

The District Wire

The Newsletter of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus

Issue No. 1

“Keeping members in touch”

November 2008



Welcome to this first issue of the newly-designed District Newsletter. It replaces the successful Charity Newsletter, which has been published for the past three years by the District Board of Benevolence. However, in addition to reporting on charity news around the District, the Newsletter will also contain articles of interest such as news from the District Boards of General Purposes and Benevolence, education, social events, news from Lodges and individuals. It is being published in electronic format, which is a more effective way of communicating with the large majority of members, although Lodge Secretaries will make hard copies available to those Brethren not on e-mail.

This is your Newsletter, Brethren, and its success depends on input not only from Lodge Secretaries, Charity Stewards and Almoners in particular, but from you all. Initially we plan to publish twice yearly, during the winter and summer months, but depending on your input we may publish more frequently. We look forward to your contributions.

R.W. Bro Theodosios Theodossiou
District Grand Master

Education Programme launched

At its October meeting the Board of General Purpose agreed to the adoption of a District Education Programme, which had been developed over the past few months by W. Bro John Finney, W. Bro Dave Hubbard of Agapinor Lodge and Bro Ian McLean, the District Webmaster. W. Bro John Finney has been appointed the District Education Officer and his first task will be to encourage each Lodge to appoint a Lodge Education Officer. He and the team will be holding a meeting early in the New Year with those Brethren appointed as Lodge Education Officers, when they will be outlining the role the LEO's can play in promoting education within their Lodges.

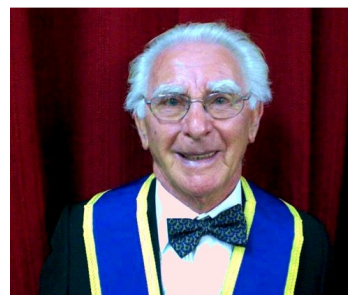
It should be stressed that the adoption of the Education Programme is not mandatory; Lodges are obviously free to choose how to educate their new Masons. However, the Board does feel that a structured District Education Programme would be more beneficial and productive and is urging Lodges to adopt the programme.

For further information you can contact the District Education Officer direct at:

deo@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy

A fond farewell to W. Bro Mick

At their November meeting Apollo Lodge members bid farewell to one of their longest-serving members, W. Bro Mick Dawson who, with his wife, Joan, is leaving Cyprus to live near relatives in California.



W. Bro Mick will be remembered in the District for the eight years he has spent as District Grand Superintendent of Works, and over the past two years he has played a

significant part in trying to obtain permanent premises for the District. He has been Almoner of Apollo Lodge for a number of years and during that time has worked tirelessly to help those in need.

W. Bro Mick reminisced on some of his earlier memories in the Lodge and said it had been an honour and a privilege to have served the Lodge and the District. He will be sadly missed by all, and members wished him well in this new phase of his life at the tender age of 80!

A very secret society!

Agapinor Lodge had just finished a meeting at the Venus Beach Hotel and the brethren were congregating in the lounge area. Two men on holiday were sat in the lounge and one said to the other "Who are all those men in dark suits?" His friends said "I think they are Masons and they've been holding a meeting." "I've heard they're a very select group of people" said his friend. "I'll say so" the other replied "there was a chap with a sword knocking on the door for two hours and they still wouldn't let him in!"

Support for the Samaritan Fund

At a special dinner held on 9th September 2008, organised by the Masonic Samaritan Fund, the District Grand Master presented a cheque for Sterling £10,000 to the Fund. Members of Districts, including ours, do not make an annual contribution to the Grand Charity, as do Brethren in the UK through their annual dues, but we have called on the fund for substantial assistance in recent years. The District Grand Master therefore felt it appropriate to support the charity and has expressed his thanks to all Lodges in the District for their support and for donating considerable sums of money to this worthy charity.

'Teddy Loving Care' project

W.Bro Maurice Stephenson and W.Bro Peter Moore continue to work hard promoting the benefits that the Teddy Loving Care project is having on distressed children in the Paphos and Paralimni General Hospitals. However, very little support is forthcoming from most of the Lodges in the District and W.Bro Maurice has appealed for more Lodges to become involved in the project. Can you help?

District Website

Are you aware of the District website, which is at <http://cyprus-freemasons.org.cy>. It includes a wealth of information - details of all Lodges meetings in the District, social events, summaries of Lodge histories, and educational material. Well worth a visit.

Dates for your diary

District Ball, Saturday 6th December at the Kanika Hotel, Limassol.

There's still time to book for this popular annual event, which is open to all brethren and their guests. This is an opportunity to mix with brethren from around the District and this year we are hoping to have the British High Commissioner as our special guest. Tickets cost €40 per person and bookings can be made through the District Junior Grand Warden, W.Bro Peter van de Pol – t.c.c@cytanet.com.cy

Jazz Concert, some time in March 2009

A very popular evening, for which early bookings are essential. Watch out for further details and a firm date from our District Grand Charity Steward, W.Bro Bob Jarvis.

Annual Communication, Saturday 16th May 2009

The 'AGM' of the District at which the DGM appoints and invests his Officers for the coming year and reports on District affairs. The Communication, at which all Master Masons are permitted to attend, is rounded off with a dinner at a hotel in Limassol. Why not come along to support the DGM and your Worshipful Master, and to mix with Brethren from around the Island?

Money raising projects for 2008

There has been excellent support from Lodges and Chapters throughout the year. Once again the Band Concert proved a resounding success; a considerable number of brethren worked hard to set up the venue. The Masonic Golf Society Tournament proved popular as always and lots of money was raised. The recently-established Sally Lace Memorial collection quickly reached its target, a fitting testament to this lovely lady.

We want your views

We need interesting articles about your charity events, socials, special Masonic birthdays or similar. In particular, pictures would be most welcome. Please send any news articles to the Editor: W.Bro John Finney

deo@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy

Make YOUR daily advancement in Masonry

In Lodge you will see some Brethren wearing a gold-coloured breast jewel in the shape of the Star of David. The jewel will be suspended from either a white ribbon, a crimson ribbon or a tri-coloured ribbon. This is the jewel of the **Royal Arch Chapter** and is presented on a white ribbon to a Brother when he becomes a Companion of the Order. When a Royal Arch Mason becomes one of the Three Principals of his Royal Arch Chapter the ribbon changes from white to crimson. If a Brother is a present or past District, Provincial or Grand Officer, or a holder of Metropolitan, London or Overseas Grand Rank in the Royal Arch Order the ribbon is tri-coloured - dark blue, crimson and light blue. In the District of Cyprus it is the policy for present or past District Officers and Grand Officers to wear only the Royal Arch Chapter jewel in Lodge.

If you would like to know more about the Royal Arch Chapter please speak with your Lodge Secretary.