

February 2018



Dear Member,

It is my pleasure to write to you on behalf of the Guild Trustees to thank you very much for your continued support and to provide an update of the work being carried out, future plans and arrangements for this year's Annual General Meeting.

The Guild of Benevolence continues to receive applications and provide much needed help to certificated marine engineers and electrical technical officers, both naval and merchant naval, worldwide including members of the Institute and their dependents. Thanks to the dedication of staff and our volunteer trustees we are able to react swiftly to applications for relief both in the UK and overseas.

One recent application the Trustees considered was that of an independent 82 year old widower who served at sea between 1960 and 1962 as a 4th Engineer. Living on his own, he had an accident while carrying out maintenance on his home. He was hospitalised for a short while where tests showed he was suffering memory loss, possibly dementia and glaucoma was also diagnosed. Shortly after returning home his boiler broke down. Having a very low income, with no savings or debts and the immediate family being unable to assist he could not afford a replacement. The Guild Trustees agreed to cover the cost of the new boiler and its installation.

Also recently the Trustees considered another application of an ex seafarer and IMarEST member who served at sea for a number of years and became unemployed. Being concerned that funds to cover mortgage, bills and food would soon run out approached the Guild for assistance. The Trustees agreed to assist with a payment of £1,000 together with covering the cost of a seafarer's medical certificate. The Guild also offered their advice with respect to other organisations that could be contacted for help including the Seafarers Advice and Information Line, SAIL.

During the past year the Guild has on a few occasions awarded payments through either the Apostleship of the Sea or the Liverpool Seafarers Centre for seafarers suffering hardship when their vessel was arrested and abandoned by the owners, had received no pay or provision for repatriation. Whilst the International Labour Organisation Maritime Labour Convention 2006 has been ratified by most countries, in some cases Flag State assistance does not appear to be enforced hence immediate help falls to volunteer organisations in the ports.

The Trustees are keen to publicise the work of the Guild to ensure that eligible persons suffering hardship will apply for assistance. Advertisements are placed in Charity Directories and Websites, the IMarEST publications and Nautical Magazines. However, word of mouth is often the most effective way

of advertising and we ask that you kindly let us know if you are aware of any eligible person who is in financial hardship and in need of the Guild's support.

During the course of the last financial year a total of 130 cases were considered. These included 25 new applications. The remainder were existing beneficiaries who were either receiving a regular grant or had previously received a one off payment, or those reviewed during the Trustees' annual assessment of regular beneficiaries. Some 16% of the Guild's beneficiaries who now receive a regular grant of up to £25 per week are overseas citizens. In total the Guild disbursed for the year £80,000 in regular grants and one off payments, a similar figure to that of last year.

One of the tasks the Guild has to undertake is case work, visiting applicants and existing beneficiaries. To a small extent this can be carried out by the Trustees and where available Institute Branch representatives. For the majority of cases the Guild relies heavily on organisations such as the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA), and the Royal British Legion mainly in the United Kingdom. Overseas is more difficult as the Guild has to rely, where resource is available, on Seafaring Missions or the Institute Branches. The Guild would be pleased to learn if any members, particularly overseas, would be willing to assist in case work. If you are interested please contact Karen Lendor in the Guild office at guild@imarest.org and she would be pleased to advise you further.

Every year the Guild calls for new trustees for the Guild of Benevolence Committee and whether you or someone you know would be interested in standing for election we would like to hear from you. The Guild is especially keen to hear from individuals who believe they can bring fresh skills, experience and knowledge to its Committee of Management to help the charity fulfil its founding objectives and maximise the benefit of its work.

The Trustees are very appreciative of the considerable and continued efforts made by the Institute and Guild members, staff and Branches throughout the world in raising funds.

Please find enclosed the Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Guild to be held on Thursday 15th March 2018 at Trinity House at 10.30.

For further information on the Guild and its activities please go to the web site www.imarest.org/guild

Yours sincerely



Anthony D Muncer RD
Chairman