

Provincial Grand Lodge of Linlithgowshire.

Minutes of Almoners Committee Meeting.

Held within the premises of Lodge Hopebridge Castle No.827

Present

Tom Chmylowskyj (PGC)

Kenny McMaster (PGA), Keith Stirling (13), John Hendry (374), Norman Colborne (548), James Kirkton-Vaughan (636), Robert McConnell (927), Jim Henderson (1145), Jim Robertson (1186).

Apologies

Jim Ellis (PGM)

John Ward (17), Phil Harvey (272), Rodger Muir (1305), John Glendinning (1587), Jim Erskine (1614), Ernie Lamond(1658).

Welcome

Bro Kenny McMaster (PGA) welcomed everyone to the meeting, hoped that everyone had enjoyed the recess and were looking forward to getting back to the business of our Almoners committee.

Almoner's Fair

Bro Kenny McMaster (PGA) mentioned the Almoners fair had went very well and had raised an excellent sum of money. He advised the committee that after the fair he had asked for feedback and had prepared a report for Provincial Grand Lodge which he was happy to e-mail to anyone interested.

Bro Robert McConnell (927) advised he had some knitwear from the fair and that he had managed to sell some items for a £20 donation, which he passed to Provincial Almoner. He also passed the remaining knitwear items which are for sale with the proceeds going to Sir James McKay House.

Bro Jim Robertson (1186) and Provincial Almoner advised they received feedback about the private stalls at the fair. Bro Robert McConnell (927) said he felt the fair had been very well attended. Bro Kenny McMaster(PGA) added that this was in large part due to Bro McConnell's local knowledge for which he thanked him.

### Sir James McKay fundraising

Bro Kenny McMaster(PGA) advised that along with our PGM Bro. Jim Ellis and PPGM Bro. George Preston he had attended a meeting in Sir James McKay House. He added that the five provinces surrounding the home were looking to do some fundraising for SJMH with proceeds going to directly to the home to fund extra activities for the residents.

Provincial Almoner advised fundraising would be both at Provincial, Lodge level, and asked the almoners that should their respective lodges undertake any fundraising could they keep him informed from a co-ordination point of view and to avoid duplication.

He also advised the committee that he would be attending a further meeting at Sir James McKay House on Tuesday, 11 October and asked for a volunteer(s) to accompany him. Bro. Jim Robertson (1186) volunteered to attend.

Provincial Almoner advised that Bro. Gavin MacDonald would be holding an "Elder Statesman's" degree on Friday, 5 May 2017 within the premises of Lodge Hopebridge Castle 827 with the funds raised going to this worthwhile cause.

Bro Robert McConnell (927) proposed that £20 donation for the children's knitwear start our fundraising efforts for Sir James McKay House, this was warmly welcomed by all.

### Almoners Concert

Bro Kenny McMaster(PGA) advised that the Almoners concert on Wednesday, 19 October 2016 within the premises of Lodge Polkemmet No.927 was now organised with Stevie Cowan providing the entertainment

Provincial Almoner advised that the residents of Sir James McKay house would be attending and asked the Almoners to confirm if there, lodges were taking a table and the numbers attending at the earliest opportunity.

He also asked the Almoners for clarification on several points to assist with the preparations.

### Children's Halloween Party

Bro Kenny McMaster (PGA) advised that the children's party on Saturday, 29 October 2016 within the premises of Lodge Lord Bruce No.1601 from 11-1pm was also organised and asked for volunteers to assist on the day. He also advised Lord Bruce had a subsequent engagement following the party and it would be good to leave promptly and in a mannerly order given their generosity in allowing us to use their premises.

### Xmas Hampers

Bro Kenny McMaster (PGA) asked the almoners of the province if they wished to proceed with the Xmas hampers again this year and there was complete agreement. Provincial Almoner advised the committee that he suggested to Bro Jim Ellis (PGM) that we add an additional hamper this year for Sir James McKay House, which was warmly welcomed.

The almoners asked that we ensure the hamper for Sir James McKay House has appropriate items that meet the needs of the residents. Provincial Almoner will speak to Bro. George Preston (PPGM) and Dawn Oliff at the home to ensure this happens.

Provincial Almoner advised that as far as possible every lodge in the Province would need to collect their hamper as he did not have the transportation facilities to deliver them as in previous years.

Bro Robert McConnell (927) knows the contact at Asda's in Armadale who organises the hampers for us.

### Almoners Race Night

Bro Kenny McMaster (PGA) advised the race night would take place on Saturday, 12 November 2016 within the premises of Lodge St John, Mid Calder No. 272 starting at 7pm. He also advised that he was currently organising a trophy for the evening.

After asking Bro. Jim Robertson (1186) to talk through the arrangements there followed a wide-ranging discussion. Horses/Trainers will be on sale at a cost of £2.

The following are still required:

- Race night sheets
- Race Sponsors
- Race prizes
- "Celebrity" Jockeys

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.15am with a vote of thanks to the chair.

### Next Meeting

Saturday, 19 November 2016 @ 10am

Venue: Still to be confirmed.