



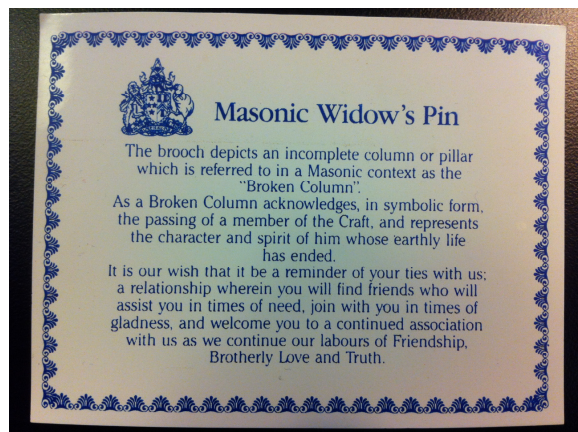
Involving & Caring of Lodge Widows

When a brother passes away he may leave behind a wife or partner who has been associated with Freemasonry for many years. We assume all 'widows' are "masonic friendly" and many will have spent years of discussing lodge matters with their husbands/ partners. Their inevitable solitude as a consequence is considerably relieved when they know of our masonic belief in their continuing care.

There are many good practices to be adopted on how your Lodge can involve and care for your Lodge widows. These include:

- That every Masonic widow, at the earliest opportunity, is approached with the assurance that their future will include brethren who will willingly assist them in times of need.

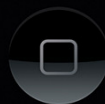
- The Masonic Widows pin is a brooch that can be worn at any Freemasons function they may attend worldwide. It has universal recognition that any assistance required by the wearer will receive the immediate attention of any Freemason approached in moments of distressed circumstances.



- Regular contact with any Lodge widow remains as a primary responsibility of Almoners i.e. all Freemasons, until any further care or assistance is no longer required.

- Invite the Widows to regular Lodge social functions as a guest of the Lodge.

Note that when a lodge closes and members from the closed lodge are welcomed into their new lodge the widows need to be included in that welcoming process.



THE FREEMASONS TOOLBOX



Lastly also note that Widows Pins are available from purveyors of Masonic Supplies and are not available from the National Office.

They also need to be given to the Widow at an appropriate time (i.e. not at the funeral), in a caring and compassionate way, and only to widows that are positive about Freemasonry.

Some feedback received by Grand Lodge is that some Widows given these pins have reacted negatively due to the manner in which the Lodge presented the pins. One comment from a widow was that she felt she was being given the pin so she could celebrate her husband's death! Another did not like the WM turning up at her house the day after her husband died and before the funeral to AWARD her the pin (his words). So passing over a Widows Pin needs to be handled very carefully.

