRAND SUPERINTENDENT'S ADDRESS ANNUAL CONVOCATION – 5 OCTOBER 2019

Welcome to you all to this 116TH Annual Convocation of District Grand Chapter, and I extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests and I trust you have enjoyed our proceedings. I will acknowledge your presence at the end of this address.

Many of the Companions have travelled far to attend this meeting. In particular, I welcome Dewan Sibartie, the Second Principal of the Chapter of Friendship in Mauritius, who is accompanied by a Past First Principal and 7 Companions. I would like to ask the Companions from Mauritius to stand - Companions please give them a warm welcome.

From Swaziland Chapter meeting at Manzini, Swaziland, I acknowledge the First Principal, E Comp Nigel Taft accompanied by E Comp Marcus Zbinden, PAGDC, a Past First Principal and 3 Companions. I would like the Companions from Swaziland to stand and Companions please also give them a warm welcome.

From Gaborone Chapter in Botswana, I also welcome the 3RD Principal, E Comp Vikash Ponangi and 2 Companions. Companions please also give them a warm welcome.

It is also gratifying to have representation from our Chapters in the far North, from Lion of the North, Letaba, Liberty and Pyramid Chapters. It is good to see the support from Principals, Grand Officers and Companions and I would ask those Companions to stand. Companions please welcome them.

Likewise there is a contingent from Vereeniging Chapter in the south: 1ST Principal E Comp Roy Pillay accompanied by the 2ND Principal Jeram Bishan, 2 Past First Principals and 2 Companions. Welcome Companions and please stand. Companions please welcome them.

I extend a welcome to all others who have travelled far to be with us today.

Companions my patent of appointment as ME Grand Superintendent expires on the 30TH April next year, when I will have served 10 years as Grand Superintendent. I have indicated to Grand Scribe Ezra that I will be standing-down, so this is my last Annual Convocation that I will preside over as Grand Superintendent. I can confidently report that the Royal Arch District has made good progress over the last 9½ years. Two Royal Arch Chapters have been consecrated and the total number of Chapters now stands at **41** and at 31 March, the Membership currently stood at **772**. The total number of Royal Arch members currently constitutes some **40%** of the total Craft members in the District.

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. I particularly welcome **E Comp Howard Freeman** who was invested as Deputy Grand Superintendent and wish him well with his duties. I also extend grateful thanks to **E Comp Tim Smith** who has stood down as Deputy Grand Superintendent. His five year appointment has been marked by his excellent service and the production of several booklets on the Royal Arch for both Royal Arch and Craft members, which are proving to be most useful.

On 25 April, this year, The Most Excellent the First Grand Principal was pleased to appoint the following at the Grand Investiture of Supreme Grand Chapter: First Appointments were received by **E Companions Ian Fraser** and the late **Richard Lipnicki to PGStB**.

We were all saddened by the sudden loss of Richard, but it was gratifying to know that Richard received his Grand Rank appointment before his stroke, hospitalisation and recent passing.

I am delighted to report that King Edward Royal Arch Chapter, which met at Carletonville has been attached to Pyramid Lodge, meeting at Buffelskloof Farm, near Naboomspruit (Mookgophong). The Chapter has settled into its new home and Supreme Grand Chapter have recently agreed that it has been appropriately renamed Pyramid Chapter.

Companions, the Brethren of Highveld Lodge have recently approached me for a Royal Arch Chapter to serve their members in Evander. First Pride Royal Arch Chapter have recently moved to Kensington, but unfortunately the Chapter has not been making good progress, partly as a consequence that there are already two other Royal Arch Chapters meeting in Kensington. In discussion with members of First Pride Chapter, a decision has been made to relocate the Chapter to Evander. The Chapter will hopefully move early in 2020. In preparation for the relocation, the Chapter exalted six members of Highveld Lodge into the Chapter by dispensation, holding the meeting at Park Lane last weekend. It was a superb series of ceremonies and I would like to thank the assistance of those Grand and District Grand Officers who participated. All in all, an excellent start for the Chapter's relocation.

In conclusion Companions, I would like to thank the District Grand Directors of Ceremonies, E Comp Ian Fraser and Lawrence Atrash and E Comps Rory Jones and Bill Hynds 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, 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,
5 October 2019