

The Catenian Association Benevolent and Children's Fund

Annual Report 2017-2018.

The Board of nine Managing Trustees has met bi-monthly throughout the past year, 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 many cases, and given interim awards, where necessary, pending full meetings of the Board. The Emergency Committee has ensured that no member, or other qualifying beneficiary, has needed to wait for financial help in the event of an emergency, that help often being provided within 48 hours of the request being received.

The Managing Trustees have between them a spread 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.

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 individuals concerned, or to a lack of vigilance by Circle Benevolent Boards or the wider membership of the Association. Confidentiality remains the overriding principle in every case. Applicants for help, whether members or dependants, can be re-assured that their particular situation will be handled with sensitivity and the utmost confidentiality.

Circles have an obligation by Rule, to ensure that they have an effective Circle Benevolent Board, which should meet at least once a year with the responsible Director. The CBB remains the main agency through which the majority of cases are presented to the Managing trustees, though in exceptional circumstances, cases directly through the appropriate Provincial Director. It behoves every member of the Association to maintain a parallel awareness, and to try to ensure that any case of need receives the requisite help within the bounds of strict confidentiality.

The Trustees sought legal advice from Stone King LLP, to ensure that the Charity was totally compliant with the requirements of the European General Data Protection Regulations, which came into force on 25th May 2018. The Trustees wish to thank the Clerk to the Board, Brother Phil Roberts for steering this difficult process through to a successful conclusion.

The Managing Trustees noted the retirement of Brother John Fry, who was appointed as a Foundation Trustee in May 1991, and thanked him for his sterling service and expertise as a Trustee, and as a member of the Emergency and Investment Committees. They welcome the re-appointment to the Board by Central Council, of Brother Peter Devine, upon his completion of his 5 year term as a Trustee, and the appointment by Central Council of Brother David Arundale, Director of Province 19, as a Trustee to the Board.

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 Committee and the members of that 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 details of new cases and awards made during the year are set out below.

STATISTICS ACCOMPANYING THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Number of new applications	15	14	20
These include from Members and from dependants	14 1	10 4	16 4
Number of re-applications	37	23	27
These include from Members and from dependants	33 4	19 4	24 3
Total number of Applications	52	37	47
Disbursements:-			
Grants	153,829	111,816	63,438
Secured Loans	9,000	151,419	478,682
Unsecured Loans	514,884	441,974	643,348
	677,713	705,209	795,204
Total No. of meetings held in year	6	6	6
Loans reviewed by Trustees in year.	60	47	58

Mike O'Malley Chairman July 2018.