



Province of Yorkshire

West Riding

Role Profile: Lodge Almoner

Role Title: Lodge Almoner

Reports To: *Provincial Almoner*

The job of Almoner is not an office sought out by brethren but can often be one of the most rewarding offices to attain. To discharge the office properly as it now is, it entails some little work. There have been recent significant changes in what is expected of an almoner, and these changes are likely to be added to in future years. Almoners should still use all their skills they have attained over the years but be prepared to learn new ones.

The role of the Almoner is increasingly moving from a reactive role to a proactive role. It is becoming more important that the almoner seeks out problems within his lodge or chapter rather than wait for them to be reported. (for instance, checking the attendance book). This does not mean that the previous types of care, involving the contact associated with delivering a bottle of scotch or flowers, are obsolete, it simply means the role is extended. A grasp of modern technology, use and understanding of the internet, is becoming vital to the role. Both within the province but more importantly in the Masonic Charitable Foundation (“MCF”) and West Riding Masonic Charities Limited, (“WRMCL”), there has been a move to digital by default and the use of e-mail and scanning by way of communication. Similarly, the extensive resources that are available to assist applicants are substantially accessible through the internet.

An Almoner needs to be able to work as part of a team, his specific role being in the retention and retrieval of brethren. As you will be aware, UGLE have initiated several initiatives to attract new members and keep up our engagement with those existing members whose interest may be waning. These initiatives will involve the Lodge Membership Officer, Mentor and Almoner, and require a proactive response to any fall off in attendance by lodge members and help deliver 'building together'. This duty is specifically laid upon the Almoner who is asked to contact those whose interest appears to be waning and to seek out remedies to help the brother overcome whatever it is that has caused his interest in freemasonry to falter. The almoner role is unique, in that, they deal with issues in **complete confidentiality**.

As we attract a more age diverse membership, we must also be aware of the problems of these younger members of the lodge. Whilst our older members have issues relating to their advancing years, the world has changed in many ways, particularly in employment, it is not as easy for young professionals to take time off to get to our meetings as it was in previous years, and they have other problems of which those "of a certain age" are not aware. It is the Almoner's responsibility to keep in touch with such junior members and give what assistance and encouragement they require. This can be very challenging and may require working in close partnership with an assistant (almoner), who may possibly relate better to the younger Masons.

The Almoner's pages include information designed to assist brethren generally, the MCF "Yellow Book", is given to all Initiates. All new almoners should contact the Provincial Almoner, to receive a link to the new (2025 almoner pack).

The Confidential helpline pages provide an easy route to obtaining help in the knowledge that all details will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence. The helpline is overseen by 7 assistant almoners, who have the experience to deal with any issue sent their way.

Finally, the almoner must deal with varied problems, for which there is often no easy answer in print. The Provincial Almoner team is there to help you and is at the end of a phone or e mail.

Building Together

For some time, there has been concern over resignations which can occur due to issues which could be dealt with if spotted early. In addition, if a brother resigns and contact is maintained, they may return later.

We believe that the skills possessed by almoners are best used in the retention and retrieval arm of the **Building Together** project. This would mean that it is simply an extension of the work already being done in looking after the physical, mental and financial health of brethren. The almoner is ideally placed as he is the one who a brother can talk to on a confidential basis at any time. In addition, we would advocate a more proactive approach which would involve checking attendance and contacting brethren if they miss 2 meetings with no apologies, keeping an eye out for warning signs at festive boards and considering working with assistant almoner to cover all the brethren, particularly in larger lodges.

If a brother resigns, consider keeping in contact, as the reason they resigned, may have changed, allowing reattendance. Do they have transport issues, can they afford the subscriptions? Could another Lodge or Chapter be more appropriate?

Preventing resignations is not just about numbers, but more about supporting the general welfare of our brethren and almoners are ideally suited to this, undertaking the duty in a caring and confidential manner

Learn more about Building Together, especially the 'Respond' hub

Building Together
Click here or use the barcode

