

P.1/L15.  
CHARITY ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

By-Law No. 10.

The Charity Organisation of the Province shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of:-

- (a) The General Committee of the Province.
- (b) A Charity Steward and one other representative from each Lodge, who shall both be elected annually at the Regular Meeting for the election of the Master.
- (c) The Secretary of the Organisation, who shall be elected at the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge.

The names and addresses of the Charity Stewards and elected Representatives shall be forwarded to the Secretary by the Secretary of each Lodge within seven days of the date of the election.

The Committee shall administer the Benevolent Fund of the Province in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Organisation and shall be empowered to hold meetings, frame and amend Rules, grant relief, and generally to conduct the Charity business of the Province.

The monies of the Benevolent Fund shall consist of:-

- (a) Annual contributions from each Lodge.
- (b) Grants or donations from Provincial Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Chapter, Lodges, Chapters, and other Masonic Orders, or individuals.
- (c) Income from Investments.

The Committee shall present to Provincial Grand Lodge an annual Statement of Accounts and a Report of its proceedings setting out the number of Candidates elected to the Masonic Institutions, also a Statement of Receipts and Payments in connection with the administration of the Benevolent Fund. Such Statement of Accounts and Report, when approved and adopted by Provincial Grand Lodge shall be entered on the Minutes thereof.

All contributions to the Benevolent Fund shall be made to the Secretary of the Charity Organisation, who will make all payments authorised by this Committee.

CHARITY ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

BY-LAWS.

MEETINGS

1. The Regular Meetings of the Committee shall be held on the 3rd Saturday in January and July each year at the Masonic Hall, Worcester, or such other place as may be appointed by the Provincial Grand Master. Special Meetings may be held at any time by order of the Provincial Grand Master, or on the written request of five members of the Committee. At least seven days notice of such meetings to be given. The Committee shall have power to appoint an executive Committee.

The Provincial Grand Master may appoint two members of the executive Committee.

ADOPTION OF CANDIDATES

2. No petition for benefits of either of the three Masonic Institutions shall be considered on behalf of any Candidate unless notice of the same has been submitted to the Committee through the Secretary at least seven days before the date of the regular meetings. Such notice must contain all the necessary particulars, Masonic and otherwise, to enable the Committee to adjudicate on the merits of the case.

BENEVOLENT FUND

3. The Committee shall administer the Benevolent Fund of the Province according to the provisions of the Provincial Grand Lodge By-Law No.10, and in conformity with these By-Laws.

The objects of the Fund are:-

- (a) To assist in approved cases where applicants are not qualified for help from the Masonic Institutions.
- (b) To assist aged or indigent Freemasons in the Province.
- (c) To assist Widows and Children of Freemasons in the Province.
- (d) To assist in the education and/or maintenance of Children of deceased or indigent Brethren until they are able to support themselves or attain the age of 18 years, and in exceptional cases to provide higher education or advancement in life.

(e) To make grants each Christmas (or on exceptional occasions) not exceeding £7. 10. 0. to each annuitant of the Provincial Benevolent Fund, Page Memorial Fund, and annuitants from this Province of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and grants not exceeding £3 to each child from this Province at the Masonic Schools, or in receipt of Out-Education grants from the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, or Boys, or the Provincial Benevolent Fund.

In order to carry out these objects the Committee is empowered:-  
 To make grants not exceeding £104 per annum to a necessitous Brother, or Widow of a Brother, on a petition duly presented by the Charity Steward of a Lodge.

No petition shall be entertained on behalf of a Brother or Widow whose income exceeds £104 per annum exclusive of the National Insurance Old Age Pension. In cases of emergency a grant not exceeding £52 may be made by the Secretary with the approval of the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, or the Assistant Provincial Grand Master. A report of any such grant shall be made at the next Regular Meeting of the Committee together with full particulars.

To assist in the education and/or maintenance of Children by making grants not exceeding £52 per annum until they reach the age of 18 years, or to assist in special cases of higher education, or advancement in life, by a grant not exceeding £73 per annum. The School at which the Child is to attend, or any other provision for its education, must first be approved by the Committee.

LODGE  
CONTRIBUTIONS

4. The annual contribution from each Lodge provided for in Provincial Grand Lodge By-Law No. 10 (a) shall be a sum of not less than Five Shillings per subscribing member.

SECRETARIES  
and TYLERS

5. Secretaries who have been exempted by their Lodges from payment of subscriptions, and registered Tylers, or their respective Widows, shall not be disqualified from obtaining assistance from the Benevolent Fund.

INVESTMENTS 6. All monies invested shall be in Trustee Securities as authorised by law, in the names of the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and the Secretary of the Charity Organisation, for the time being - acting as Trustees for the Benevolent Fund.

APPLICATIONS FOR RELIEF 7. Applications for Relief from the Provincial Benevolent Fund must be forwarded to the Secretary thirty days prior to the Regular Meetings in January and July, together with full particulars on the printed form to be obtained from him.

TONTINES 8. The Tontine scheme is to facilitate Brethren qualifying as Life Governors of the Masonic Institutions by annual subscriptions of Two Guineas for five years.  
Tontine subscriptions are payable prior to the January meeting of the Committee each year.

BALLOT 9. A Ballot shall be taken for the priority of allocation to as many Life Governorships of Ten Guineas each as the amount in hand will permit. A Subscriber in arrear shall not participate in the ballot.  
A Sub-Committee shall be appointed annually for the purpose of conducting the ballot, and the result shall be notified to the Committee at the January meeting.

SUBSCRIBERS UNDERTAKING 10. Every successful subscriber on his acceptance of a drawn share shall give an undertaking in writing to continue his annual subscription to the Organisation until the total amount allotted to him in the ballot has been paid.

ALLOCATION 11. After the ballot each successful subscriber shall be advised of the result and must at once inform the Secretary on the printed form provided, as to which Institution he desires his Life Governorship to be allocated. Failing such information being given within seven days of the date of the notice the amount shall be given in the name of the subscriber to the Institution receiving the support of the Province in that year.

ARREARS

12. The subscription of any subscriber who has not completed the whole of his tontine contributions within the period of five years referred to in By-Law 8, and who neglects to do so within one month after written application by the Secretary, shall be dealt with as here provided:-

- (a) Where a subscriber has drawn his tontine by ballot before the completion of the full subscription, or shall by death or otherwise fail to do so, the Lodge of which he was a member shall be requested by the Secretary to complete payment.
- (b) Where a subscriber has not drawn a tontine, the subscription paid shall be left in the hands of the Secretary of the Organisation.

These provisions shall also apply where a subscriber is two years in arrear during the period of five years referred to.

DEED OF COVENANT

13. Brethren may elect to subscribe annually by Deed of Covenant such sums as will over a period of seven years give a total subscription of 20 Guineas, or any higher multiple of 10 Guineas. No such covenanted subscription shall be entered in the annual ballot.

ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS

14. Alterations of these By-Laws may be made by a majority of the Committee present at any meeting, provided due notice of such alterations shall have been given in the notice calling the meeting. At such meeting any member present may move an amendment to the proposed alteration, and such amendment shall be first put to the meeting and if carried shall then be put as a substantive resolution.

Such alteration shall not be valid until sanctioned by the Provincial Grand Master.

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P/L 15  
Approved and Adopted at a meeting of the Committee of the  
Charity Organisation held at Worcester, September 17th 1932,  
and amended at a meeting held at Worcester, September 19th,  
1936.

Amended further at a meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge  
held at Dudley, 30th September, 1950.

Further amended at a meeting of the Committee of the  
Charity Organisation held at Kings Heath, January 19th,  
1957, and confirmed at a meeting of the same held at  
Worcester, July 20th, 1957.

EDWARD L. BUNTING.

Provincial Grand Master.

WILLIAM S. FORBON.

Secretary.

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