CENTENARIES AND BICENTENARIES

These procedures apply to both Craft and Royal Arch. A volunteer team deals with the administration of all Craft and Royal Arch bicentenaries and lodge centenaries, and they can be reached at centenaries@metgl.com; they will liaise with the MetGM/MetGSupt and the respective Deputy.

Please note that for the time being, Tercentenaries remain the purview of Grand Lodge.

CENTENARIES

There are three forms of centenary celebration:

- Where there is a centenary Warrant or Charter, in which case it is a MetGL/MetGC event conforming to the protocols.
- Where there is no centenary Warrant or Charter making it a non-MetGL/MetGC event, but where a Guest of Honour [GoH] has been requested to help celebrate this special event in the lodge or chapter's history. The GoH will be nominated by the Deputy and the nominated GoH will discuss/finalise arrangements with the lodge or chapter making arrangements for an Escorting Officer via Rosetta.
- Where the lodge or chapter has decided, it does not wish to have a centenary Warrant or Charter, making it a non-MetGL/GC event, and the lodge or chapter has also decided it does not wish to have a GoH.

In all of these cases a congratulatory letter (as at Annex A) from the Metropolitan Grand Master/Metropolitan Grand Superintendent [MetGM/ MetGSupt] can be requested by the GoH (GoH allow at least four weeks lead time) for presentation at some appropriate point during the meeting. The letter specifically notes that it is not evidence of continuity of working. It is essential that this letter should not be seen as, or become an alternative to, a centenary warrant or charter.

The attendance at a Metropolitan event will be in accordance with the published Metropolitan guidance (see G/22 (Craft) and G/23 (Royal Arch)).

- For a centenary at which a new Warrant or Charter is being presented, there is a GoH, an Escorting Officer, a representative of the MetGSec/MetGScribeE (to read the Warrant or Charter) and a Chaplain, all of whom will attend and dine as guests of the lodge or chapter. There may also be two Metropolitan Stewards. Whether the Stewards dine as guests of the lodge or chapter is at the discretion of the lodge or chapter; otherwise they should dine at their own expense.
- Other Active Metropolitan Officers may attend, but are expected to pay for their own meals, unless the lodge or chapter, of its own volition, invites them.

- Active Metropolitan Officers may also be invited as guests of members of the lodge or chapter.
- Even though attending as guests of members of the lodge or chapter, Active Met officers attending will normally be in the Metropolitan procession.
- Dress regalia, Metropolitan tie and tails, with the Metropolitan chain or collar, is to be worn by active Met officers.
- After the event the MetGSec/MetScribeE, or whoever acted in that capacity at the event, will write a letter of thanks on behalf of the GofH and copy the letter to the official Metropolitan delegation.

BICENTENARIES

A lodge or chapter may decide to request a bicentenary Warrant or Charter. These are UGLE/SGC events, but all contact with UGLE/SGC must be conducted through the Metropolitan office. The following procedures have been discussed and agreed with UGLE/SGC.

- Once continuity of working has been established, which is normally 18 months in advance, the lodge or chapter will advise MetGL/MetGC of the date upon which they want to hold their meeting. MetGL/MetGC will check before submission that there are no obvious clashes with UGLE, SGC or Met functions.
- MetGL/MetGC will advise UGLE/SGC, which will confirm, in writing, within ten days, that the date is noted and agreed.
- MetGL/MetGC will liaise with the lodge or chapter about the petition, dining venue, and general procedures/protocols and arrange the Metropolitan delegation.
- Three months before the meeting date, UGLE/SGC will advise MetGL/MetGC of the names of the GoH, not necessarily a High Ruler, and the official party.
- MetGL/MetGC will continue to liaise with both the lodge or chapter and UGLE/SGC to assemble the necessary paper work, such as the summons, a short history, and biographies etc.
- If UGLE/SGC is unable to arrange a suitable GoH for the agreed date then the MetGM/MetGSupt, or his nominee, will represent UGLE/SGC.
- The Metropolitan delegation at a bicentenary meeting will normally consist of the MetGM/MetGSupt or his Deputy, and an Escorting Officer and a representative of the MetGSec/ MetGScribeE.
- These procedures will also apply to 250th anniversaries except that it is for the lodge to decide if it wishes to celebrate.

Matthew Christmas
Metropolitan Grand Secretary/Metropolitan Grand Scribe E 11 April 2025

METROPOLITAN GRAND LODGE
of
LONDON

To the Worshipful Master, Officers and Brethren of
XXXXXXXX Lodge
No. XXXX

Greetings,

I am writing to send you my heartiest congratulations on the occasion of your (Bi-)Centenary.

Many changes have taken place in society since your Lodge was consecrated on XXXXXXXXXXXX, but the principles of Freemasonry have remained constant and are as relevant today as they were then.

I would like to express my thanks for the part that each of you and your predecessors has played in passing the Masonic principles and tenets through this Lodge from generation to generation, and to wish you all well as you embark on the journey towards your bi-centenary in XXXX.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Warren Duke
Metropolitan Grand Master

London
Date XX XXXXXXXX 20XX

This document does not evidence continuity of working.

METROPOLITAN GRAND CHAPTER
of

To the Principals and Companions of
XXXXXXXX Chapter
No. XXXX

Greetings,

I am writing to send you my heartiest congratulations on the occasion of your (Bi-)Centenary.

Many changes have taken place in society since your Chapter was consecrated on XXXXXXXXXXXX, but the principles of Freemasonry have remained constant and are as relevant today as they were then.

I would like to express my thanks for the part that each of you and your predecessors has played in passing the Masonic principles and tenets through this Chapter from generation to generation, and to wish you all well as you embark on the journey towards your bi-centenary in XXXX.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Warren Duke
Metropolitan Grand Superintendent

London
Date XX XXXXXXXX 20XX

This document does not evidence continuity of working.