



Area Leaders

Role & Responsibilities



AREA LEADERS ~ ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Area Leaders are crucial members of the Guild's governing body, they form the electorate for voting on any matter in Council, and are a vital link between the Branches, Areas and the Central Council. They are the fulcrums on which balance a great deal of the Guild's work. There are as many ways to be a good and effective Area Leader as there are Area Leaders. Below are set out some of the Constitutional requirements, other duties expected, and some suggestions of what is needed to fulfill the role for the mutual benefit of the Membership and the organization.

THE ELECTORATE

- ◆ Area Leaders are elected by the voting members of each Branch every three years, from amongst Full Members.
- ◆ From amongst the Area Leaders a National Chairman is elected by the Central Council to serve for the same three-year term as his or her Area Leadership. The National Chairman has the option, on election, to stand down as an Area Leader, and to concentrate instead on being Chairman of the meeting. In these circumstances his/her Area will need to elect another to serve as Area Leader for the remainder of his/her three-year term, using the same procedures as set out in the National Constitution. The Area's vote on Central Council then passes to this newly elected representative, with the Chairman retaining only his/her casting vote. The serving National Chairman, whether still an Area Leader or not, is (at the end of his/her first three year term) entitled to stand again for election for one further 3 year term.
- ◆ From amongst the Area Leaders a Representative from the Canterbury Province and another from the York Province will be elected annually by Central Council to serve on the Standing Committee.
- ◆ Area Leaders (16 in total) are the only Officers entitled to vote at meetings of the Central Council for any resolution proposed. If an Area Leader is also an elected National Officer, e.g. General Secretary (who has no vote), then he/she retains his/her vote as Area Leader.
- ◆ If unable to attend a meeting of the Central Council a deputy may be appointed who must be advised to the General Secretary in writing prior to the meeting.
- ◆ Finally the Area Leader must reside in the Area that he/she represents.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- ◆ It is the Area Leader's responsibility to liaise with the Branch/Branches in his/her Area, attend the A.G.M.s of those in that Area, and report to them decisions of the Central Council. It is expected that Area Leaders will present either verbal or written reports to their Branches as soon as possible after each Council meeting. The Area Leader should always be invited to attend Branch Committee meetings within his/her area, and he/she should be a member of the Branch Committee, ex-officio.
- ◆ He/she is the link and voice between the Members and the Central Council and should be able to speak at Branch meetings clearly and with authority, and be prepared to represent the wishes or concerns of the Branch/Branches he/she represents at Central Council.
- ◆ He/she should, ideally, be prepared to attend as many of the Branch meetings as possible within his/her Area, to encourage and support the membership, and to be the public face of Central Council in that Area.
- ◆ When nominations for National Officers are notified by the General Secretary, Area Leaders will be sent copies of the relevant Nomination forms and should encourage debate in their Branch/Branches. In multi-Branch Areas, the Area Leader must take into account the rules set out in the National Constitution for the method of election if the post in question is that of Area Leader. For all other posts, any Branch in the Area is free to submit names for consideration.
- ◆ After discussion with each Branch in the Area, and hopefully arriving at a commonly agreed nomination, the Area Leader should be the person to sign and submit the nomination forms, having obtained the consent of the nominee. The Area Leader will then take the vote of their Area to the Council meeting and may be asked in the meeting to speak in support of their nominated candidate. Clearly, the Area Leaders must know the names of all nominees submitted by Branches in their Area so that they can make an informed vote at the Council meeting.
- ◆ Again, other than for the post of Area Leader, if there are two or more names proposed for the same national position by the Branch/Branches within an Area, and a consensus is not reached, the Area Leader may submit all names on separate forms, but must vote as he/she thinks fit following the presentations made by all the candidates to Council and the debate that follows.