



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Coronavirus Bulletin 15

5th November 2020

Dear Bro Secretary,

I trust you are well. I would be grateful if you will note the following points and distribute this bulletin to all your members including honorary members:

1. Provincial Office Closing

Please note that as a result of the latest suspension the Provincial Office will be physically closed from 5th November 2020 until further notice. However staff will still be available by telephone and all administrative functions will continue as normal.

2. Exclusions

Several Lodge Secretaries have expressed their concern that due to the latest suspension, they will be unable to exclude members for non-payment of subscriptions and consequently the Lodge will be liable for payment of next year's subscriptions.

The answer to this issue was confirmed in UGLE First Risings #2 - that if the following conditions are satisfied, the fees for the ensuing year will be waived in respect of members who could not be excluded earlier because of the suspension.

- a. The member concerned must have been excluded not later than the first regular meeting held after the resumption of meetings (it will not be necessary to hold an emergency meeting specially for this purpose).
- b. The Provincial Grand Secretary must certify that:
 - i. The Lodge or the Treasurer has demonstrated to his satisfaction that all reasonable steps were taken to collect the subscription.
 - ii. The Lodge started to operate Rule 181 (including the service of the notices required by the Rule), but was prevented from completing the required process before the end of the subscription year only by the suspension of meetings.

The relief should be claimed when submitting the Annual Return accompanied by a certificate from the Provincial Grand Secretary that the above conditions have been satisfied (n.b. email the details to me and I will confirm by return). Please enter "Exclusion pending – R181 & By-law" against the Brother's name on the annual returns (both UGLE and Provincial), thereby flagging it for twelve months later.

3. Installation Meetings

If your Lodge Installation Meeting falls within the suspension period, you may re-schedule within 5 weeks without the need for a dispensation – Rule 108(a) (assuming that the lockdown and suspension is lifted in time). Otherwise, the current WM must remain in office for a further year.

If the Installation date is postponed, please enter the usual 'scheduled Installation date' on the Provincial Installation Return and indicate the actual date in the next field.

If the WM is continuing in Office due to the suspension, he must invest his Officers at the next regular meeting.

4. Masonic Charitable Trust (MCT) – Help is at Hand

The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Provincial Masonic Charitable Trust (MCT) provides financial assistance to those Brethren and their dependents whose circumstances are such as to require urgent need of support. This is particularly important at the present time, especially as the effects of Covid-19 have affected the lives of so many of our Members.

The MCT is able to provide a prompt response for one-off applications, which are made on behalf of Brethren and their families to the Provincial Almoner (W Bro Neil Morse) through the Lodge and Area Almoners. Brethren requiring assistance are also asked to make contact with the Grand Lodge based Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) to register their request for assistance. Their contact number is 0800 035 60 90.

Year to date, The MCT has awarded grants in excess of £60,000, much of which is directly attributable to the impact of Covid-19. Help is at hand – so where there is a need, the MCT is ready to help with a quick response.

We have had several enquiries from Lodges who wish to make a donation to either a ‘Provincial Covid-19’ or ‘Provincial Hardship’ fund. As neither of these funds is in place, such donations will be received and administered by the MCT.

Cheques should be made out to ‘The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Masonic Charitable Trust’ and sent to the Provincial Grand Secretary, PGL Hants and IOW, 85 Winchester Rd, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire SO53 2GG.

If you have any further questions regarding the resumption of meetings, please email the Provincial Office and I will share my response in a future bulletin. All previous bulletins are posted on the Provincial website.

Fraternal Regards
Frank Milner
Provincial Grand Secretary