

WIDOWS SONS SOUTH AFRICA - W Bro. Lance Epstein



Widows Sons was founded in 1999 by a brother in North America who believed there was a need for a 'Riders Association' made up of Masons with the purpose of looking after Widows of Masons - nothing different to what Masonry teaches us!

With this in mind the first Chapter was started in South Africa in 2010 with the inaugural ride being on the 18th July, 2010 and is simply called Widows Sons South Africa (WSSA). This Chapter is now the governing body, as such, and the original members have remained members and all Presidents and Vice Presidents sit on the committee.

As one can predict, no sooner was the WSSA founded when there was a need to have other Chapters to cover the various geographic areas. With this in mind the following Chapters were founded:

- East Rand Chapter - Sons of Hiram
- West Rand Chapter - Templars
- Western Cape Chapter - Hiram's Ashlars
- Bloemfontein Chapter - Sons of Solomon

This year the Central Chapter or Knights of the Craft were founded and already has over 20 members. The KZN Chapter / East Coast "Tylers Swords" was also handed their charter this year and we are all meeting in Harrismith on Sunday 22 November for our year-end meet and greet. We are currently looking at opening a chapter in the Eastern Cape. The current membership is approx. 120.

The brethren ride with colours / patches and abide by club rules as per the by-laws of each club. It is important to note that we are not a MC, but rather a Riders Association. We are governed by the BOC and require every Mason and therefore Widows Son (WS) to abide by the laws of South Africa.

The different clubs have planned official rides and attend what is called in the biker community "Day Jols" where the brethren and their "pillions" attend other bikers' functions and support them with their various charities.



One always imagines bikers as rough and tough and a bunch of hooligans! From my involvement in the WS, I have only seen what Freemasonry has taught us; brotherly love, relief and truth. WS are engaged in supporting a number of charities and have donated funds to a Masonic Home (Roslyn Park) and attended PAWS for People, with various donations. One of the more heart-warming moments was when the brethren attended a children's home (East Rand Children's Haven) and arrived with presents – the function aptly named "Christmas in July"

Next year the WS are having their Grand gathering in KZN where a number of Brethren from the USA will attend and assist with the Branding Ceremony – a first in SA and a column for the next Cornerstone.

In conclusion, if you have a bike (400CC and over) and are interested, please look us up on www.wssa-central.co.za or call us on 083 600 0006. Come and meet the brethren, even ride with us socially. We do encourage the partners to join and they have their own Lady Member patch.

The next time you see a biker in those leathers, consider he could be your doctor, lawyer, mechanic, financial advisor or just a brother, riding for a cause - a good cause.

