

DGL NEWS

December 2010

The Need for Effective Communication

2010 has been a busy year in our District and I hope that all are able to look back on the year with a feeling of achievement and development in your Masonic career. Of equal importance is that each member had fun and enjoyed the camaraderie amongst fellow Masons, no matter at which meeting or gathering, or location in our District.

Communication remains a challenge in our District, which covers a vast geographical area with a total of 35 Craft Lodges, 18 RA Chapters and 6 Mark Lodges.

All too often the only form of communication between members is thru a circular or notice read out by the Lodge secretary at a meeting. If the member is not present at the meeting or poor of hearing, the info is lost.

Although in modern times there are many forms of communication e.g. SMS's, email, fax, internet, website, telephone and post, it is seldom that each member in our district receives a personal communication about a future or past event or interesting piece of information.

Total membership in the District is only 679 and with all the infrastructure at our disposal, it should be

possible for a communication such as this newsletter to reach each and every member within two weeks, even if it were posted. Yes, post is still an effective form of communication and remains very personal.

The development and growth of Freemasonry in our District is much dependent on how well we communicate with all the members of our lodge, between lodges and with the District Grand Lodge.

If we do not have good communication within our entire district, how can we expect effective communication with the non-masonic public? Before we can communicate with those outside Freemasonry, we need to communicate well within.

In 2011 may we experience vast improvements in our channels of communication and achieve the target of:

A personal communication to reach each member in the District and an acknowledged reply within two weeks.

MEMBERSHIP

The year 2010 will be recorded as a milestone in the history of English Freemasonry in the Western Division of South Africa. After 15 years of decline in membership, the total membership of craft lodges will have an annual nett increase of 10. From 1 January to 31 December 2011, a total of 36 initiations and

After taking into account those that passed to higher service, relocated or resigned, the membership for the year increased from 670 to 679. The figure of 679 includes those that have membership in more than one lodge, taking this into account, the number of individual members is estimated at 610.

Of the 35 lodges, 21 had initiates and we now have 5 lodges with a membership of 30 and more (Carnarvon, Phoenix, Table Mountain, Hermanus and Columbine).

Average membership per lodge is 19. 29% of lodges have a membership of between 10 and 16 and a further 29% have a membership of between 16 and 20. Encouraging to report that because of the age of most of the initiates during 2010, the average age of the members in the District is now 39 years.

Renovations of Pinelands Masonic Centre

TARGET R708 852

COLLECTED R73 250 x 2

The phase 1 of the major repairs at the Masonic Centre Pinelands is 85% complete and we can now have peace of mind that no further deterioration of the roof structure will take place. Most of the rectification to the electrics and lighting has been completed and sufficient air conditioning can be provided without the use of the chiller.

In response to our appeal to raise R708 542 for the phase one renovation, we have received personal contributions ranging from R500 to R10 000 and in this regard we thank the following generous donors.

Alan Lane
 Dave Elliot
 Ernest Malherbe
 Issy Miller
 John Ackermann
 Peter Duckworth
 Two anonymous donors

Colin Cairncross
 Dirk Fyffe
 Ian Pringle
 Jim Duggan
 Lance Alam
 Steve Mills

Total received in personal contributions: R49 250.

Thanks to the following Lodges who have also contributed:

Lord Roberts Lodge	Woodstock Lodge
12 monthly payments of R2 000 – Total R24 000	Will match all donations rand for rand up to a maximum R300 000.

Mentorship Program

The mentor training program under the direction of the District Grand Mentor, W. Bro Kenneth Marcus, was officially launched with a training program held at St Blaize Lodge in Mossel Bay on 8th September 2010. Ten brethren attended the 3 hour workshop and all left with a wealth of knowledge and a keen commitment to establish a mentoring program throughout the District.

As a sequel, two mentors have been appointed in St Blaize Lodge and W. Bro John sparks appointed as the regional Mentor for the Garden Route. A second mentor workshop was held at Lord Roberts Lodge on Saturday, 6th November and was equally well attended.

Mentoring is vital to the sustained growth of Freemasonry in our society. Mentoring is about attracting new members, how to prepare the candidate for his initiation, how to assist the development of the new Mason, how to maintain the interest of the Master Mason, how to regain those members who resigned because of loss to interest etc. Mentoring involves each member of the Fraternity, the Mentor and the



The group that attended the first mentor workshop held at St Blaize Lodge in Mossel Bay on 8th September 2010

Mentee. We pledge our full support to our District Grand Mentor and we wish him all the success with this much needed initiative.

The next mentor workshop is planned for the Cape Town area is to be held in January 2011.

Freemasonry at Community Chest Carnival

All the Constitutions will jointly man the Freemason stall at the Community Chest Carnival to be held at Maynardville from Wednesday 2nd March to Saturday 5th March 2011.

Working at the Carnival is a great opportunity for all four constitutions to network, have fun and get to know each other better.

Our participation at the Carnival is one of our best PR opportunities to promote Freemasonry to the Cape Town community and to demonstrate that Freemasons care about others.

Potjiekos Competition

If you have never competed in the Masonic Potjiekos competition, Saturday 5th February 2100 could be the start of a new experience. Teams from all four Constitutions will compete against each other at the Jan Kriel School in Kuils River for the coveted trophy and first, second and third prize. Last year 32 teams competed amidst much fun for all, including jumping castles and water slide for the children and Don Haward

Keeping Informed

To be Informed of events and meetings of the District Grand Lodge of South Africa Western Division visit our web site:

www.freemasonrycape.net.

Check all details of your own lodge and advise the webmaster of any needed corrections. All suggestions of info that is needed on the web site will be welcomed.

District Finance Indaba

Four regional finance indabas are to be hosted during January and February 2011. All members are summoned to attend and should come armed with fresh ideas as to how we can make ends meet in a time when all of the economy around us is experiencing difficult times.

FESTIVE Season

To all that will be celebrating the Festive Season, we wish you a healthy, safe and joyous celebration

DATES TO DIARISE 2011

Monday 11 January	Masonic Centre Pinelands Open		Thursday 13 January	Tenants Report Back Forum	Masonic Centre Pinelands
Monday 31 January	Regional Finance Indaba	Lord Roberts Lodge	Saturday 5 February	Potjiekos Competition	Jan Kriel School
Monday 7 February	Central Finance Indaba	Masonic Centre Pinelands	Tuesday 8 February	Regional Finance Indaba	St Blaize Lodge Mossel Bay
Saturday 12 February	Metropolitan Race Day	Kenilworth Race Course	Saturday 19 February	Regional Finance Indaba	Columbine Lodge St Helena Bay
Wednesday 2 to Saturday 5 March Community Chest Carnival Maynardville					

SOME SNIPPETS FROM OUR DISTRICT GRAND MENTOR

1. For all our newly Raised Brethren, how about acquiring one of those beautiful leather cases to protect your regalia, your gloves, your ritual book and, of course, your Grand Lodge certificate? Cases are available from the office at the Masonic Centre Pinelands, I also have a few. The price is a fraction (I can assure you) of what you would pay if you were purchasing a new genuine leather case and you will, I am sure, be very proud of your acquisition.
2. Do you know the difference between the sign of 'Fidelity' and the sign of 'Reverence' – and when each is used?
3. How many Officers in our Lodges can open and close a Lodge 'off the cuff'?
4. Wouldn't it be 'Masonically friendly' if, when at Festive Boards, we mingled with our visitors rather than we sit at one leg of the table and the visitors at another?

Should any Brethren have particular snippets which you feel would be of interest to others, please do email me at k.marcus@karlstorz.co.za

EDITORIAL

It's been much time since our last DGL News, but certainly has not been forgotten about. To all that send information that can be included, thank you very much and please continue to do so. Regret this is such a short edition, but is primarily to inform all of the progress in the Phase 1 Renovations of Pinelands and to test our lines of Communication.

Any information can be forwarded to the editor:

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