

The Catenian Association Benevolent and Children's Fund

Annual Report 2018-2019

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 numerous applications, and given interim awards when necessary, pending full meetings of the Board. The Emergency Committee has thus 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 different areas of expertise, which enables the Board to analyse in great detail the various cases presented, and to provide the most appropriate and effective form of relief required. In this way, underlying problems giving rise to an application, are often overcome and future stability achieved.

Circles have an obligation by Rule, to ensure that they have an effective Circle Benevolent Board in existence, which should meet at least once a year together 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 can be presented by the appropriate Director. Despite the main onus on the CBB to be vigilant as to the welfare of their 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, and to try to ensure that any case of need receives the requisite help within the strict bounds of confidentiality.

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 CBBs 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 treated with sensitivity and the utmost confidentiality.

The Managing Trustees note the retirement of Brother Paul Astill, having given 25 years of exemplary service to the Board, including 5 years as an inspiring and dedicated Chairman. His legal expertise has been invaluable, often enabling the Trustees to safely navigate and bring many difficult cases to a satisfactory conclusion. We thank Paul for his sterling service, and wish him well in his retirement.

The managing Trustees welcome the re-appointment of Brother Mark Allanson to the Board, by Central Council, upon his completion of his 5 year term as a Trustee, and

the appointment by Central Council of Brother John Colligan of Rochdale Circle 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 Board of Trustees : Brother Mark Allanson, Chairman of the Investment Committee and the members of that Committee: Gill Board, the Operations Manager 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 for consideration, and for providing information for case reviews.

Brief statistical details of new cases and awards made during the past year are set out below.

STATISTICS ACCOMPANYING THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Number of new applications	9	15	14
These include from Members	9	14	10
and from dependants	0	1	4
Number of re-applications	45	37	23
These include from Members	43	33	19
and from dependants	2	4	4
Total number of Applications	54	52	37
Disbursements:-			
Grants	98,432	153,829	111,816
Secured Loans	0	9,000	151,419
Unsecured Loans	517,268	514,884	441,974
	615,700	677,713	705,209
Total No. of meetings held in year	6	6	6
Loans reviewed by Trustees in year.	42	60	47

Mike O'Malley. Chairman. June 2019.