

## **Provincial Grand Chapter of Suffolk**

Almoners meeting held at Dockyard, Kettlebaston  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2012

Attendees. G.Corbett 114, Mrs.Corbett, N.Bush 114, P.Ketteringham 225, Mrs.Watson, R.Haslam 516, Mrs.Haslam, M.Richards 2<sup>nd</sup> Prov.G.P. 516, G.Nash 555, P.Durrant 1452, Mrs.Durrant, D.Hepburn 1452, M.Noble 2371, Mrs.Noble, K.McCully 9333 Mark Prov.GA, D.Boswell G.Supt., M.Speake Prov.Chap.Almoner, Mrs.Speake.

Apologies. Comps. Morris, Workman, Hagger, George, Tate, Woodall, Wicks, Norris, Forbes-Powrie, Turbervill.

Session one was a discussion of the role of the Chapter Almoner and session two an explanation of the help available from the Central Masonic Charities. This summary only deals with session one. Information on the Masonic Charities is published in the back of the Suffolk Freemasons Yearbook or from the Provincial Almoner. All Chapters were sent an Almoners Handbook last year. It is available online at the UGLE website.

### **Session One**

The role of the Chapter Almoner is much wider than that of the Lodge Almoner. It concerns the welfare of the Chapter as well as that of the individual Companion. A better term would be **Chapter Welfare Officer.**

1. Individual Welfare. Illness, bereavement and financial distress. The lead in these matters should always be the Craft Almoner but the Chapter Almoner might be the first to become involved. He should **communicate** closely with the Lodge Almoner. In some cases the Companion may wish to deal with the Chapter Almoner instead and, sadly, not all Lodge Almoners are as good as others. Always take your partner with you on visits.
2. Individual Welfare. Loss of interest and internal conflicts between Chapter members. **Communicate** with the proposer/second or assistance from some other senior member should be enlisted to help sort out problems. Conciliation.
3. Overseeing the guidance of newly exalted Companions to maintain their interest. **Communicate** with the proposer/second. Encourage the Chapter to divide the work in the ceremony between junior companions. **Communicate** with the DC and Principals.

4. Follow up non-attenders and lapsed attenders. **Communicate** with Scribe E.
5. Reinforce the availability of Masonic Charity. **Communicate** with members at meetings and during Almoners report which should be given at every meeting. Circulate an Almoners report about members with the minutes.
6. **Communicate** with the Chapter Liaison Officers in each feeding Lodge on a regular basis.

### **Process**

How to do it!  
Be Pro-active.

1. Regular attenders. Network (**communicate** with the Companions) at meetings/rehearsals and keep your ears to the ground. Be a good listener. Keep notes and contact those in trouble later.
2. Non-attenders who apologise. **Communicate** with Scribe E and find out reason. They might need assistance. If this happens regularly there might be other undisclosed reasons so go and visit them.
3. Non-attenders no apology. In the first instance phone them. If they miss two meetings visit them. If a Companion misses more than two meetings without apology it is highly likely he will not attend again. **Communicate** with their proposer and seconder.
4. Offer a Companion who resigns a resignation interview. This way problems within the Chapter can be **communicated** to the committee and hopefully resolved.
5. Keep records of what you do. **Communicate** these to your successor.

So the overriding principal that came out of the meeting was:-

## **COMMUNICATE**

The Provincial Almoner is here to help you. Please contact him at any time.

Dr.Mac Speake. Dockyard, Kettlebaston, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP7 7QA  
01449 740635 [macspeake@btinternet.com](mailto:macspeake@btinternet.com)