



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WORCESTERSHIRE

R. W. Bro. Robert C. Vaughan
Provincial Grand Master

E.Comp. J.M.Phenix
M. E. Grand Superintendent

10th April 2020

Help with Subscriptions for Brethren and Companions

The Craft and Royal Arch Province of Worcestershire has a long history of support for members who, for whatever reason, have faced temporary difficulty in paying their Lodge or Chapter subscription. Latterly this support has been administered via the Anthony Yorke-Brooks fund.

Both the Provincial Grand Master and the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent recognise that the current Covid-19 outbreak has had, and will continue to have, a significant impact on the financial circumstances of many of our members. Indeed, its effects are perhaps likely to be felt most severely by those brethren still in employment or running their own businesses. Most of these members will be relatively young and represent the future of Freemasonry in this Province. It is therefore vital that we do all that we can to ensure that they are fully supported through this crisis.

Accordingly the Craft and Royal Arch Province have agreed to make funds available, through the Anthony Yorke Brooks fund, to top up members subscriptions where financial hardship exists, or has been exacerbated by, the current pandemic. Depending upon demand, either a full payment or a top up payment may be offered and, in cases where only a top up is available, then Lodges or Chapters are encouraged to provide the balance from their own funds to assist where this is feasible. Assistance will only be available for one subscription per member in each Order for that member's mother lodge and/or chapter, ie: a brother or companion may receive support for one Lodge and one Chapter.

The operation of the Fund, and in particular the application process, is designed to be flexible, straightforward and confidential. Many senior members may have knowledge of brethren in distress or this may become apparent when a brother or companion gives notice of his intention to resign (hopefully, however, his difficulty will have been identified before then). We ask that the Master, Secretary and Lodge Almoner (or Royal Arch equivalent) then apply for relief through the Provincial Almoner. For both Orders this is Charles Gwynn, whose contact details appear below.

Please could all Lodges and Chapters consider the matter now and give an indication of what support may be required so that appropriate planning can take place. Once the Lodge or Chapter has received notification of acceptance of the application from the Province then the member concerned may then simply be informed that his subscription has been paid or topped up as the case may be.

Whilst it is intended that the scheme will operate through Lodges and Chapters, individual members may apply direct to the Provincial Almoner if they prefer.

We must all do what we can to support our brethren and companions through this crisis and the Craft and Royal Arch provinces stand ready to help in any way we possibly can.

Yours sincerely & fraternally

Robert C. Vaughan
Provincial Grand Master

John M. Phenix
Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

In the first instance email The Provincial Almoner Charles Gwynn on sylchas66@gmail.com

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