



**District Grand Lodge
Of
Mark Master Masons of
South Africa
Western Division**

Report of the Proceedings

**OF THE
VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER
MASONS – WESTERN DIVISION
HELD ON
SATURDAY 3RD JULY 2021
DURING THE GENERAL SUSPENSION OF
MASONIC ACTIVITY IN THIS DISTRICT
ARISING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

ISSUED BY AUTHORITY FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY



**GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF ENGLAND
AND WALES AND ITS DISTRICT AND LODGES OVERSEAS**

M.W. Bro. H.R.H. Prince Michael of Kent GCVO, Grand Master

M.W. Bro. Raymond John Smith, Pro Grand Master

R.W. Bro. John Herbert Prizeman, Deputy Grand Master

R. W. Bro. Stephen Davison, Assistant Grand Master

**DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS OF
SOUTH AFRICA – WESTERN DIVISION**

District Grand Master – R.W. Bro. Pieter van den Berg

Deputy District Grand Master- V.W. Bro. Daniel Lawrence Gadd-Claxton PGJO

Assistant District Grand Master – W. Bro. Hilton Oates. PGJD

Dear Sir and Brother,

Your attendance is requested at a **Virtual Annual Meeting of the District Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons – Western Division, on Saturday 3rd July at 10:00** during the General Suspension of Masonic activity in this District arising from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

All Brethren should be logged on to the meeting on Zoom from 09:55.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94338989549?pwd=OmpuWmtQaE5PMtdyNkRpaFI4azRYUT09>

Meeting ID: 943 3898 9549 - Passcode: 278701

By command of the District Grand Master

Yours fraternally,

John Alexander Darné PGSD.
District Grand Secretary.

Dress: Collar and Mark tie. No regalia to be worn.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. The Right Worshipful District Grand Master Pieter van den Berg will declare the meeting open.
2. To read the permission to hold the Virtual Business Meeting.
3. In Memoriam of W. Brother Johannes Hendrikus De Kock of Gariiep Mark Lodge and W. Bro. D.L. Melamdowitz of Cango Royal Arc Mariner Lodge.
4. To Approve the minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on Saturday 31st October 2020.
5. To approve the audited Financials of the District which have been circulated previously.
6. To elect a District Grand Treasurer.
7. To elect a District Auditor.
8. To consider any change to District Dues.
9. To elect two representatives to the Masonic Education Fund. Present representatives are J.J. Janse van Rensburg and P.K. Smulik
10. To congratulate the following Grand Rank Appointment and Promotion: -
W. Bro. B.G.R. Carstens Appointed to PGStB and
W. Bro. G.H. Sumner Appointed to PAGStB.
11. To recognise and congratulate the District Grand Officer appointments and promotions.
12. To receive reports of the District Committee.
13. To receive a short address from the District Grand Master.
14. The Right Worshipful District Grand Master will declare the meeting Closed.

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS
OF SOUTH AFRICA – WESTERN DIVISION**

Held on Saturday 3rd July 2021 at 10:00

During the General Suspension of Masonic Activity in this District arising from the Covid-19 Pandemic

PRESENT:

District Grand Master: R. W. Bro. P. van den Berg
Deputy District Grand Master: V. W. Bro. D.L. Gadd-Claxton PGJO
Assistant District Grand Master: W. Bro. H. Oates PGJD

DISTRICT GRAND OFFICERS

S.W.	W. Bro. M.J. Myerscough	J.W.	W. Bro. P.K. Smulik
M.O.	W. Bro. W.A. Schultz	S.O.	W. Bro. P.C. Haylett
J.O.	W. Bro. K. Fraser PAGDC	Chaplain	W. Bro. E.G. Malherbe PGStB
Pres. DCOGP	V.W. Bro. R.F. Atkinson PGJO	Treasurer	Bro. D.D. Alder
Registrar	W. Bro G.A. Macmillan PGSD	Secretary	W. Bro. J.A. Darné PGSD
D.C.	W. Bro. D.M. Buckingham	Almoner	W. Bro. E.W.J. Chantler
Charity Steward	W. Bro. W.A. Schultz	I of Works	V.W. Bro. J.R. Wainwright PGJO
Sword Bearer	W. Bro. G.H. Sumner PAGStB	Dep. Secretary	V.W. Bro. W. Marcus PGJO PDDGM
Dep. DC	W. Bro. L. Nieuwoudt	S.D.	W. Bro. S.M. Botha
J.D.	W. Bro. T.B. Hay	Standard Bearer	V.W. Bro. R.F. Atkinson PGJO
Inner Guard	W. Bro. L.G. Leppan	Tyler	W. Bro. J.E. Lester PAGDC

GRAND OFFICERS

R.W. Bro. D. Gurney	DGM Transvaal	R.W. Bro. P. van den Berg	DGM Western Division
R. W. Bro. R. Poole	DGM Eastern Division	R.W. Bro. L.A. Martin	PDGM Western Division
V.W. Bro. R.F. Atkinson	PDDGM Western Division	V.W. Bro. D.L. Gadd-Claxton	PGJO, PDDGM
V.W. Bro. J.R. Wainwright	PGJO	V.W. Bro. A.D.G. Harvey	PGJO
W. Bro. J. Spiller	DDGM Transvaal	W. Bro. A. de C. Caloba	PGStB DDGM Natal
W. Bro. J.A. Darné	PGSD	W. Bro. H. Oates	PGJD
W. Bro. K. Fraser	PAGDC	W. Bro. E.G. Malherbe	PGStB
W. Bro. B.G.R. Carstens	PGStB	W. Bro. G.H. Sumner	PAGStB

OPENING DISTRICT GRAND LODGE MEETING

The District Grand Master, R.W. Bro. P. van den Berg, declared the meeting open. The opening prayer was delivered by the Chaplain, W. Bro. E.G. Malherbe.

PERMISSION TO HOLD THE MEETING

The District Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. D.M. Buckingham read the letter of permission from Mark Grand Lodge to hold the Virtual Business Meeting.

IN MEMORIUM

A prayer in Memorium of W. Bro. Johannes Hendrikus De Kock, late of Gariep Mark Lodge and W. Bro. D.L. Melamdowitz of Cango Royal Arc Mariner Lodge, was delivered by the Chaplain W. Bro. E.G. Malherbe.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on Saturday 31st October 2020, were approved. Proposed by the DDGM V.W. Bro. D.L. Gadd-Claxton.

AUDITED FINANCIALS

As the Treasurer was not able to do the financials for the year 2020-2021, these were not available. The Treasurer also expressed his desire to stand down from his position. He was thanked for his work during the past years. The DGM reported that we have R19932.10 in our current account and R81002.01 in our Old Mutual investments. He also requested that Lodges please settle their accounts as soon as possible.

ELECTION OF DISTRICT GRAND TREASURER

As there was only one nomination for Treasurer, the District Grand Master declared Bro. M.D. Leon Treasurer for the ensuing year.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS

As there was only one nomination for the Auditor, the District Grand Master declared Bro. D.H. Fyfe as auditor for the ensuing year.

CHANGE TO DISTRICT DUES

There will be no change to District Dues this year.

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE MASONIC EDUCATION FUND

As there were no nominations for representatives for the Masonic Education Fund, W. Bros. J.J. Janse van Rensburg and P.K. Smulik would remain.

APPOINTMENTS TO GRAND LODGE

The District Grand Master announced that the M.W. Grand Master had been pleased to appoint W. Bro. B.G.R. Carstens to the rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer and W. Bro. G.H. Sumner to the rank of Past Assistant Grand Standard Bearer. The District Grand Master congratulated these Brethren on their well-merited preferment.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS OF THE OFFICERS OF DISTRICT GRAND LODGE FOR THE YEAR.

The Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. D.M. Buckingham, then read out the names of the Officers.

DISTRICT GRAND OFFICERS 2021 – 2022

Senior Warden	W. Bro. M.J. Myerscough
Junior Warden	W. Bro. P.K. Smulik
Master Overseer	W. Bro. W.A. Schultz
Senior Overseer	W. Bro. P.C. Haylett
Junior Overseer	W. Bro. K. Fraser PAGDC
Chaplain	W. Bro. E.G. Malherbe PGStB
President of Committee GP	V.W. Bro. R.F. Atkinson PGJO
Treasurer	Bro. M.D. Leon
Registrar	W. Bro. G.A. Macmillan PGSD
Secretary	W. Bro. J.A. Darné, PGSD
Director of Ceremonies	W. Bro. D.M. Buckingham
Almoner	W. Bro. E.W.J. Chantler
Charity Steward	W. Bro. W.A. Schultz
Inspector of Works	V.W. Bro. J R Wainwright, PGJO
Sword Bearer	W. Bro. G.H. Sumner
Deputy Secretary	V.W. Bro. W. Marcus PGJO, PDDGM
Deputy Director of Ceremonies	W. Bro. L. Nieuwoudt
Senior Deacon	W. Bro. S.M. Botha
Junior Deacon	W. Bro. T.B. Hay
Standard Bearer	V.W. Bro. R.F. Atkinson PGJO
Inner Guard	W. Bro. L.G. Leppan
Tyler	W. Bro. J.E. Lester PAGDC

The DGM R.W. Bro. P. van den Berg then said that the DDGM V.W. Bro. D.L. Gadd-Claxton and the ADGM W. Bro. H. Oates would remain in office.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF GENERAL PURPOSES

As the President of the committee, it is my privilege to report on the highlights of our Masonic year for this meeting. The last annual meeting of the Mark and Royal Ark Mariners Degrees were held by a virtual zoom meeting on Saturday 31st October 2020 and the proceedings therefore is as the paper of the Order of Proceedings 2020, which was distributed to all secretaries of the Lodges for distribution to their members. The event was well attended, with a number of Mark Brethren and distinguish brethren of the Mark Order, as well as those representing our Sister Constitutions.

For the year 2020 to 2021 I have to sadly say that on account of the Corona pandemic no Mark Meetings could take place, however the Committee of General Purposes still managed to meet once a month and during these meetings a number of Items were discussed ranging from how to move forward once Lodges are able to meet again, and a number of events on the charity side which was suggested by the District Grand Charity Steward, W. Bro Winston Schultz. These suggestions along with others will be put forward to Lodges once they are able to hold meetings again.

I would like to record my sincere thanks and appreciation to our District Grand Secretary for his dedication and administrative abilities in not only keeping the District up to date, but also for assisting the general running of the Executive committee.

On the financial side, I have to report that Bro. Donovan Alder has tendered his resignation. Donovan feels he needs to put all his time and effort into his business. We thank him for his past service and wish him every success in his business.

Last but not least, I would to thank the Right Worshipful District Grand Master, Pieter van den Berg and members of the Executive committee for their dedication and support throughout a very difficult year.

V.W. Rodney Atkinson PGJO
President of the Committee of General Purposes

ADDRESS BY THE DISTRICT GRAND MASTER

Brethren I thank you all once again for setting some time aside this morning to take part in this event. This year again we have the honour of having one of our Past District Grand Masters taking part in this virtual meeting in the person of R.W. Bro. Leslie Martin and to you sir, please accept my appreciation in this regard. To our distinguish participants, I welcome you all and more will be said later.

As I have already mentioned, it has not been an easy year for us and neither for the fraternity of Freemasons thus far and it is still far from over. I would like to repeat what I said last year: "I am sure this epidemic will come to an end sometime or another and Freemasonry will continue to survive as it has been doing through many storms and attacks throughout the ages. As our predecessors have done in the past, we will get through this storm through hard work, dedication and continued commitment. We will have to work hard to achieve this and to uphold the image of Freemasonry." The hard work will be, once we can meet regularly again, to get the brethren who might be in a "lockdown syndrome" to return to lodge meetings.

My congratulations, once again to W. Bro.'s Brian Carstens and Graham Sumner on their well-deserved GL appointments.

As far as our membership is concerned, we have had a few resignations which still has to be ratified by the lodges, but there only a few of them.

I cannot omit to thank the members of our Executive Meeting for their assistance and guidance. Believe me brethren; the Executive Committee Members continued meeting continued meeting monthly since last year for the benefit of our District and ultimately our Order.

To all those of you who contributed towards our spit braai which was held on 17 November last year, whether you attended or only bought tickets but did not attend, the Executive Committee thank you sincerely for your contribution. We were able to raise just over R15, 000.00 of which R12, 000.00 were allocated to Sisters Incorporated which is a home for women and young children who has been ravaged by domestic violence and abuse.

On this note, I would like on behalf of the Deputy, the Assistant and myself, to ask you and your loved ones to take all precautions to keep safe and remain safe.

I cannot end my address without thanking our eminent and distinguished Brethren from our own order, those of the other orders in Freemasonry in the English Constitution and then also in Particular the Representatives of our Sister Constitutions for their participation. My sincere appreciation to you all for your participation in this virtual meeting. You will not be able to hear the applause from the brethren as per our usual custom, but let me assure you that they are applauding you.

I will be introducing you now to the brethren and also give you a chance to reply if you so wish.

From the Degree of Mark Masonry, the following:

The D.G.M of Transvaal: R.W. Bro. Dave Gurney, the DDGM W. Bro. Jeff Spiller
The D.D.G.M. of Natal: W. Bro. Tony Caloba.
The D.G.M. of the Eastern Cape: R.W. Bro. Richard Poole

From the Other Orders in attendance, we welcome:

W. Bro. Ernest Gideon Malherbe: District Grand Master of the Craft and Inspector General of the Rose Croix.
R.W. Bro. Leslie Alexander Martin: Grand Prefect of the S.A. Allied Masonic Degree.

Brethren, I hope I have not missed anyone out, but if I have, I apologise for that but you still have the opportunity to respond if you so wish.

Brethren, I will now give the ADGM, W. Bro Hilton Oates a chance to make an announcement with regards to our charity drives.

This now concludes the formalities of this virtual meeting and before I declare it closed, I will ask the District Grand Chaplain for the benefit of prayer.

Thank you once again brethren for your participation and I now declare this virtual meeting closed.

CLOSING

The R.W. DGM P. van den Berg declared the meeting closed in Love, Peace and Harmony at 10:45.
The Chaplain W. Bro. E.G. Malherbe gave the closing prayer.

DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS

11 March 1898	Capel Jenner Hogg
1 June 1904	Col William Standford, DSO, MVO
9 June 1925	Thomas Nathaniel Cranstoun-Day
11 July 1938	Walter Hudson
7 June 1944	Walter Frederick Weeden
15 March 1951	Robert Fontaine Lawton
14 December 1956	John Blackwell Layton
14 June 1961	Arthur Raymond Gale
21 June 1962	Samuel Cohen
27 March 1969	Marcus Austin Thomson
30 July 1974	William Edward Key
31 July 1979	Leonard Frank Songhurst
31 July 1986	Robin Peter Schell
27 July 1991	Justin Gerald Figov
20 July 1996	Alexander Schell
21 July 2001	Alasdair Bruce Duthie
17 July 2006	Leslie Alexander Martin
7 July 2012	Max Nicholas Brown
4 July 2015	Pieter van den Berg

GRAND OFFICERS IN THE DISTRICT AS AT 3rd JULY 2021

		Mark	RAM
R. W. Bro. Pieter van den Berg	DGM	2015	2012
R. W. Bro. Leslie Alexander Martin	PDGM	2006	2003
V. W. Bro. Peter Ransom Duckworth	PGSO	2008	2000
V. W. Bro. Walter Marcus	PGJO, PDDGM	2008	2006
V. W. Bro. Daniel Lawrence Gadd-Claxton	PGJO, PDDGM	2011	2007
V. W. Bro. John Raymond Wainwright	PGJO	2016	2007
V.W. Bro. Rodney Frank Atkinson	PGJO	2017	2012
V.W. Bro. Antony David George Harvey	PGJO	2019	2009
W. Bro. Stephen Rixon Hartley	PGSD	2016	2014
W. Bro. John Alexander Darné	PGSD	2017	2015
W. Bro. Gordon Alan Macmillan	PGSD	2020	2006
W. Bro. Hilton Oates	PGJD	2015	2009
W. Bro. Reginald Steenkamp	PAGDC	1995	
W. Bro. Alan Wilson Mortimore	PAGDC	2008	
W. Bro. Harry James Duggan	PAGDC	2010	2010
W. Bro. Gabriel De Vos Rabie	PAGDC	2016	
W. Bro. J. de V. O'Hagan	PAGDC	2018	2008
W. Bro. P.H. C. De Kock	PAGDC	2019	2018
W. Bro. J.E. Lester	PAGDC	2020	
W. Bro. Ernest Gideon Malherbe	PGStB	2013	2015
W. Bro. Keith John Fraser	PGStB	2017	
W. Bro. D.L. Lock	PGStB	2019	
W. Bro. B.G.R. Carstens	PGStB	2021	
W. Bro. G.H. Sumner	PAGStB	2021	

* * * * *

All Correspondence to be
Addressed to:-

**The District Grand Secretary
District Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons
Of South Africa – Western Division
48A North Road
TABLE VIEW
7441.**

**Phone +27- 082 677 8077. Fax 086 551 1090
E-mail: johndarne@yahoo.co.uk**

* * * * *