

Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire.

Charity Committee,

(Established 1880).

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

EXTRACTED FROM THE

BY-LAWS OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE.

The attention of the Brethren of the Province is earnestly requested to the following SPECIAL RESOLUTION of Provincial Grand Lodge—

“That with the view of concentrating the voting power of the Province, it is MOST DESIRABLE that all Voting Papers, immediately on receipt thereof, be signed and forwarded by the Lodges and Brethren in the Province to the Honorary Secretary of the Charity Committee, Brother GEORGE TAYLOR, SUMMERDYNE VILLA, KIDDERMINSTER, who will, on request, give full information on all points connected with the Charity Organisation.

COMMITTEE FOR 1880-81.



SIR E. A. H. LECHMERE, BART, M.P., R.W.P.G.M.
WOR. BRO. W. MASEFIELD, D.P.G.M.
" " SIR F. GORE-OUSELEY, BART., P.G. CHAPLAIN.
" " ALBERT BROWN, P.P.S.G.W., P.G. TREASURER.
" " WILLIAM BRISTOW, P.P.S.G.W., P.G., SECRETARY.

Life Governors of the Masonic Charities.

WOR. BRO. W. BRISTOW, 252. | BRO. JNO. DIXON, 377.
" " GEO. TAYLOR, 377. | " J. W. CHADWICK, 377.

Representative Members.

No. 252.	No. 529.
BRO. W. H. WESTWOOD, P.S.G.W.	BRO. J. M. EVANS, P.G.P.
" W. E. WALKER, W.M.	---
" E. R. HARTLEY, S.W.	No. 560.
" T. F. HIGGS, J.W.	BRO. G. W. NAYLOR, W.M.
---	" J. T. MEREDITH, P.G.A.D.C.
No. 280.	---
BRO. J. RANGLERUCK, P.G.S.Wks.	No. 564.
" F. L. J. INGHAM, W.M.	BRO. W. H. JONES, P.P.S.G.W.
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No. 377.	No. 573.
BRO. J. FITZGERALD, P.P.G.S.D	BRO. W. SOMERS, P.M.
" P. BELLITZAY, P.P.G.D.C.	---
" T. MCCANDLESS, P.M.	No. 1097.
" E. HAMMOND, W.M.	---
---	No. 1204.
BRO. G. KING PATTEN, P.M.	BRO. H. CROSS, P.P.J.G.W.
	" F. R. DREW, W.M.

W. BRO. GEO. TAYLOR, P.G.S.D., HON. SECRETARY.



THE Charity Committee for the Province of Worcestershire, is formed for the purpose of increasing the number of *Life Governors* and *Life Subscribers* to the three Masonic Charities, and of organising and concentrating the voting strength of the Province at the election of candidates for the same, under the following Regulations:—

- 1.—The Committee shall meet twice a year, at a convenient time after the Charity voting papers are received, at such place as a majority of the Committee shall from time to time appoint to consider what cases shall be supported, to issue circulars to all Masonic bodies, and Charity Subscribers, in the Province, soliciting their support to the chosen cases, and to transact any other necessary business pertaining thereto. In the case of an equality of votes at any meeting, the Presiding Officer at that meeting shall, in addition to his own vote, have a casting vote.
- 2.—The Committee shall consist of the Provincial Grand Master, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Provincial Grand Chaplain, Provincial Grand Treasurer, Provincial Grand Secretary, and Members to be elected by Lodges in the Province, in open Lodge, in the month of May in every year, the number to be governed relatively by, and in proportion to, the number of Life Votes held by each particular Lodge for the Masonic Charities, whether belonging to the Lodge or to subscribing members thereof, that is to say:—the representation of each Lodge on the Committee shall be based upon its voting strength, which must be vouched for to the satisfaction of the Committee, in the following proportions, namely:—Each Lodge and its members having *Ten Life Votes* for the Masonic Charities, shall be entitled to have *one* representative; each Lodge and its members having *Twenty Life Votes*, shall be entitled to have *two* representatives, and *one* representative for every additional *Twenty*

Life Votes beyond that number. Any member of a Lodge being a Life Governor of *two* of the Masonic Charities shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Committee. Should the elected Charity representative of any Lodge be prevented by sickness or any other unavoidable cause, from attending the meeting of the Committee, he may depute some other member of his Lodge to attend in his stead.

- 3.—For the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Charity Organisation, a fund is established by the subscriptions of Freemasons, Lodges, Chapters, and other Masonic Bodies of *One Guinea and upwards*, payable annually.—*Lewises* (being minors) and *Ladies* may become subscribers to the fund.
- 4.—At the first meeting of the Committee in each year, a ballot shall be taken for the priority of presentation to as many *Life Subscriberships* or *Life Governorships*, as the amount in the hands of the Provincial Grand Treasurer will allow—the *form of the ballot to be decided by the Committee*.—The Charity shall be selected by the successful subscriber, and the sum requisite to secure a *Life Subscribership* or *Life Governorship* shall, within fourteen days after the ballot is taken, be paid by the Treasurer to the Charity so selected, in the name of the successful subscriber, or be sent through the Steward of the Charity (if any for the Province serve that year), at the option of the successful subscriber.
 - (a) Every subscriber shall have one chance in the ballot for every complete Guinea standing to his credit in the Provincial Grand Treasurer's Book at the date of the ballot, but shall be entitled to only one nomination.
 - (b) Each successful subscriber shall give a promise, in writing, to continue the payment of his or her subscription until the full amount of the *Subscription as Life Subscriber* or *Life Governor* is paid up, and the subscriber shall not be eligible for another nomination, till the amount is paid.
 - (c) Any subscriber whose subscription is not paid previous to, or at the meeting, shall be excluded from the ballot at that meeting, and

subscribers twelve months in arrears shall forfeit all moneys they may have paid into the fund, and shall cease thereupon to be entitled to the privileges of subscribers, except for cause allowed by the majority at the next half-yearly meeting.

(d) Any subscriber who has paid the sum sufficient to entitle him to the qualification he requires before he shall have drawn successfully, shall be entitled to his nomination *ipso facto* without ballot.

Note.—In the cases of Lodges, Chapters, and other Masonic Bodies, the qualification for Life Subscribership being in amount double that necessary for an individual, it is understood that upon a Ballot the amount drawn is to be applied as in full for a Life Subscribership for an individual, or as a moiety of a Life Subscribership for a Lodge, Chapter, &c.

- 5.—No candidate for the benefits of either of the Charities shall be eligible for selection for support by the Committee unless duly proposed and seconded by members of the Committee, who must have made themselves well acquainted with the particulars of the case.
- 6.—No petition for the benefits of either of the Charities, shall be presented on behalf of any Candidate, unless the same has been submitted to the Committee through the Secretary, seven days at least before its meeting.
- 7.—In order to facilitate the selection and adoption of Candidates for the benefits of the Masonic Charities, the Charity Committee shall have power from time to time to make such By-Laws as to their mode of proceeding in such selection and adoption as they may deem necessary, which By-Laws shall be submitted for ratification by Provincial Grand Lodge at its next meeting.
- 8.—The Secretary to be elected at a general meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, shall attend all meetings of the Committee, and keep minutes thereof. He shall issue summonses to the members fourteen days at least before each meeting, and transact all other business

pertaining to the office.—He shall forward Lists of the names of subscribers to the Charity Representatives of each Lodge in the Province, who shall be expected to advocate the objects of the Charity Committee, amongst the members of their respective Lodges, and whose duty it shall be to collect the subscriptions and transmit the same to the Secretary, on account of the Provincial Grand Treasurer, before the Ballot takes place. The Secretary shall lay a Report of the proceeding of the Committee before the Provincial Grand Lodge, at its regular annual meetings.

9.—Any question arising upon the construction of the Rules of the Charity Committee shall be settled by the Committee, whose decision on the matter submitted to them shall be final.

10.—The Rules affecting the Charity Committee may be altered or varied from time to time to meet existing circumstances, by a vote of *two-thirds* of the Members of the Committee present, at any half-yearly meeting, *but not otherwise*; but no proposal for alteration thereof shall be entertained, unless 28 days' notice in writing be given to the Secretary, who shall insert the proposed alteration in the Summons convening the meeting; and such alterations, if intended to be permanent, must be confirmed by the Provincial Grand Lodge in the mode prescribed by its By-Law, No.