

Benevolence Report

58th REA Council Meeting - 4th May 2011

1. Trends. Although the number of applications and grants considered and made in 2010 showed a decrease on 2009 (-11%) the numbers were similar to 2008 so cannot be taken as a trend. However, it should be noted that we are now receiving more applications from those who served in National Service

2. Benevolence Cases 2003 - 2010

Annual Totals	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
	Tan-Dec	Tan-Dec	Tan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan- Dec	Jan-Dec	Jan- Dec
Requests	963	1071	984	1048	936	910	878	897
Grants	953	1053	975	1026	919	886	855	877

3. Cost of Benevolence 2010. The audited net cost of REA benevolence made up of Grants, Christmas grants, weekly allowances and grants to other charities for 2010 was £700,241 (£706,467 in 2009).

4. REA Branch Observers. Observers are always most welcome to visit REA Benevolence meetings in London to see how the committee carries out the business of making financial grants on behalf of the Corps. The Chairman and Controller REA invite Branch observers to attend and participate with the aim reporting back to their Branches on the breadth of cases that are considered and how we are able to help.

5. Christmas Cards. Christmas cards and a modest Christmas box are sent out from HQ REA to over eight hundred Members or their widows and to those being treated for Combat Stress. At this time of year we receive many letters of appreciation for this thought and consideration and although it creates a heavy workload for the REA Staff to complete this task it is most rewarding to see that the gesture is very much appreciated. The Total cost of REA Christmas cards & grants was £30,566.

6. Grants to Other Charities. REA Council has approved grants to other Service charities who are involved in the care and benevolent work for our Sappers and their families. The ABF received £35,000, SSAFA Forces Help received £7,500 and Combat Stress received £2,500 for their excellent work. Veterans Aid, a small charity who work closely with the "rough sleepers" in London and other cities, have also been helped.

7. Kitchener Scholarship. The REA Council has accepted the responsibility of running the Kitchener Scholarship on behalf of the Corps and has delegated the day-to-day running of the fund to the REA Benevolence Committee. We are currently funding, David Williams, Kathryn & James Francis and Lauren McLeish.

8. REA Website. On the "In Memoriam" section of the REA website there is a link to the Corps Memorial Book with names of those who died over the past few years. This initiative is being well used and populated by friends and families to commemorate the lives of those Sappers who have died whilst on or off duty. There has been a quantum leap in its usage.