SUSPENSION PLANNING GROUP BULLETIN NO. 5

Week ending 17th April 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTERS AND
THE GRAND SUPERINTENDENT

“Courage Brother, do not stumble, though thy path be dark as night;
There’s a star to guide the humble. Trust in God and do the right”.

Norman MacCleod 1857

Courage Brethren! It’s the 5th Weekly Bulletin as we are sailing through the unchartered waters of a pandemic and we are all on the same boat. Our plan continues to keep everyone informed and although the Fraternal Chain is being tested, we are strong!

“To steer the bark of this life over the seas of passion without quitting the helm of rectitude is the highest perfection to which human nature can attain;
And as the builder raises his column by the level and perpendicular,
So ought every Mason to conduct himself towards this World”.

Working Tools of a Speculative Mason

The generosity of Freemasons and Freemasonry is now being appreciated throughout the Communities that form our great Province. Of course, monetary donations to buy “things” to support our Communities is important however the spirit of our great Fraternity and looking after others in need is of equal importance.

Courage Brethren! Keep listening. Keep talking. Keep in contact. Keep safe. There are better times ahead and we shall moor our boat in a safe harbour and once again enjoy meeting and greeting each other in person as both Men and as Masons.

R.W. Bro. David S Pratt
Provincial Grand Master

1 COMUNICATIONS:
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. DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Please DO NOT post announcements regarding the death of Brethren on Private Social Media Platforms. This topic was covered in the last Bulletin, however, it seems that Brethren continue to post about the tragic deaths of our dearly beloved Brethren on their Private Facebook accounts and other social media platforms. The SPG feel that it is necessary once again to appeal to you, to stop this practice immediately. Pointing out that there is a danger of the deceased’s relatives and close friends, first becoming aware of what to them, will be devastating news, by such postings. We must be respectful to the families of our deceased brethren who may not wish for their very personal tragedy to be announced other than by themselves. We appeal to you to have respect for the deceased and his family, to refrain from using open messaging media platforms. There is an “In Memoriam” page on the Craft website, linked to the Royal Arch and Mark Websites where announcements and testimonials, approved by the deceased brothers next of kin, can be and are being published. To express your condolences on the “In Memoriam” page go to www.wrprovince.org.uk/in-memoriam.html or click on the hyperlink underneath this document.

3. HELPING THE NHS AND CARE SECTOR AND THEIR STAFF – something we can do to help

The Provincial Grand Master with the support of the Grand Superintendent and the PGM for Mark and Heads of all the other Orders in the Province has decided to set-up a special fund-raising appeal across all Masons in this Province for the benefit of the NHS and Care Sector and their staff. The appeal will be formally launched on 1st May with further details being announced soon. Watch this space!!

4. PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS WEST YORKSHIRE

On the 18th April it would have been the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting for the West Yorkshire Mark Masons. This Provincial Meeting has been the first major casualty in this Province. To “Mark” the date The Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Jim Steggles posted on the Mark Website a shortened version of what would have been his address to the Brethren at that meeting, together with details of those Brethren receiving First Appointments to and Promotions in Mark Provincial Grand Lodge. Also details of the recently announced First Appointments to and Promotions in Mark Grand Lodge. Details of the winners following the latest 250 Club Draw will also be posted. For more details go to www.westyorksmark.co.uk or click on the hyperlink underneath this document.

5. “ZOOM IN” ON A MODERN TECHNOLOGICAL WAY TO KEEP IN TOUCH

Zoom is a leader in modern enterprise video communications, with an easy, reliable cloud platform for video and audio conferencing, collaboration, chat, and webinars across mobile devices, desktops, telephones, and room systems. Zoom users can choose to record sessions, collaborate on projects, and share or annotate on one another’s screens, all with one easy-to-use platform. Zoom offers quality video, audio, and a wireless screen-sharing performance across Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, Blackberry and Zoom rooms. A guide on how you can find, install and use Zoom on a miriad of devices has been posted on the Craft Website with links to other websites go to www.wrprovince.org.uk/virtual-social-meetings.html or click on the hyperlink underneath this document.

6. ALL MEMBER ALERT – COVID-19 REGIONAL COMMS GROUPS

You should all have received on 14th April sent directly to you by email a letter explaining how UGLE and the MCF are working together during the current Coronavirus Pandemic.

7. 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, go to www.wrprovince.org.uk/qas.html or click on the hyperlink underneath this document 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

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

Keep looking at your Provincial websites, we don’t have space for everything on these bulletins and other things may 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**

- Suspension Planning Group – who are they and what do they do?
- WRMCL Detail of recent grants.
- News of Centenariess and Jubilee Certificates
- Virtual meeting invitations from the Leeds Light Blues Club. (via Facebook link)
- A message from the M. E. Grand Superintendent, Stewart G. Carley

**THIS WEEK ACROSS OUR VARIOUS WEBSITES LOOK OUT FOR**

- The Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. David S Pratt’s latest Video Message
- A guide on how you can find, install and use Zoom
- Details from the Mark regarding Provincial and Grand Lodge Honours
- More information about the NHS and Care Sector Appeal fund

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**West Riding Masonic Charities Limited**

Your Charity working in the Community

Since our last update [13 April 2020] WRMCL have donated £2,500 to The Howarth Foundation, Leeds and Kirklees. The primary activity of this Charity is to prevent or relieve poverty in respect of individuals who are or have recently been homeless. Go to www.wrprovince.org.uk/good-news or click on the hyperlink underneath this document to see more about the activities of WRMCL

Brethren please don’t struggle; CHOICES is here to help you through these difficult times. If you are in need act now to protect and safeguard your future and that of your family. Contact your Lodge or Area Almoner for more information or ring 03449 020220

Help us to identify NEEDS before they become NECESSITIES.