

# AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CHAPTER ALMONER

A good practice guide for looking after the  
needs of the Companions



**Who is the Almoner?** The Chapter Almoner can be best described as the Chapter Welfare Officer. This is a most important role in Freemasonry and its importance should not be forgotten as it is so much in line with our precepts.

His role is central to the provision of Royal Arch pastoral care and he is appointed to “look out” for the Companions of the Chapter. There is a reasoned argument that Chapter Almoners act as a secondary role to the Craft Almoners but this doesn’t distract from the importance of the office and of the Almoner’s role within the Chapter team.

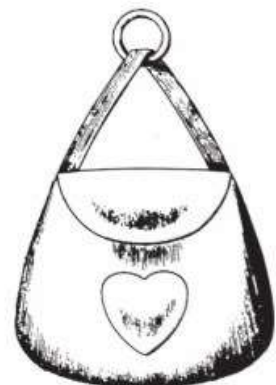
**Why is the Almoner essential within a Chapter?** As Companions we should all look out for each other. The lesson of charity is the first that we learn in the North-East Corner but we should not forget that true charity, or service, includes giving a little bit of yourself to those that may need it.

This is where the Almoner is so important and best practice would be for his role to include.

- The telephone call, or visit, to the sick or lonely.
- The mark of respect
- The sharing of joy

## **What should the Chapter Almoner do?**

We know that there are times when our members are not able to attend meetings for reasons that are beyond their control. The role of the Almoner should include working alongside the Scribe E to keep in contact with those members who have tendered



apologies, (or who haven't), and to report to the Chapter on their well-being.

In advance of each Chapter meeting, good practice for the Chapter Almoner would be to;

- Contact The Scribe E who should be able provide the Almoner with a list of all members who have perhaps tendered apologies or not responded to the Summons.
- Contact those members to enquire is all is well with them and if not can the Chapter help ?
- Report to the Chapter on those members well-being.

**IMPORTANT NOTE** – Regulations now insist that a report on the situation of any Companion in open Chapter must **NOT** include personal situations unless that member gives his agreement, (preferably in writing), that details can be shared.

The good practice way of dealing with this is for the Almoner to report **ONLY** that Companion (name) is unwell but **WITHOUT** giving personal details.

Where a member, or their partner is ill, then best practice would suggest that the Chapter Almoner should keep in more regular contact. He may also speak with that members Lodge Almoner to make sure that his Lodge is also in contact. Additionally, in certain circumstances, the Chapter Almoner may send a card or flowers to the member or their partner and funds, should be available through the Chapter Treasurer.

In situations of a more serious nature or that require more immediate assistance, then the Chapter Almoner should contact the Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra who will assist via the Provincial Almoner.

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