

and the Annual Communication. After their year in office some Officers are stood down and then adopt the **Past** rank of the active office they held e.g. PDistJGD – Past District Junior Grand Deacon, or may receive promotion to another Acting rank or Past rank. Some Officers, however, such as Chaplain, Treasurer, Secretary, DC, remain in office for a number of years, usually between three and five years, to ensure continuity (as in private Lodges).

Who funds Grand Lodge and District Grand Lodge ?

The simple answer is, you do, along with every other member of the Craft. Out of your annual Lodge subscriptions a certain percentage is taken out for payment to Grand Lodge and a certain percentage is taken for District Grand Lodge (think of them respectively as your income tax and council tax). These payments cover the cost of employing civilian staff, secretarial expenses, rental of offices (in some cases) and the holding of Grand Lodge and District Grand Lodge meetings. Fees to District are reasonable as there are no civilian employees and the members of the District Grand Lodge do not receive any remuneration.

Why are there Master Masons with District Grand Rank ?

For many reasons there are a number of brethren that do not become Masters of Lodges, but who perform outstanding services to their Lodge and the District over many years. Their dedication is recognised by being appointed to District Grand Lodge, usually with the rank of PDistGStBr – Past District Grand Standard Bearer. They can be identified by the blue rosettes on their blue and gold aprons. However, as Master Masons they do not take part in the Inner Workings during the Installation of a Master.

Grand Lodge Rank

After many years of service a Brother who has District Grand rank may be appointed by the DGM to the rank of Grand Officer, for services rendered. Usually the rank is that of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (PAGDC). The regalia worn by Grand Officers is blue and gold but with more gold trimming than that of District regalia.



District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme

A series of Fact Sheets for a Master Mason



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Grand Lodge and District Grand Lodge

In the Lodge and at the Festive Board you will hear reference made to Grand Lodge and District Grand Lodge. You will also see some Brethren wearing blue and gold regalia and who are addressed as Grand Officers or District Grand Officers. In this fact sheet we look at the structure of each of these. Where the District of Cyprus is mentioned the same requirements apply to Provinces and other Districts.

The structure. The structure of English Freemasonry can be likened to a Major UK national company which has its head office in London, a number of regional offices spread around the country, and which also has a small number of overseas branches. Because these regional and overseas offices can cover wide areas they in turn are sub-divided into branch offices. Our Craft is organised on a similar basis, and our head office is the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), based in London. The regional offices are Metropolitan Grand Lodge (London), the Provincial Grand Lodges (PGL), which generally follow old county borders in England and Wales, the Channel Islands and a number of overseas Districts, one of which is Cyprus. All of these Metropolitan areas, Provinces and Districts are responsible for the smooth running of its branch offices i.e. its private Lodges, and the District of Cyprus consists of 17 private Lodges (as at August 2012). Incidentally, there are almost 9,000 private Lodges registered with UGLE, each new Lodge being allocated a unique number.



UGLE is located at Great Queen's Street, London and is responsible for the overall policy of English Freemasonry. The rules for the Craft are laid down in the Book of Constitutions. However, UGLE recognises that there are regional differences and practices, and permits the District of Cyprus to draw up its own By-laws providing there is no conflict with the Book of Constitutions. Likewise, within our District there are different traditions and requirements within each private Lodge and these are catered for by the adoption of individual Lodge By-laws, which have to be approved by District Grand Lodge and which should not conflict with UGLE or District rules and regulations.

Who is in charge of UGLE ?

At the head of UGLE is the Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent, who has a number of high ranking officers and civilian staff to support him. He appoints a Metropolitan Grand Master (Met GM), a Provincial Grand Master (Prov GM) to each Province and a District Grand Master (Dist GM) to each District.

Who is in charge of the District of Cyprus?

The District Grand Master of Cyprus is Right Worshipful Brother Michael C. Hadjiconstantas. To assist him in his duties he appoints annually a Deputy District Grand Master, an Assistant District Grand Master and various Officers, usually Past Masters, who perform duties similar to Lodge Officers. These Officers are known as 'The District Team'. There are also two District Boards, each consisting of a President and a number of elected and appointed Brethren:



District Board of General Purposes

The Board meets twice a year and is responsible for the overall policy of the District. It appoints Officers to the District Grand Lodge and oversees the finances of the District.

District Board of Benevolence

The Board also meets twice each year and its main role is to address the charity activities within the District.

Acting and Past District Grand Rank

Our District has a number of 'active' Officers who are drawn from the private Lodges in the District and who still maintain membership of their private Lodges, including the DGM. They are appointed by the DGM each May at the Annual Communication of District Grand Lodge, and for the next 12 months they hold **Acting** rank in The District Team. Their rank is shown as e.g. DistJGD – District Junior Grand Deacon. They are given an Acting rank as they are actually active during their year in office, assisting the DGM in such ceremonies as Installation ceremonies, Banner dedications