

Role of the Lodge/Chapter Charity Steward

Your role as the Charity Steward is to champion all forms of charitable activity within your Lodge/Chapter but, primarily, it involves fundraising.

It should never be undertaken lightly, as it requires a personal commitment of time and effort.

Initiating and leading fundraising within your Lodge/Chapter not only brings financial benefits for Masonic and community based charitable causes alike, but also great personal satisfaction and a great deal of fun along the way!

The duties and fundraising activities can be undertaken in as many ways and styles as there are Charity Stewards, but a common pathway to success is to build a relationship of trust and goodwill with the Membership.

Fundraising priorities will vary according to individual Lodges/Chapters and whether or not our Province is in Festival, however, specific duties of the Charity Steward which are common to all may be summarised as follows:

- Informing the Members of the work the Masonic Charitable Foundation does, and the support it gives to Members, Wives and Partners, Widows and their dependents.
- It is important to remind Members that the Province has its own charity, The West Lancashire Freemasons' charity, which relies entirely on donations made by Members in the Province.
- Plan and organise fund raising events, collecting and recording funds received and keeping them Safe.
- Disbursing funds as and when required and authorised.
- From time to time, organising Brethren to help with charitable activities.
- Undertaking other duties as directed, particularly during a Festival.

At all times you have to walk a fine line between presenting a compelling case for giving on one hand and being a nuisance on the other.

Having a regular interaction with the membership will assist in drawing this constantly moving line. Dependent upon the particular fundraising activity, enlisting the help of other Brethren, wives and partners will often pay dividends.

Sometimes forgotten, an explanation of a Freemason's undertaking to support Charity is essential for each Candidate at the outset of his Masonic career.

Finally and most importantly, the raising, administering and disbursing of funds in the name of charity must always be done within the law and by following the requirements described in the Book of Constitutions.