

## 2020 has changed everything ... and it's only half over!

Not in our wildest of dreams could one have imagined that life, as one knows it, would literally be brought to it's knees in 2020!

Every year typically has a few defining moments, but the past six months have contained so many world-changing, paradigm-shifting developments that it's getting hard to believe we're not in a simulation that's running every possible scenario at once.

But there's no time to be exhausted: With a pandemic still raging and waves of social change swelling around the globe, there's still a lot of history left to be made in 2020.

At midnight on the 26th of March 2020, South Africa entered a 21-day nationwide lockdown as part of efforts to curb the rapid spread of the Coronavirus in the country. Along with this came a string of strict regulations and restrictions, severely disrupting the lives—and livelihood—of millions! We were instructed to stay at home, except under strict controlled circumstances, including the seeking of medical care, buying food, medicine and other supplies or the collection of social grants.

For the first time in our new democracy, we were subjected to the Disaster Management Act under which all new regulations and protocols came into effect. We were instructed to stay at home, except under strict controlled conditions. Wearing a face mask became mandatory and the new norm.

By the 1st of April 2020, 1 million Covid-19 cases were recorded world-wide, and more was to come!

## Editorial



As at the 26th of August 2020, South Africa recorded 613 017 positive cases of which there were 520 381 recoveries and 13 308 deaths. A total of 3 578 836 tests were conducted up to this date.

As with everything else, Freemasonry has also felt the brutal effects of this international pandemic. On the 19th of March 2020 the Pro Grand Master, RW Bro Peter Lowndes issued a poignant address to the brethren of the UGLE worldwide announcing the immediate suspension of all Masonic activity. "I appreciate the



enormous disruption that this will cause all of us, and also the hole left in our lives by the withdrawal of something we hold enormously dear", Bro Lowndes stated. Naturally, many of us wondered how this temporary suspension will impact our District and Lodges and how we plan to retain the interest of our members, especially our younger brethren and those in the wings waiting to be accepted into the Order. In this regard our DGM, RW Anthony Strong recently stated the following:

"The District extends our thoughts to those Candidates seeking admission and those Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Brethren awaiting advancement. At this point in time, patience is a virtue and your understanding is much appreciated".

Just because the lights in our buildings have been switched off does not mean our Lodges have gone dark, or that we are finished! On the contrary: The District and many Lodges are using the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity to strengthen its relationship with members (via regular messages from our DGM WhatsApp groups and a host of local and internal Masonic Zoom meetings); get all administration up to date (with the invaluable assistance of our DG Secretary) and continue raising money for Charity (including the District Charity raffle, Port Natal Lodge's Beard challenge and donations made to DG Charity by Lodges and individuals.

As Masons, it is our duty to support each other and our community and we knew that this pandemic was an opportunity to really step up as a District. In this regard, a WhatsApp group "KZN Masons 4 Business" was established allowing for brethren to offer goods and services and act as a platform to obtain professional services. Our DG Charity Steward has also been very busy with wonderful charity work, including the giving out of blankets and food to the less fortunate [see pages 6 and 7].

Finally, we welcome on board to the Square Talk editorial team, WBro Schalk Jacobs who has kindly offered his services. Bro Schalk is no stranger to writing articles and editing newsletters. Like WBro Jurek Krajewski who recently joined the team, Bro Schalk brings with him a wealth of knowledge, experience and creativity, all of which will be beneficial to the future of this newsletter for the wonderful District of KwaZulu-Natal.

*Stay Safe  
and  
Healthy*

# Address by the District Grand Master



This is one of the most unfortunate, emotional, trying and disappointing times the world has ever experienced or had to endure which includes the detrimental effect impinged on Freemasonry in general and the unfortunate cancellation of the **245th Communication of the District Grand Lodge of KwaZulu Natal** scheduled for the 13th June 2020. The witnessing of a fellow Brother being bestowed with a District honour followed by the banquet in an atmosphere of harmony and friendship will be sorely missed. Encompassing the latter is the presence of the Representatives from other Districts and our Sister Constitutions.

The Coronavirus Pandemic has certainly impacted on the world economy, business, private lives and our Order. Within this period and as we progress through these uncharted water, we must acknowledge all those Brethren and family members who have sacrificed their time, knowing the consequences, in delivering food, medication, clothing and in assisting those in need. Also acknowledge the importance to those who have communicated with those living alone and to instill in them the feeling of being remembered and cared for. This is a clear indication of our moral behavior, voluntary contributions to society and the involvement in all aspects of Charity which is one of the foundation stones of Freemasonry. I thank you all for what you are doing, for you are a wonderful advertisement for Freemasonry which we hold so dear to our hearts. I salute you one and all.

There are a number of Worshipful Brethren who have readily and willingly accepted to continue in their respective Active Office for a further term. By this acceptance, the District will gain stability and benefit from their knowledge and experience. Several Brethren are vacating Active Rank and I thank them for their contribution and dedicated support. This is not the end of the Masonic journey but a point at which you will evaluate your individual potential and Masonic careers, hence, continue to support the District with enthusiasm and determination to succeed. I thank you.

To those Worshipful Brethren that have accepted promotion to Active Rank, I welcome you. This investiture is not only confined for past services to the District, but equally for your future commitment in the development of the District and the welfare of the Brethren. Await with anticipation to acknowledge your contribution and achievements [see page 6].

Past Ranks have been conferred on a number of Worshipful Brethren who have excelled not only within their own Lodge, but loyalty and actively participating in the affairs of the District. Congratulations on your preferment and we look forward to meeting with you as we travel throughout the District [see page 7]. With effect from the 13th June 2020 the honour which has been bestowed on the Worshipful Brethren becomes effective.

A copy of my valedictory address will be circulated to all Lodges and encourage the Master

to disseminate the District's strengths, weaknesses and the priorities for the years ahead. The progress within each Lodge must be highlighted within the Master's valedictory report.

Let us not lose sight of Lodge contributions to the District Grand Lodge Charity and the Wesley Francis Memorial Education Fund. Brethren, remember you could be a recipient to either one or both of the above.

Brethren, what of our future? Listening to the State President, there is no quick solution and envisage that the imposed restrictions are with us until the end of September or possibly even longer. Serious consideration will have to be given to the convening of Masonic Meetings, bearing in mind the gazetted health requirements and imposed restrictions. The District will monitor the situation and consider ways in which Lodges can meet. Brethren will be advised.

Brethren, I conclude with this message: I will walk in front of you to guide the Order to greater heights; I will walk behind you to support you in case you stumble and fall, but above all, will always walk beside you so that together we can develop the Order to one of pride, dedication, enthusiasm and commitment. I am proud to be a member of the District of KwaZulu-Natal.

*RW Bro Anthony Strong*

# Keeping the Masonic flame burning

RW Bro Anthony Strong, DGM KZN EC

**I**n March 2020, the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England suspended Masonic activity in England until 17 July 2020. After much consultation and deliberation that there is no particular reason to extend the suspension, Masonic Meetings may commence from the abovementioned date. They recognize that, excluding emergency meetings which some Lodges might want to hold under the appropriate dispensation, the vast majority of meetings will not begin until September 2020. The Welsh government guidance is such that Masonic Meeting at this point in time are illegal.

**What is the District's stance as we travel through these uncharted waters experiencing difficulties combined with changes in our human behaviour?**

The Coronavirus Pandemic has, and is, effecting many families and friends, businesses and, in particular, our Fraternity. It is in this light, and in view of the increase in statistics and the recent Government Regulations, to suspend all Masonic activity within the District of KwaZulu-Natal for the 2020 Masonic Year.

The District extends its thoughts to those Candidates seeking admission and those Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Brethren awaiting advancement. At this point in time, patience is a virtue and your understanding is much appreciated.

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### Important to keep the Masonic flame burning

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During this period of isolation, it is important to keep the Masonic flame burning. Communication will be maintained from District to the Lodges and confident that each Lodge will formulate or develop its own channels of communication. This is to ensure that every Brother is a special asset to the District and specific Lodge; must be cared for and

prevent the sense of Masonic loneliness particularly the elderly and the vulnerable Brethren.

The following interim measures have been compiled by District for implementation by Lodges:

1. Risk Management Policy for each Lodge to implement particularly those who have own Temples;
2. Responsible person to be appointed within each Lodge as Representative Hygiene coordinator;
3. Circulation of suggestions for conducting First and Second Degree workings;




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**“The District extends its thoughts to those Candidates seeking admission, those Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft Brethren awaiting advancement”**

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4. Third Degree workings are not permissible;
5. No dispensations will be issued for an emergency meeting;
6. United Grand Lodge newsletters to be circulated to Masters and Secretaries for communication to their members;
7. Such to be adopted as a guide without a change to Lodge traditions but in accordance with Government Regulations.

We all look forward, albeit with some degree of anxiety, to resuming our Masonic Meetings.

I wish to extend my gratitude to the Brethren of the District for their continuing support and interest to Craft Freemasonry whilst persevering this difficult period, but remain sensitively cautious to the challenges that will inevitable confront us.

# Adapting our Masonic lives during the Covid-19 pandemic

**L**ife as we know it has changed. Navigating social interaction in a world of Covid-19 has taken on a new meaning. New standards for social etiquette are being set in real time ranging from taking peoples' temperature before being admitted to a social gathering or work meeting and wearing masks and sanitising hands when venturing out of one's home to attend to shopping, business or social events.

"Social distancing" has become the new buzz word practically on everyone's lips. Social (physical) distancing, as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), aims to slow the spread of disease by stopping chains of transmission of Covid-19 and preventing new ones from spreading. These measures dictate a physical distance of at least one metre between people and reduce contact with contaminated surfaces, while encouraging and sustaining virtual contact with families and communities.

Needless to say, social distancing will have an affect on our Masonic rituals as we know them! In response to this, the UGLE suggests interim measures for Lodges:

- Maintaining physical distance of one metre between brethren should make it easier not only to maintain the dignity of the ceremonies but also to accommodate a sensible number of Brethren for a meeting;
- Discreet prompting is always an issue, but should not be allowed to lead to any encouragement to Masters to read ceremonies rather than deliver them from memory;
- Ceremonies with multiple candidates should almost certainly be avoided;
- A Third Degree should not be carried out under present conditions;
- The precise location of Officers will be dictated by the size and shape of the Lodge room;



- All must maintain the required social distance, including the IPM and the Chaplain (who may, therefore, have to move to the south of their normal positions);

- It is suggested that the Junior Deacon sit diagonally opposite the Senior Deacon, at the west end of the front row in the south, and the Inner Guard at the west end of the front row in the north, diagonally opposite the Director of Ceremonies;

- Compliance with all relevant government requirements is essential, and any deliberate disregard of such requirements should be regarded as activity, which may bring Freemasonry into disrepute and, therefore, result in disciplinary action;

- As a general principle, only one person should handle any individual item of regalia or furniture during the course of a meeting;

- The Opening and Closing ceremonies involve no insuperable difficulties, but some modification is likely to be needed for opening and closing the VSL and the changing of Tracing Boards;

- For a Ceremony, a pedestal or a small table immediately in front of WM's pedestal will be required

to take the VSL;

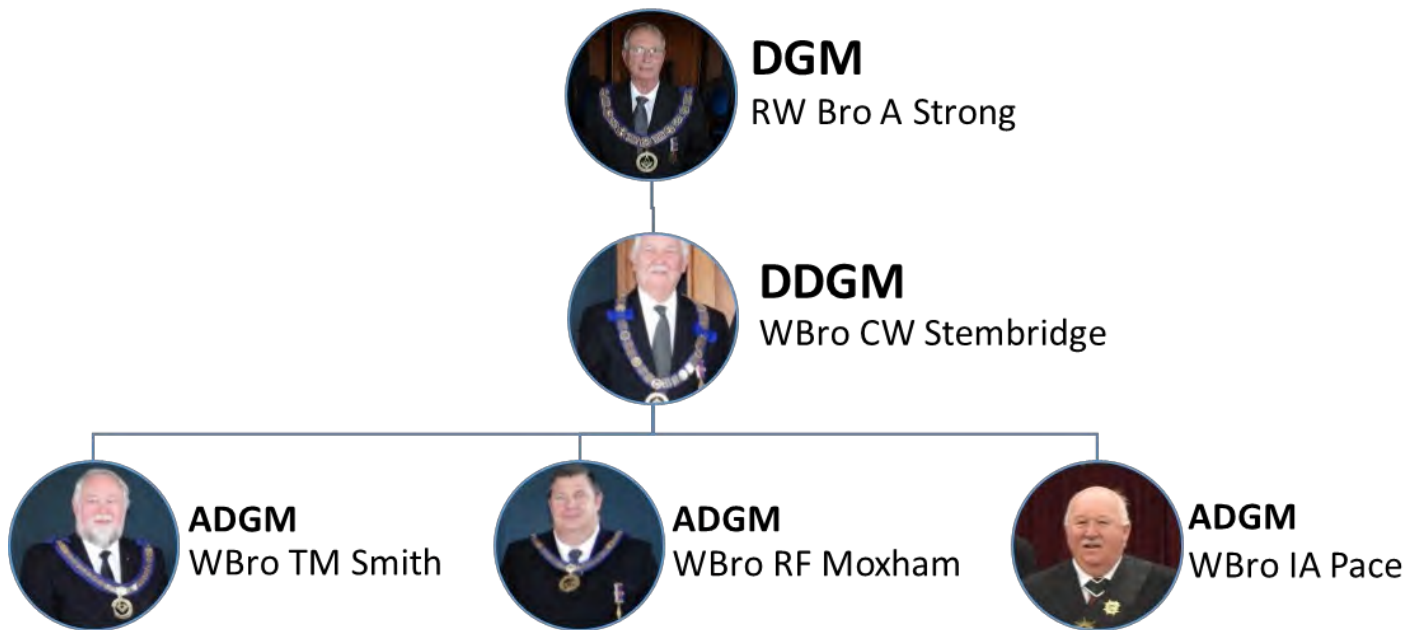
- For any Obligation to be taken during Ceremonies, either the Lodge VSL will be used (care having been taken not to touch the pages at which it is opened) or a small VSL brought by the Candidate (or specially bought for the occasion). The WM will not touch the Candidate's hand or the VSL during the Obligation. At the end the Candidate will seal it in the usual way;

- Specific guidelines for the First and Second Degree workings have been devised for utilisation by Lodges (these have been made available to Lodge Secretaries);

- Working Tools may need to be on a "distanced" table or chair.

- Singing should be avoided.

# who's who in the DGL of KZN



## District Grand Officers 2020/21

- District Grand Master**  
RW Bro A Strong (Krantzkloof 6546)
- Deputy District Grand Master**  
WBro CW Stemberidge (Port Natal 738)
- Assistant District Grand Master**  
WBro TM Smith (Skelmersdale 1729)
- Assistant District Grand Master**  
WBro RF Moxham (Umkomaas 2990)
- Assistant District Grand Master**  
WBro IA Pace (Duguza 2461)
- District Grand Senior Warden**  
WBro E Pascoe (Harmony 8860)
- District Grand Junior Warden**  
WBro MC van der Hammen (Umkomaas 2990)
- District Grand Chaplain**  
RWBro. G. J. Grenfell (Umvoti 1867)
- District Grand Treasurer**  
WBro JATS Thiel (Umkomaas 2990)
- District Grand Registrar**  
RWBro A Findlay (Krantzkloof 6546)

- President of the Board of General Purposes**  
WBro RT Potter (Krantzkloof 6546)
- District Grand Secretary**  
WBro PM Macquet (Ikwezi 7634)
- Director of Ceremonies**  
WBro A Caloba (Inanda 1192)
- District Grand Sword Bearer**  
WBro S Marucchi-Benedit (Umkomaas 2990)
- Superintendent of Works**  
WBro B Berriman (Prince Alfred/Natalia 956)
- Deputy Director of Ceremonies**  
WBro D Robertson (Umkomaas 2990)
- Deputy Director of Ceremonies**  
WBro ML Potter (Krantzkloof 6546)
- District Grand Almoner**  
WBro PM Macquet (Ikwezi 7634)
- District Grand Charity Steward**  
WBro J Kalil (Port Natal 738)
- District Grand Mentor**  
WBro D Zavad (Inanda 1129)

**District Grand Orator**

WBro (Dr) F Roodt (Empangeni 5643)

**District Grand Senior Deacon**

WBro H Coetzer (Klip River County 2401)

**District Grand Junior Deacon**

WBro G Baney (Duguza 2461)

**Assistant Director of Ceremonies**

WBro S Jacobs (Umlazi 1976)

**Assistant Director of Ceremonies**

WBro S Cerrai (Klip River County 2401)

**District Grand Standard Bearer**

WBro G Lavarack (Newcastle 2097)

**District Grand Standard Bearer**

WBro MD Aulsebrook (Umvoti 1867)

**District Grand Organist**

WBro A Bergin (Port Shepstone 3470)

**District Grand Pursuivant**

Bro B Archibald (Skelmersdale 1729)

**District Grand Steward**

WBro MG Brown (Prince Alfred Natalia 956)

**District Grand Steward**

WBro A Hardy (Krantzkloof 6546)

**District Grand Tyler**

WBro W Dunlop (Port Shepstone 3470)

**Past Ranks**

**PDJGW to PDSGW**

WBro R Sawyer (Port Natal 738)

**PDJGW to PDSGW**

WBro CDH Sparks (Southern Cross 1778)

**DDGDC to PDSGW**

WBro D Robertson (Umkomaas 2990)

**DGSuptW to PDJGW**

WBro AG Thomson (Umlazi 1976)

**PDGReg to PDJGW**

WBro L Trotter (Harmony 8860)

**PDSGD to PDJGW**

WBro N Hills (Klip River County 2401)

**PDADC to PDGSwdB**

WBro K Marshall (Hilton 3872)

**PDGADC to PDGSuptW**

WBro JI Buyers (Hilton 3872)

**PDGADC to PDGSuptW**

WBro HW Impey (Hilton 3872)

**PDGADC to PDGSuptW**

WBro TG MaCulloch (Hilton 3872)

**PDGJD to PDGSuptW**

WBro G Walker (Ikwezi 7634)

**PDGJD to PDGSuptW**

WBro D Cormac (Camperdown Peace 4015)

**PDGStdB to PDGSD**

WBro M Swart (Southern Cross 1778)

**PDGSD**

WBro A Bergin (Port Shepstone) 3470

**PDGStdB**

WBro AJC Wilson (Camperdown Peace 4015)

**Board of General Purposes**

**President of the Board**

WBro RT Potter (Krantzkloof 6546)

**Executive Committee**

RW Bro A Strong (Krantzkloof 6546)

WBro CW Stembridge (Port Natal 738)

WBro TM Smith (Skelmersdale 1729)

WBro RF Moxham (Umkomaas 2990)

WBro IA Pace (Duguza 2461)

WBro E Pascoe (Harmony 8860)

WBro MC van der Hammen (Umkomaas 2990)

**Grand Superintendent of the Holy Royal Arch**

WBro JATS Thiel [Finance Chairman] (Umkomaas 2990)

RW Bro A Findlay (Krantzkloof 6546)

WBro PM Macquet [Benevolence Chairman] (Ikwezi 7634)

WBro J Kalil [Charity Chairman] (Port Natal 738)

WBro A Caloba (Inanda 1192)

WBro D Zavad (Inanda 1192)

**Ex-officio member:** RW Bro GJ Grenfell

# District Charity reaches out to the less fortunate

WBro Jacques Kalil, DG Charity Steward

In 2019, we initiated a blanket project for those less fortunate in our communities. An appeal was made to the brethren of the District to support this project by donating blankets or money in order to buy blankets. The call was heeded by many of the brethren who brought blankets to the Communication in June last year. We collected the blankets and later that month, donated them to a children's home and elderly folks as well.

Earlier this year I had the opportunity to visit and meet some very lovely people who were in desperate need of blankets. These people, elderly men and women, little children, couples and single parents, are living in poor conditions, most of them homeless and many not receiving social grants. It was impressed on my heart to try help these people with this year's blanket project.

Once again, an appeal was made to the brethren in the District for donations, being blankets or cash to buy blankets. The response was overwhelming!

We were able to hand over almost 100 blankets of various sizes. The response of those receiving the blankets overwhelmed us. I generally do not emotionally handle it well when giving out hampers or blankets to people as it upsets me when I get to see people—who do not have much—get so excited to receive a blanket; but I must confess, it was an absolute joy for Barbara, my partner, Patrick, our District Grand Secretary and myself to be able to give these people much-needed blankets, 5 days before the cold set in. 14 beautiful blankets were given to our Empangeni brethren for handing over to their chosen charity organization

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone in the District for their generous donations. These blankets have made a big difference to so many who are a lot less fortunate than most of us!




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“It was impressed on my heart to try help these people with this year's blanket project”

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D.I.C.E



Section 21 Company: 2009/001565/08

P.O. Box 554  
EMPANGENI, 3880  
Tel: 035 7990500  
Fax: 035 7725596  
Email: [dice@zob.co.za](mailto:dice@zob.co.za)  
[reganthy@csnet.co.za](mailto:reganthy@csnet.co.za)

15 June 2020

The Worshipful Master  
Empangeni Lodge of Freemasons  
Lodge No. 5643

Dear Sir

**SINCERE THANKS FROM D.I.C.E. (Do I Care Enough?)**

It is with great pleasure that I write on behalf of the D.I.C.E. team (Do I Care Enough?) to thank you most sincerely for the beautiful 14 Super Plush Blankets we received recently from your Empangeni Lodge group.

We are so grateful for your compassion and kindness that will benefit members of the community that are in desperate need of warm blankets at this time when we are all experiencing freezing weather we are unaccustomed to.

Thank you for choosing DICE as your charity of choice for this wonderful contribution.

I am taking the opportunity of attaching a Section 18A Certificate.

Warm regards

**Regina Anthony**



**R. Anthony**  
DIRECTOR  
2-Mind Closer Pilgrimage  
FOUNDER  
D.I.C.E. (Do I Care Enough?)  
[reganthy@csnet.co.za](mailto:reganthy@csnet.co.za)



cc Karen Dalton - DICE Operations Manager  
cc Marilyn Muller - DICE Director

*"Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren,  
you have done it unto me" - Matthew 25:40*

DIRECTORS : REGINA ANTHONY (FOUNDER); LEE ANTHONY; WILFRED XIMBA; STACEY RICHARDS;  
CHRISTINA REDDY; COLETTE SINGERY; MARILYN MULLER



Feeding the hungry during  
Lockdown

181 people fed were recently fed

The big pot of curry, with love from the  
KZN Freemasons.

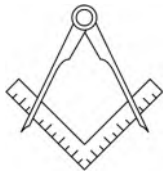
A big thank you to all the brethren who  
donated to this cause.

# Know-your-bre<sup>th</sup>er

## RW Bro Anthony Strong

**O**ur District Grand Master, **RW Bro Anthony Strong** has had a long and exciting Masonic career thus far, through hard work, commitment, dedication and a love for Freemasonry. Through these difficult times, our DGM continues to lead from the front, encouraging all the brethren in his District not to lose hope. To better understand our DGM and appreciate all his Masonic undertakings, Square Talk would like to share one man's illustrious Masonic career spanning over 52 years.

**Anthony Strong** was born in Vereeniging, Transvaal on 16 February 1942. Both his parents hailed from England, his father working as a naval architect. RW Bro Strong was educated at Glenwood High School and went on to pursue a career in mechanical engineering, leading to various higher qualifications and a management appointment as Mechanical Superintendent. Over the years, he worked in both the public and private sector and retired from full-time work in 1999. Besides Masonry, among RW Bro Strong's interests are gardening and a fascinating hobby, what many do know about him, that of overhauling engines.



RW Bro Strong's Masonic career started on the 1st of August 1968 when he was initiated into the Craft in Newcastle Lodge No 2097; Passed to the Second Degree on the 11th of November 1968 and Raised to the Third Degree on the 6th of March 1969. He was Installed as Worshipful Master of the Lodge in September 1974 serving one year before relocating to Durban. From 1976, RW Bro Strong's Masonic journey gained momentum, as can be seen from the following timeline:

**1976** ▶ Joined Krantzklouf Lodge No 6546



- 1981** ▶ Installed as Worshipful Master for one year
- 2001** ▶ Installed as Worshipful Master and remained in Office for a second term
- 2009** ▶ Joined the Athenaeum Lodge of Research No 7455
- 2012** ▶ Installed as Worshipful Master of Krantzklouf and remained for a second term
- 2015** ▶ Installed as Worshipful Master of Athenaeum and remained for a second term

### DISTRICT CRAFT

- 1980** ▶ Appointed District Senior Grand Deacon
- 1986** ▶ Appointed District Grand Sword Bearer
- 1991** ▶ Appointed District Senior Grand Warden
- 2015** ▶ Appointed Assistant District Grand Master
- 2016** ▶ Appointed District Grand Master which was backdated. Actual installation on 25.02.2017

### GRAND RANK APPOINTMENT

- 2002** ▶ Appointed to Past Grand Standard Bearer
- 2009** ▶ Appointed to Past Senior Grand Deacon

### THE HOLY ROYAL ARCH & OTHER ORDERS



- 1971** ▶ Exalted in Coronation Lodge (Scottish Constitution in Newcastle)
- 1973** ▶ Mark Master Mason in Coronation Lodge, SC

- 1973** ▶ Grand Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners in Coronation Lodge, SC
- 1973** ▶ Red Cross Degree (Babylonish Pass) in Coronation Lodge, SC
- 1977** ▶ Joined Krantzklouf RA Chapter No 6546
- 1982** ▶ Installed as MEZ of Krantzklouf Chapter
- 2012** ▶ Joined St. Albans Chapter No 3906
- 2001** ▶ Installed as MEZ of Krantzklouf Chapter for a second term of Office

2011 ► Installed as MEZ of Krantzkloof Chapter for a three year term by dispensation

2015 ► Joined Addington Chapter following the working together of both Chapters

#### ROYAL ARCH DISTRICT RANK

1994 ► Appointed to District Assistant Director of Ceremonies

1995 ► Appointed to Deputy District Grand Director of Ceremonies

1996 ► Appointed to District Third Grand Principal

2002 ► Appointed to Deputy Grand Superintendent

2007 ► Installed as Grand Superintendent until 2015

#### ROYAL ARCH GRAND RANK

1993 ► Appointed to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

2003 ► Appointed to Past Grand Sojourner

#### OTHER CONSTITUTIONS

Honorary Member of Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in the District of KwaZulu-Natal

Honorary Member of Scottish Craft Freemasonry in the District of KwaZulu-Natal

#### ROSE CROIX FREEMASONRY

1978 ► Perfected in Victoria County Chapter No 477

1979 ► Joined Caritas Chapter No 738

1980 ► Founder member of Krantzkloof Chapter No 873

1986 ► MWS of Krantzkloof Chapter No 873

1987 ► Bestowed with 30<sup>th</sup> Degree

2005 ► Bestowed with 31<sup>st</sup> Degree

2014 ► MWS of Krantzkloof Chapter No 873

2015 ► District Recorder until 12.06.2016

2016 ► Joined Park Rynie Chapter No 502

2016 ► Inspector General designate following the passing of Very Illustrious Brother DL Kirton

2016 ► Bestowed with 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree and invested as Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret

2017 ► Bestowed with 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree and invested as the Sovereign Grand Inspector General for Western Natal.

RW Bro Strong has indeed built up a respectful and illustrious Masonic career. He sets high standards and will always bestow praise on good work done by brethren and Lodges.

May it continue for many more years!



**At Labour:** RW Bro Strong attending to his duties as DGM in the District



*‘I will walk in front of you to guide you;*

*I will walk behind you to prevent you from stumbling;*

*But I prefer to walk alongside you so that, together, we can develop the Order to one of pride, dedication, enthusiasm and commitment’*

RW Bro Anthony Strong



**At refreshment:** every year on his birthday, RW Bro Strong brings a delicious cake for all to enjoy at Krantzkloof Lodge

# THE BACK PAGE



## Masonic Beard Auction Competition

A 'hairy' charity drive initiated by Bro Gerrit Ockerse, Charity Steward of Port Natal Lodge, with very simple

rules:

Grow your beard after which it is "auctioned" to the highest barber, uh, bidder.

Categories:

1. Wildest / Bushiest
2. Creative Beard
3. Longest Beard
4. Creative Moustache

Cut-off date (no pun intended): **31 October 2020** (that gives Brethren time to get set for Movember.

The WM and Brethren of each participating Lodge will judge their own hairy members. Photos to be sent in.

**Entry fee:** R100 per competitor (which goes to District) and R100 per person wanting to enter the auction to shave (a portion of which must go to District; the rest can be utilized by the lodge Charity Steward).

**For more info, contact Bro Ockerse on 082 860 0952.**



## welcome TO THE TEAM

**S**chalk Jacobs was born in Uitenhage, Eastern Cape on Tuesday, 28 October 1975. His father worked for a construction company and the family moved around a lot, first to the then-Tranksei before eventually settling in KwaZulu-Natal when he was 5 years old. From a young age, Bro Schalk was taught the principles of serving others as the majority of his family were involved in either the armed services or law enforcement.

Bro Schalk develop a thirst for knowledge from a young age. Whilst most kids wanted to get away from schoolwork, he would ask for more resulting in extra lessons by his mother in English and arithmetic. The love of reading and the family tradition of serving, led to Bro Schalk wanting to become a doctor and, failing which, a forensic expert in the police. By the time he went to high school, Bro Schalk showed a talent for writing and after encouragement from one of his language teachers (he had three, Afrikaans, English and German), started writing articles for the school's newspaper and eventually serving on the same paper.

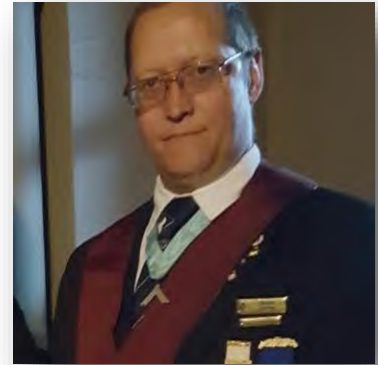
He continued to show that he wants to assist his fellow students by starting a first aid team at the school (he was a qualified level 2 first aider by age 16) for all the sporting events. He also served as a sergeant in the Cadet Corps and was a Library Prefect. It was towards the end of his schooling that he was given the bad news that he would not be able to attend university to study medicine.

This did not stop him and he joined the armed services. His first application was to the police and when that failed, he volunteered for service in the army.

After completing his initial service, Bro Schalk was transferred to the reserve forces and continued to serve with distinction for over 20 years, including as founder and editor of his Unit's newsletter, Mahoops, which he ran for a number of years. Back on civvie street, he drifted from job to job before joining the fledgling electronic security sector. He had developed skills whilst in the military that would stand him in good stead by the industry. He eventually worked his way up from a control room operator to armed response, to anti-hijacking and eventually to regional risk investigator. During his time in armed response, Bro Schalk helped initiate a community policing system for a company resulting in him working his old childhood neighbourhood. It was during this time that he met his proposer and joined Freemasonry.

Bro Schalk was initiated in Freemasonry on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2002 in Camperdown Peace Lodge no 4051. He was passed on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2003 and raised on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2004. He took to Masonry like a duck to water, climbing the ladder until, when in 2009, he got married to Nicky and due to increasing work commitments, he decided to step down after serving as Junior Warden of the Lodge.

2014 proved a difficult year for Bro Schalk. He had joined Umlazi Lodge no 1976, having moved to the area in 2011, but was involved in a life-altering motor car accident whilst on duty with the military, suffering multiple fractures to both legs, left hip and shoulder. He had to learn to walk again. However, this did not deter him and, based on his experience as a SHE representative in the military, he went on to become qualified in Health and Safety and is now



working as a Safety Officer.

Bro Schalk's love for Freemasonry motivated him to write and present various research papers, one which was presented at the Athenæum Lodge of Research in 2015, after which he was accepted as a member of this illustrious Lodge. His research paper was also published in The Square Magazine in England in 2016.

Bro Schalk went on to serve as Worshipful Master of Umlazi in 2016, 2017 and 2018. He has also served in the District since 2017, first as District Grand Steward, and for the last few years as Assistant District Grand Director of Ceremonies, also serving on the Board of General Purposes. Bro Schalk is a member of various other Orders, including the Holy Royal Arch, Mark Masters Masonry, the Rose Croix and the Knight Templars. He was one of the first members of the Connaught Club in KZN having served the Club as Chairman and now as Vice President.

Bro Schalk lists his hobbies as reading, writing and knife-making. He is an avid sports fan (having played rugby at school and club level). Most times you will find him on his motorcycle riding with his fellow brothers and sisters of the Widow's Sons.



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