SUSPENSION PLANNING GROUP BULLETIN NO. 8

Week ending 8th May 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPLAIN IN THE MARK DEGREE

Brethren

We may not be meeting in open lodge, but we have the opportunity to express our fraternity by responding to need. Phone calls, shopping, prayer for those we know to be struggling, are just another way of saying *brotherly love, relief and truth*.

Yes, we miss the ordinary things of masonry, sometimes the simplest things. I miss hearing the song so often sung at the end of our evenings together, but now reflect on each line:

Happy have we met. We have the opportunity now to think back over so many meetings, each with a distinct character, but expressing those same eternal principles, that same solidarity.

Happy have we been. We have the chance to give thanks for all the blessings that our brotherhood has given us over the years, and to be thankful for the opportunity to share what we have with glad and generous hearts.

Happy may we part. How often we sing this and think only of our parting that evening. But - as ever in masonry - there is a further speculative, spiritual understanding. We part from this life; we grieve the loss of those close to us. But that is not the end:

Happy meet again. How much meaning that simple line holds for us now! We look forward, hopefully and faithfully, trusting that there will indeed come that time, both here and in the life to come.

The last line of all tells us that this has been more than a song; it is a prayer by which we entrust all our past, present and future into the hands of the Most High who blesses us with every step we take:

So mote it be.

W Bro Revd Roger Quick, Provincial Grand Chaplain in the Mark Degree

1. COMMUNICATIONS :

CRAFT LODGE SECRETARIES ONLY should see that this bulletin is circulated to all of their Lodge Members as soon as possible ensuring that those members without email receive a hard copy by post. Scribes E's, Mark Lodge Secretaries and RAM Lodge Scribes should only circulate the bulletin to any members of their respective Chapter/Lodges who are **NOT members of the Craft in Yorkshire West Riding**.

2. MASONIC MEAL APPEAL – YOU CAN NOW DONATE

To date, you have raised £9,013 in just one week. A magnificent start!

This special fund-raising appeal was launched last Friday, the 1st May, and is now receiving your donations.

The money raised will be duly applied for the benefit of the NHS, its Staff, Hospices, Carers and Frontline Workers.

For those yet to contribute we suggest that the expense of one typical Masonic meeting is between £20 and £30 and that you donate to this appeal some or all of what you have saved each month during our suspension.

We appreciate that some Brethren will be experiencing financial challenges and may not be able to afford over generous donations or any at all. No record is kept of those who donate and no certificates of Patronage to be gained. The amount we raise will be sufficient testimony of the generosity of Freemasons.

Donations can be made in 3 ways by, a) Debit / Credit Card transaction, b) Bank Transfer, c) Cheque. CLICK HERE to donate or for more information

3. MASONIC LIGHT WEBINARS

The first in a series of Masonic Light webinars, ***"An explanation of some aspects of the First Degree"*** took place on Wednesday last and was joined by 24 brethren all of who gave excellent feedback on the content. The next webinar, ***"Explaining the Second Degree"*** will take place on **Wednesday 13th May from 7 to 7.45pm** followed by the First Degree presentation again on **Wednesday 20th May** also from **7 to 7.45pm**. To read more about last week's event and for further details and to register for either or both of the webinars via Eventbrite CLICK HERE.

4. PROVINCIAL GRAND HONOURS

Last Tuesday 5th of May, would have been the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, at Harrogate, when Brethren appointed or promoted to Acting Office and Past Provincial Ranks, would have been invested. This occasion also fell victim to the Masonic Suspension but all Appointments and Promotions became effective as of Tuesday. CLICK HERE to view a full list of all those who received honours in 2020.

5. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT OUR MASONIC SUSPENSION:

The Questions and Answers document on the Craft website, with links from the Mark and Royal Arch websites, is being **regularly updated**. As more questions are asked and more information is received from Grand Lodge at Great Queen Street and from Mark Masons Hall at St James', the content may be added to or amended, CLICK HERE **to keep looking**. If you have unanswered questions to raise or need any assistance with documentation which has been circulated to you, please contact: advice@wrprovince.co.uk or ProvGSec@westyorksmark.org.uk

David S Pratt
Provincial Grand Master

Stewart G Carley
Grand Superintendent

James Steggles
Provincial Grand Master

PROVINCIAL WEBSITES

Keep looking at your Provincial websites shown below, also look at the websites of other Orders of which you may be a member, we do not have space for everything on these bulletins and other things will be happening.

Website Details

Craft www.wrprovince.org.uk **Royal Arch** www.pgc-ywr.org **Mark** www.westyorksmark.co.uk

LAST WEEK DID YOU SEE ACROSS OUR VARIOUS WEBSITES

- The Masonic Meal Appeal Launch on Friday, May 1st CLICK HERE
- The lists of Appointments and Promotions in Provincial Grand Rank this year CLICK HERE
- The update report from Connaught Court Care Home CLICK LINK
- News about our donation of 50 electronic tablets to three Children's Hospices in the Province CLICK HERE
- A report about the Masonic Light webinar held on May 6th and registration links for May 13th and 20th. CLICK LINK
- An report of MCF/UGLE Covid responses CLICK LINK
- A report about Fellowship Lodge No 4069 virtual Centenary celebration CLICK LINK

THIS WEEK ACROSS OUR VARIOUS WEBSITES LOOK OUT FOR

- Updates on the Masonic Meal Appeal – new totals will be posted on Wednesday and Saturday each week CLICK HERE to see.
- Information on newly appointed Heads of The Allied Masonic Degrees and Order of Royal and Select Masters in this Province
- Mark Master Masons a message from the PGM, Jim Steggles about issues of current importance

DO YOU HAVE A GOOD NEWS STORY? WHY NOT SHARE IT WITH YOUR BRETHREN ON THE WEBSITE

What are you, your Lodge, Chapter or Order doing during this suspension of meetings? Maybe you are on the frontline, if you are, we are interested to know what its like. Maybe you are helping the community or have found a way to make 'Lock-down' bearable. Maybe you just have an interesting or amusing story to tell. If you are willing to share it, contact W.Bro. David Simister at david@differentpr.co.uk

West Riding Masonic Charities Limited in the Community

This week three PGM's Fund minor grants have been awarded to **Leeds Baby Bank - £2000** to help relieve poverty among families with young children who are in need or distress. **Ripon Community House- £1000** grant enables them to provide supplies for local vulnerable and needy people. **Project Foodhall** Sheffield **- £1500** grant will be used to purchase food items, supplies and PPE for volunteers.

CLICK HERE to see more about the activities of WRMCL

WRMCL Care and Support officers are working to maintain contact with beneficiaries, Widows and Brethren in conjunction with, and through Lodge Almoners, making full use of telephone, email, and conference calls. For help from our Care and Support Officers contact your CHOICES Area Almoner or:

ring the confidential help line on 03449 020220.

Help us to identify NEEDS before they become NECESSITIES.