



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Coronavirus Bulletin 4

22nd April 2020

Dear Bro Secretary,

I trust you and your family are coping well and keeping safe. I'd be grateful if you will please note the following and distribute the information to your members:

1. UGLE Covid-19 Relief Chest Appeal

The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) provides grants, donations and resources to members and their families who are in need, charities (both local and national) and medical research projects.

With the onset of Covid-19, the MCF is now faced with an even bigger call on its services and has already allocated an additional £2¼ million to help combat the effects of Covid-19.

In support of these efforts, UGLE has established a Covid-19 Relief Chest and is appealing to brethren for donations into the fund by the means outlined in the attached document. To acknowledge members' support, donations will be matched 'pound for pound' up to a total of £1million.

UGLE is keen for every Freemason to take part in this appeal and wishes to ensure that we can provide funding at the very heart of the national fight against Covid-19.

This funding will primarily support two key initiatives which, for clarity, I have listed in points 2 and 3 below:

2. Covid-19 Response Group

A national response group has been established to provide financial support for Covid-19 initiatives and to identify and spread best practice across the country.

Examples of supported initiatives to date include the manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE) through local contacts, support for foodbanks, help for Centres providing food to the needy and the provision of vital equipment for research efforts and the NHS; but of course, this is not prescriptive and your members may have further ideas.

It would be useful for the Province to record the details of any initiatives currently in place and I will act as a central point for this and any funding requests. Therefore, if there are any Covid-19 initiatives being undertaken by your Lodge, or members of your Lodge, and if any of these require additional funding, please let me know and we can discuss the possibility of making an application for financial support. Please email me directly at frank.milner@hantsmasons.org

3. MCF Covid-19 Fund

Applications for grants may be made to support local Covid-19 efforts by charities and community groups. The amount available is up to £10K for each Province and would be most suitable for making small donations with a £250 minimum (e.g. £500 to 20 separate charities).

Applications or requests for further information should be made directly to the Provincial Grand Charity Steward; Kevin Head at headkevh@aol.com using the attached form. Applications should be made before 1 May 2020.

4. Virtual 'Zoom' Lodge Meeting

I'm sure that you will agree that it is vitally important to keep freemasonry alive during the lockdown and suspension period. To this end, I would like to share with you an excellent idea which has been developed from a recent lodge initiative and which I hope your Lodge will consider adopting:

The Provincial Grand Master was recently invited to a 'Virtual Zoom Meeting' at Elizabethan Lodge, on the evening of what would have been their Installation meeting, which proved to be extremely successful. Members were advised of the time of the meeting and each sent a link to attend via the 'Zoom' video conferencing app (this is a free app for the first 40 minutes and less than £15 per month for an unlimited time period – it serves up to 100 attendees).

The suggested protocols for Virtual 'Zoom' Meetings are as follows:

- I. Appoint an organiser who owns the Zoom account and is able to control the app and admit brethren into the meeting as they arrive.
- II. The meetings should be held on the usual dates of the Lodge's Regular meeting.
- III. Members should be given at least 7 days' notice of the meeting and sent an invitation with start time, link, agenda and meeting duration. You may wish to invite personal and official guests.
- IV. The agenda items should be itemised by 'time' so that members of lodge, especially those with large memberships, can join and leave the meeting as they wish.
- V. Agenda items may include:
 - i. A welcome by the WM (who should also Chair the meeting).
 - ii. An address by the brother who was due to be passed or raised.
 - iii. Discussion on Covid-19 initiatives.
 - iv. Items from the 5-year plan (an ideal time to collate this over several virtual meetings).
 - v. An opportunity for each brother to speak if he so wishes.
 - vi. A presentation of Masonic Nuggets – perhaps researched and presented by younger / newer members.
- VI. It would be useful if you will submit your agenda (I call this an agenda, not a summons as it is not an official meeting) in the usual manner to the Provincial Office with copies to your VO, APGM and Area Team, in case they wish to attend.
- VII. Please note that this is **not** regarded as an official meeting and 'regular' Lodge business may **not** be conducted; i.e. propositions, ballots, elections etc.

Keep safe!

Fraternal Regards
Frank Milner
Provincial Grand Secretary