SUSPENSION PLANNING GROUP BULLETIN NO. 3

Week ending 3rd April 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS AND 
THE GRAND SUPERINTENDENT

As I write this and look out of the window, my neighbours all have Teddy Bears in their windows, prompted by a news item this morning asking people to ‘spot the Teddy Bear’. We also now have three bears in our window. How people and families come closer together in difficulties times!

Our Masonic Family is just the same

WE ARE ISOLATED BUT STILL COMING TOGETHER AS FREEMasons
We may be separated from our families, friends and loved ones, but we are not alone.

OUR FREEMASONRY UNITES US AS IT ALWAYS HAS BEFORE
We were taught to be cautious, which we must all continue to be over the next few months, but there is a great deal we can still do together, even though our Lodges and Chapters remain closed.

WE DO NOT NEED A HANDSHAKE
It’s our Deeds and Actions that will identify and define us over the coming months.
Our Almoner Networks have been strengthened to ensure regular contact with those in need.
Help with the collection and delivery of groceries, medications etc. is being organised.
And we are co-ordinating our efforts across all Orders in planning for the future.

HOW OUR BRETHREN, LODGES AND CHAPTERS HAVE BECOME CLOSER TOGETHER HAS AMAZED US 
FREEMASONRY AND BROTHERLY LOVE AT ITS BEST

Provincial Grand Master, West Yorkshire Mark Masons

1 COMMUNICATIONS:

These bulletins are being issued at the start of each week during the current Masonic suspension and aim to summarise key information which all members need to be aware of.

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  ENSURING THAT WEST RIDING MASONIC CHARITIES LIMITED – Has liquid funds at its disposal

All donations to WRMCL will be gratefully received during this difficult time and will enable them to continue with their work of supporting those in need through this difficult time.

It is therefore vitally important that all funds collected for the benefit of WRMCL and currently held in Lodge Bank Accounts by our Charity Stewards, should be remitted as soon as possible to maximise the Liquid Cash funds available to WRMCL.

A letter has been sent to Lodge Charity Stewards and Chapter Scribe E’s advising them of the procedures to be followed to achieve remittance of these funds during the current suspension period. We would urge all Charity Stewards and Scribe E’s to deal with this matter as soon as possible.

3  IN MEMORIAM SECTION: on the Craft Website linked to other Masonic Websites

It has long been the custom in Lodges, Chapters and other Masonic units for the passing of a Member to be marked by an “In Memoriam” notice on the Lodge/Chapter summons and often by a brief obituary/eulogy at a subsequent meeting.

Unfortunately, such actions are not possible during the current Masonic suspension. With the above in mind and the desire to be able to convey appropriate information about a Members passing an “In Memoriam” section has been set up on the Craft Provincial Website www.wrprovince.co.uk which will be linked to other Masonic websites across this Province.

Structure of the “In Memoriam Section”

• Any Craft, Chapter, Mark or other Order member may submit the name of a deceased Member to the Craft Provincial Webmaster

• The names of Members whose passing is to be recorded will be added to the page with the option of a short obituary/eulogy of 100-150 words

• A dedicated condolence page will be linked to each name to enable people to leave suitable messages of condolence for the Member being remembered

• Every request for an entry MUST include confirmation that the deceased Members family is aware of and agrees to an entry being published on the website. Please remember that publishing information on any website makes it available to the whole worldwide web.

• The Provincial Grand Secretaries/Scribe E or equivalent Officers across all orders will monitor reports of deaths from Lodges and Chapters and remind Secretaries of the opportunity to have the name of the Member recorded in the “In Memoriam” section together with the process and requirements for doing so

Notification of a Members passing MUST still be made in the normal manner currently observed to the Provincial/District Secretary, Scribe E, Recorder etc.

4  CONTINGENCY PLANNING ADVICE FOR THE FUTURE GOVERNANCE OF LODGES AND CHAPTERS

This item was touched on in our previous bulletin under item 4 KEEPING OUR LODGES AND CHAPTERS RESILIENT OVER THE COMING MONTHS: this topic becomes more important than ever as the severity of the Coronavirus Pandemic starts to take an even tighter grip. Please ensure that you are supporting your Worshipful Masters and 1st Principals etc to implement the recommended Contingency Planning Advice.

Please remember that a failure to plan is a plan to FAIL. We all need to be involved in this planning because none of us want our Freemasonry in this Province to fail.
5 KEEPING IN TOUCH DURING THE MASONIC SUSPENSION

There can be nothing more rewarding that maintaining contact with our masonic friends during this period of suspension. Bulletin 2 alluded to instructions on how to create social media groups, guides are available on the Craft Provincial Website www.wrprovince.org.uk

All our various Orders across the Province have dedicated Websites and other Social Media Platforms which are vital to keeping ourselves updated with Messages and Podcasts from our Provincial Rulers. These Websites are where we can submit our various Good News Stories and Anecdotes which are morally uplifting. Have you seen something happening in your Community which you found to be outstanding in the way it has helped you and others? Okay, well tell everyone about it by submitting a report to your preferred Webmaster. What’s made you laugh or smile today? Tell everyone else about it and make them smile too!!!

Let’s keep in touch “Visit your Websites Daily to see what’s new in our Orders”

New on the Craft Website www.wrprovince.org.uk

A video message from the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. David S Pratt

New on the Mark Website www.westyorksmark.co.uk

A new Quiz Portal and Random Number fund raiser for the West Yorkshire Mark 2023 MBF Festival

6 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT OUR MASONIC SUSPENSION:

Now into week 3 of Masonic suspension and yet more queries have been raised. The Questions and Answers document on the Craft website www.wrprovince.org.uk with links from the Mark and Royal Arch websites, has been updated. There have been more questions asked and more information has been received from Grand Lodge at Great Queen Street and from Mark Masons Hall at St James’ which answer your questions. 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

We are delighted to announce that all other Orders meeting as part of our Masonic family in this Province have now signed-up to support this communication initiative by not duplicating information sent to their members.

David S Pratt
Provincial Grand Master

Stewart G Carley
Grand Superintendent

James Steggs
Provincial Grand Master

The Freemasons of Yorkshire West Riding working together for the good of all.