

Order of the Secret Monitor Benevolent Fund



A Guide to the O.S.M. Benevolent Fund and How to Qualify for Patronage

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The OSM Benevolent Fund

Towards the close of the 19th Century, The Order of the Secret Monitor resolved to form a Benevolent Fund and in December 1899 it was formally opened with a credit balance of seventeen guineas.

In order to promote this Benevolent Fund and to increase the membership of the Order of the Secret Monitor, a senior member, R.Wy.Bro. Judge Philbrick conceived the idea of forming an appendant rite to be known as The Royal Order of Masonic Knights of the Scarlet Cord.

Candidates for this Order were required to be Princes of the O.S.M. and members of its Benevolent Fund.

The six grades of the Rite were:

Grade 1: Where candidates were elected to be Ostiarii or Doorkeepers.

Grade 2: Where they were chosen to be Lectors or Readers.

Grade 3: They were promoted to be Fellows.

Grade 4: Preferred as members of the Court of Assistants.

Grade 5: Dedicated as High Priests.

Grade 6: Installed as Knights.

The Grand Supreme Ruler of the Order of the Secret Monitor was 'Summus' of this Rite and other high ranking Secret Monitors were appointed to such impressive titles such as; Regent, Vicarius, Episcopus, Diaconus, Cancellarius, King of Arms etc. Court Dress or uniform was obligatory for Grand Officers and full evening dress for others. Admission to and promotion within the grades was permitted by attaining certain ranks in the O.S.M. and by making donations to the Benevolent Fund.

The Metropolitan Consistory worked regularly until 1914, but went into abeyance during the war years; it was revived in 1919 but ceased operations in 1929, possibly due to the onset of the World Depression following the Wall Street Crash.

During the thirty years it was worked regularly, it raised a great deal of money for the O.S.M. Benevolent Fund. So much so that today, the fund, which annually distributes thousands of pounds to Secret Monitor Petitioners and local charities with virtually no incoming donations, still boasts a significant credit balance.

A short while ago it was decided that if the Order for the OSM Benevolent Fund was to become more active and properly justify its Charitable Status, it would be necessary for a source of funding to be devised and The Grand Supreme Ruler consented to the Royal Order being revived. This took place in 2006 with the Consecration of the Scarlet Cord Conclave No. 500 and in excess of 500 members of the OSM have joined this Conclave and the Benevolent Fund has subsequently been increased by their contributions.

Such has been the enthusiasm for this Royal Order that The Grand Supreme Ruler has decreed that Provincial Conclaves should be established for its better government and several Provinces have already done this, either on their own or in conjunction with one or more other Provinces.

It is important for Visiting Deacons to be aware of Brethren not dining, missing meetings or failing to pay annual fees. This may be a sign of distress and it is their function to try and assist if at all possible. When a Visiting Deacon is made aware of a Brother or his family in distress he should immediately contact the Recorder of the Conclave to arrange a visit by himself or a visiting Brother to assess the circumstances and make a formal application to Grand Conclave.

O.S.M. Benevolent Fund Guide to Honorifics



Steward



Vice President



President



Vice Patron



Patron



Grand Patron



Design to be confirmed

Grand Patron Gold