



PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF EAST LANCASHIRE

Briefing and Reference Notes for Royal Arch Installation Representatives Masonic Season 2019/2020

Recruitment and Retention

- a. Royal Arch Masonry should be a quality and enjoyable experience. Every aspect of it should aspire to that. It is also a family and every member of that family should feel valued, respected and able to influence decisions which affect their membership and their full enjoyment of it.
- b. Our prospective Exaltees need to have a greater awareness of what the Royal Arch is about before they join it. We all have a role in 'keeping the Royal Arch on the agenda', finding opportunities to discuss it, answering questions and – most importantly – supporting Brethren to join at a time which is right for them personally, professionally and masonically. This was reinforced by HRH the Duke of Kent at Supreme Grand Chapter in April 2019.
- c. 'Talking Heads' and the work of the ELRADT are vital tools in illustrating the value of membership. Companions should use every opportunity to support Craft events aimed at RA recruitment by bringing non-members to them or at least encouraging their attendance.
- d. Our newsletter remains part of a drive to keep all our members up to date and informed on what is happening and equally, make sure our Lodge RA Rep's are well informed and positive about the Order and membership of it.
- e. Support your Lodge Royal Arch Representatives. They have a vital role. Ask what you can do to assist him, promote what he does and ensure members of your Lodge do the same.
- f. It is particularly important that all Chapters have something interesting on their Agenda. Utilise our own website materials and register for 'Solomon'; make the most of the tools available! There is no reason whatsoever for any Convocation to be 'just a business meeting.'
- g. It is vital that as many members as possible attend and are involved in meetings. Sharing the ritual is to be encouraged as it assists.
- h. Don't allow non-attendance to be the norm. At the first sign of a member disengaging or potentially resigning, act! Speak with them. Your RADO and APGP are there to help. Similarly,
- i. We should all be engaging with unattached Companions and encouraging them to return!
- j. All Chapters should from time to time consider their viability. If there are any issues in this respect, members should speak with their RADO or APGP who will gladly support them.

The importance of the Province

- a. Remind the Three Principals of the date of the Annual Meeting at Blackburn on the **19th March 2020**. They should be making every effort to attend and represent their Chapter as it is their personal responsibility. Urge all new Exalted Companions to support their Principals by joining them.
- b. Non-RA members are welcome to join us for the banquet following the annual meeting; use the opportunity! It is an important part of the life of the Province and it gives non- members the chance to enjoy a superb day, make new friends and see East Lancashire RA at its best.
- c. 2021 will see us launch a new Festival in support of the MCF. Look out for information which will be circulated to all members in the coming months.
- d. Recommend the ELMC website to Companions for updates on the work of the Charity and where possible, provide examples of the work, projects and achievements they have supported.

In Conclusion

- a. Give the Companions something to 'hang their hat on' with examples of the good the Royal Arch is doing, our achievements, value of membership. '*Freemasonry Today*' and '*Better Lives*' from the MCF often provide some superb case studies to illustrate RA Masonry at its best.
- b. Do not attempt to cover all the items within this note. Aim for **10 minutes** by selecting three or four key messages, having regard to the needs and interests of the Chapter members.
- c. Remember that these are briefing notes not a script!