

The Catenian Association Benevolent and Children's Fund

Annual report 2016-2017.

The Board of nine Managing Trustees has met bi-monthly during the year 2016/17, to consider and make appropriate awards in respect of new applications for financial help, repeat applications, and to review other cases on a biennial basis. The Emergency Committee has dealt with numerous applications, and approved interim awards when necessary, pending full meetings of the Trustees. The Emergency Committee has ensured that no member or other qualifying beneficiary, has needed to wait for financial help in the case of an emergency, that help often being provided within 48 hours of the request being received.

The Managing Trustees have between them different areas of expertise, which enables the Board to analyse in great detail the various cases presented to them, and to provide the most appropriate and effective form of relief required. In this way, underlying problems giving cause for the application are often overcome and future stability achieved.

Circles continue to have an obligation by Rule, to ensure that they have an effective Circle Benevolent Board, which must meet at least once a year with the responsible Director. Despite the main onus on the CBB to be vigilant as to the welfare of the Circle members and/or dependants, who may be in financial difficulty or need, it behoves every member of the Association to maintain a parallel awareness. In exceptional circumstances, an application can bypass the CBB and be dealt with by the responsible Director.

The Managing Trustees can only deal with the applications that they receive, and remain concerned that many potential cases are not being met, either due to the reticence of the individual concerned, or to a lack of vigilance by the CBB or the wider membership. Confidentiality remains the overriding principle in every case. Applicants for help, whether members or dependants, should be re-assured that their situation will be treated with sensitivity and with the utmost confidentiality.

Consequent to the Restructure of the Catenian Association, the Board of Trustees confirmed that the appointed body referred to in Clause 3 of the Scheme, should be the Central Council of the Association, and not the Grand Council as stated in the Scheme. This change was notified to the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

The Managing Trustees welcome the re-appointment to the Board by Central Council, of Brother David Cawdery, upon his completion of his 5 year term as a Trustee.

The Managing Trustees also acknowledge and thank the following, for the efficient and effective administration of the Fund during the past year. Brother Phil Roberts, Clerk to the Trustees; Brother Mark Allanson, Chairman of the Investment Sub-

Committee and the members of that sub-committee; the Senior Administrator and Staff at Head Office; the Honorary Solicitor and his Staff; the members of the Circle Benevolent Boards and the Directors involved in generating new cases and case reviews.

Brief statistical details of new cases and awards made during the past 12 months are shown below.

STATISTICS ACCOMPANYING THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Number of new applications	14	20	29
These include from Members and from dependants	10 4	16 4	26 3
Number of re-applications	23	27	37
These include from Members and from dependants	19 4	24 3	31 6
Total number of Applications	37	47	66
Disbursements:-			
Grants	111,816	63,438	82,325
Secured Loans	151,419	67,870	478,682
Unsecured Loans	441,974	663,896	643,348
	705,209	795,204	1,204,355
Total No. of meetings held in year	6	6	6
Loans reviewed by Trustees in year.	47	58	42

Mike O'Malley Chairman July 2017.