

2022

# Resolution booklet

Annual Conference 2022

Motions Carried

Responses by the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees wishes to inform the Royal British Legion formations and its members of the action taken on the Motions carried at Annual Conference held on Saturday 14th of May 2022. Please be aware Motion 5 was not carried, therefore it is not included below.



**Motions 2022**

Motion 1	
Proposer	Staple Hill and District Branch, Cheltenham Branch
Motion	This Branch requests that the Board of Trustees and Director of Welfare provide clarification on current arrangements for Welfare breaks for beneficiaries. When the decision was taken to close Break Centres the membership was assured that beneficiaries would be able to apply for breaks as before, but that accommodation would be provided within the Private Sector. It has been our experience that the current process is not working as originally suggested and we request clarity.
Result	Voted: 267 For: 247 Against: 5 <span style="float: right;">Motion carried</span>
BOT response	<p><b>The Motion is supported by the Board of Trustees:</b></p> <p>We would like to reassure members that we did not remove the facility to provide respite breaks through grants when we closed the RBL Breaks services in 2019.</p> <p>We'd like to clarify the two types of breaks that we can award through our grants programme. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Grants for breaks for beneficiaries whose mobility or medical needs mean they cannot obtain a grant through other providers.</li> <li>2) Grants for short term home care so that the carer can take a break. Please note, this only applies where the applicant is not eligible for statutory provision.</li> </ol> <p>As with all grants issued by the Legion, the decision to make the award will be based upon the needs of the applicant, and their ability to meet those needs without causing themselves financial distress.</p> <p>We have ensured that the criteria for issuing these grants are explained clearly in our grants policy documents. We have also fully briefed our contact centre and area offices so they know when it's appropriate to consider this form of assistance.</p> <p>We hope this provides clarity – and reassurance – regarding the availability of welfare breaks through our grants programme.</p>

## Motion 2

Proposer	Portugal and Atlantic Islands Branch, Antwerp Branch
Motion	That Honorary Membership of the Royal British Legion be automatically granted to any member attaining their Centenary.
Result	Voted: 267 For: 190 Against: 67 Motion carried
BOT response	<b>The Motion is supported in part by the Board of Trustees:</b> Any member attaining their centenary will be offered free membership. Based on the 2022 engagement survey two thirds of members support honorary membership and we would need to carefully consider this special status and the eligibility criteria, noting we already have lifetime membership. It will be duly considered alongside family membership as part of our future thinking; the redefined purpose and role of members and the offer which is in development.

## Motion 3

Proposer	Paris Branch, Somme Branch
Motion	This Conference asks the Board of Trustees to allow proxy voting for branches at AGMs.
Result	Voted: 268 For: 159 Against: 97 Motion carried
BOT response	<b>The Motion is not supported by the Board of Trustees:</b> Proxy voting is “the authority to represent someone else” in voting. As many members like to hear and take part in debate on the day, before deciding which way to vote this motion is rejected. We do however encourage online voting for those that struggle to physically attend due to ill health and ability to travel. We will look to improve the technical support available for branches to enable this to happen. Technology is available and already used in the Legion that ensures confidentiality.

#### Motion 4

Proposer	Derbyshire – Chesterfield Branch, Chapel-en-le-Frith Branch
Motion	This Branch requests that, as a matter of priority, the County Conference passes this motion to the Board of Trustees for action. To implement the use of Bank debit cards, if required, by Branches who are finding difficulty in paying bills by cheque.
Result	Voted: 269 For: 209 Against: 46 <span style="float: right;">Motion carried</span>
BOT response	<b>The Motion is supported in part by the Board of Trustees:</b> We recognise the need to move away from cheques & embrace alternative payment methods. At the same time, we do not allow the use of debit cards due to the risk of theft and fraud. Instead, we are working with Lloyds to introduce internet banking for those branches that wish to use it.

#### Motion 6

Proposer	Cheltenham & District Branch, Gloucester City Branch
Motion	This Conference challenges the current policy of Head Office Finance Department in relation to its actual and planned disbursements from Area Trust Funds (ATFs) and the lack of visibility of such transactions, particularly relating to the South West Midlands (SW Mids) ATF. Finance Department should publish to branches each May, clear details of the annual income and expenditure from the relevant ATFs.
Result	Voted: 269 For: 241 Against: 11 <span style="float: right;">Motion carried</span>
BOT response	<b>The Motion is supported by the Board of Trustees:</b> An update on the use of Area Trust Funds is already produced and distributed to branches on an annual basis. With the 2021 Annual Report and Accounts now approved, the 2021 figures were circulated in July via Central News with a link to Office 365.

**Motion 7 – Motion of urgency**

Proposer	Cheltenham & District Branch, Staple Hill Branch
Motion	This Conference strongly urges the Board of Trustees to acknowledge the concerns of membership with the process, protocols and management adopted for this round of Elections for National Officers and Trustees. The Board is strongly encouraged to engage with, and seek recommendations from, the Membership Council, on behalf of the wider membership, and to review and revise the Election process into clear and transparent procedures to be promulgated to members in advance of the Conference 2023 elections process.
Result	Voted: 270 For: 178 Against: 57 <span style="float: right;">Motion carried</span>
BOT response	<b>The Motion is supported by the Board of Trustees:</b>  An audit is underway by Crowe under the instruction of the Audit & Risk Committee. It has two clear elements a) Elections b) Selection - the audit includes a wide range of stakeholders including BoT, MC, County Chairs and Branches. There are workshops scheduled to review lessons learned and to review and revise existing processes. On completion of the workshops the recommendations will be presented to the appropriate committees for feedback / agreement and subsequent implementation. The goal is to have all works completed and implemented prior to the next round of elections to commence in October 2022.

**Motion 8 – Appealed motion**

Proposer	Wycombe Marsh Branch, Buckinghamshire County
Motion	This Conference requests the Introduction of a policy that the Board of Trustees and the Membership Council meetings be held on Saturdays and Sundays thus enabling members that have full time employment to stand for election and play a full part in these formations.
Result	Voted: 270 For: 208 Against: 31 Motion carried
BOT response	<b>The Motion is not supported by the Board of Trustees:</b> These meetings are long and demanding and it is important that quality time during the day is dedicated to the sessions. These same individuals are often, also giving time at the weekends for other Legion commitments. Many employers are very supportive of staff acting as volunteers & Trustees and allow time for such duties. We currently have several Trustees and MC members who also work full time.