

The Ancient and Masonic Order of the Scarlet Cord

In the British Isles and its Districts and Consistories Overseas



Province of East Anglia

September 2021

My very dear Companions

I have been asked to pen a few words and thoughts of what is coming up in the Province and the subject of Recruitment and Retention.

At a recent executive meeting it was felt that the ideas and plans discussed should be broadcast to a wider audience as early information and for consideration.

The Provincial meeting this year will be a bumper event on Monday 15th November 2021 at Ashlar House in Bury St. Edmunds. It is the Most Distinguished Grand Summus Intension to be present. The new Provincial Banner will be dedicated and in addition to the appointment of Provincial officers the Provincial Grand Summus will be able to invest his Tzaddikim, who he appointed via Zoom last year.

The Travelling Scarlet Cord will be entrusted to Ken Rager Consistory to commence its travel around the Province, the calendar for this you should have received and is available on our website and Facebook page.

Recruitment and Retention, is a subject that has been addressed in various ways by all orders in the past, and for many is being re-visited now that we can all meet again after the Covid enforced suspension.

The Province is keen to hold awareness evenings wherein the Companions can invite their OSM and Masonic friends to gain an appreciation of this Order. It has been proved in other orders that these evenings can be of benefit, but can only be successful if a goodly number of non Scarlet Cord brethren are present, so companions don't wait until an awareness evening is announced, start looking for those friends who you believe would benefit and enjoy the order.

Other initiatives, again not new, would be to invite prospective member along to meet the members of the Consistory after a meeting and to dine with the membership.

Another initiative that the executive are keen to explore and suggest is for Consistories to speak with the OSM Conclave or Conclaves meeting at the same venue or close to, to suggest meeting on one or more evenings together, to increase dining numbers and so that those not in the Scarlet Cord can meet with those that are. In the short term there would be no charge from the Province for the change of date or for an additional meeting.

This initiative which is already being researched by one of the Consistories as a potential permanent solution could result in more members, increased meetings, more dining and a

reduction in room hire. If this was in the long term to be achievable similar to how many Mark and RAM lodges meet, the suggestion would be that installation meetings are held on separate occasions. We commend this to you and hopefully you will start the conversation with your OSM Conclaves.

Another initiative has been the production of a contact and meetings calendar for this Province and the OSM Provinces of Norfolk and Suffolk which will hopefully be of use to us all.

So Companions, as we move out of suspension the remainder of 2021 looks good and it is hoped that there is a bright future for the Province moving into 2022 and beyond.

With all best wishes!

Yours,

Chris B.

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