



GUIDANCE NOTE BY THE COURT TO PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP, PROPOSERS AND SECONDEES

Introduction

This guidance note should be read by all prospective Applicants, Proposers and Seconders in order to understand the process and commitment to becoming a Liveryman. We wish to avoid the circumstances where an applicant may not have fully understood the membership commitment to the Worshipful Company. Membership of any Livery Company is unlike a membership of a Society. The best way to describe it is 'once a Liveryman, always a Liveryman.'

Applications for Membership

If a Liveryman identifies a good prospective applicant for member or is indeed approached by such an applicant, he can decide to act as a Proposer. He must have known the applicant for at least 5 years. The application must also be supported by a Secunder, who must have known the applicant for a minimum of three years.

The Proposer will remain as the applicant's 'buddy' / friend and mentor all the time you remain in the Company and you should feel free to consult your Proposer at any stage.

Ideally, the Proposer should bring the prospective applicant as a guest to a Livery Luncheon. Please advise the Clerk that your guest is a prospective applicant. We hope that this provides the prospective applicant to have the opportunity to experience our fellowship and following lunch they will have the opportunity to meet the Master and Court Members. Such an informal meeting will enable the application a two-way discussion about implications of becoming a member of the Livery as well as its aims and workings.

If as a result, it is agreed to proceed with the application, the on-line application form should be completed. On receipt of the application, it will be submitted for circulation to Court members (the governing body of the Worshipful Company) for the next meeting of the Court. A decision, by ballot, will be taken by Court.

The Clerk will then advise the potential applicant and Proposer of the ballot's outcome. If successful, the applicant will be invited to swear an oath of allegiance before the Court and in a short ceremony and be admitted as a Freeman of the Company.

Considerations for Prospective Applicants

We recommend that prospective applicants look at our website and in particular read the pages about our Aims and Objectives with understanding of the importance of fellowship, charitable giving, educational aims and promoting excellence in the industry.

The prospective applicant must be comfortable and in agreement with these aims and objectives. They should be interested in progressing from Freeman to Liveryman. Liverymen are expected to aspire to contribute and progress the Company through participation of Company committees.

Opportunities will arise to put yourself forward for Election to the Court and a willingness to accept, if invited, the ultimate responsibility of Master of the Worshipful Company of Farmers.

Although the Clerk runs the Company on a day to day basis for its members, liverymen are expected to be willing to give their time to assist where or when needed. Generally speaking, committee members are not expected to be refunded for their travel and time.

Liverymen are known for their charitable generosity, whether during their lifetime or through legacies. Please read the section on raising funds within the Aims and Objectives page for more explanation.

As a City of London Livery, liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Farmers have a unique mix of social and professional networking not just within our own Company but also with other Livery Companies. The Farmers Livery Company is renowned amongst other Liveries for its warmth of welcome, fellowship and full participation in City Livery matters.

Together, all City Livery Companies, are joined, to a greater or lesser extent, the same beliefs:

To support the Queen and the Royal Family
To support the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and the City of London
To support the Armed Forces

To have an interest in tradition and ceremonial.

In conclusion

The Courts hope this guidance note, together with the website, is useful in considering if the prospective applicant would like to join the Company.

The Court is indebted to every Liveryman who acts as a talent scout and recruiter of new members. An active membership is the lifeblood to a vibrant Company and therefore the Court is grateful to everyone who recruits and takes on the responsibility to propose or second a prospective applicant.