

The Catenian Association Benevolent and Children's Fund

Annual Report 2019/2020

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 can be presented by the appropriate 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.

Due to the lockdown caused by the Corona Virus Pandemic, and the inability to meet face to face, the Board of Trustees met using Zoom technology on a single occasion during the year. Urgent cases requiring action during this period were considered by the Emergency Committee, and the Chairman, by means of emails, with the details of the cases being password protected, to ensure that strict confidentiality was maintained.

The Managing Trustees noted the retirement of Brother Bob Butler, who had served as a valued Trustee for 10 years, and thanked him for his sterling service to the Board. They welcome the re-appointment to the Board by Central Council, of Brother John Hogan, upon his completion of his 5 year term as a Trustee, and the appointment by Central Council of Brother Kevin Rafferty, a past Grand Treasurer of the Catenian Association, 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 for providing information to enable the Board of Trustees to review existing cases.

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

Mike O'Malley Chairman July 2020.

	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
New applications	22	9	15
From Members	18	9	14
From Dependants	4	0	1
Number of re-applications	21	45	37
From Members	19	43	33
From Dependants	2	2	4
Disbursements:			
Grants	£212,305	£98,432	£153,829
Secured Loans	0	0	£9,000
Unsecured Loans	£689,169	£517,268	£514,884
Totals.	£901,474	£615,700	£677,713
Meetings held in the Year	5	6	6
Loans reviewed in the Year	63	42	60