

DISTRICT GRAND CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICA, NORTH

Of Royal Arch Masons of England



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GRAND SUPERINTENDENT'S ADDRESS ANNUAL CONVOCATION – 1 OCTOBER 2011

Welcome to you all to this the 109TH Annual Convocation of District Grand Chapter, and in particular, to those who have travelled long distances to be with us. I extend a warm welcome to our distinguished guests and trust they have enjoyed our proceedings.

Today is a special occasion for those Companions who have received District Grand Rank, and I congratulate them. I also congratulate E. Companions Iain Fraser and Hans van Gaalen who were appointed to PGStB. and received their Grand Rank in London earlier this year.

At this occasion, I would like to pay tribute to E Comp Richard Moore who has retired as Deputy Grand Superintendent and thank him most sincerely for his outstanding contribution to the Order and to this District in particular. We wish him well in his retirement. E Comp Bob Evans has also retired as Treasurer and we thank him most sincerely for his service over the past eight years.

I congratulate E Comp Cleve Wiehahn on his promotion to Deputy Grand Superintendent E Comp Brian McDermott on his promotion to Second Grand Principal and welcome and congratulate E Comp Hans van Gaalen on his appointment to Third District Grand Principal. I also congratulate E Comp Hilly Rosin on his election to Treasurer and look forward to working with him.

For the first time in many years, membership increased by 2.5%. This augers well and I hope it will be the start of a sustained trend. Companions keep up the good work.

I am delighted to announce that I have been approached to facilitate the formation of two new Chapters. I have issued petition forms to members of Fidelity Lodge in Volksrust for a Chapter to be attached to their Lodge. It will serve the south-eastern part of our District. Secondly, the brethren of our Lodge of Friendship, in Mauritius are keen for a Chapter to be attached to their Lodge. I have consulted with the Grand Secretary's office to see if there would be any international ramifications and have received confirmation to issue petition forms. I wish them both well in their endeavours and I hope that these two initiatives will come to fruition during the coming year.

During the forthcoming year, the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Cleve Wiehahn will be giving oversight to a more structured approach in setting-up demonstration workings, assistance to Chapters at regular and Installation meetings, and an explanation of the Royal Arch Chapter and ceremony of exaltation. Past First Principals who wish to be involved in these ritual workings are asked to contact E Comp. Wiehahn.

In conclusion Companions, I would like to thank the District Grand Director of Ceremonies, E Comp Tim Smith and his team for an excellent Ceremony today. In addition, sincere thanks are extended to the District Grand Scribe Ezra, E Comp Stanley Elms, Mrs Fern Rowles and the administrative staff at Park Lane. I look forward to seeing you all at the Craft meeting later this afternoon.

E Comp Prof E Guy Charlesworth
Grand Superintendent

Johannesburg
1 October 2011