



British Benevolent Society
Benefiting Brits Since 1858

2019 Annual General Meeting New Officers and Directors

We have some new faces on the Board of Directors. As well, our Officers have a slightly different look! We formally voted in newly elected board members [Claire Knoles](#), [Luke Patten](#), [Kelly Ducourty](#) and [Kay Firth-Butterfield](#). [Karen Thomas](#) was also nominated and has returned as a Director for the organization. [Stacey Archbell](#) will join [Paul Llewellyn](#) as co-Vice President, and [Lucy Feltham](#) has kindly taken up the role of Secretary. Finally, Malcolm Manson has stepped down as we welcome [Charles Cockerton](#) as the new BBS President. Malcolm will thankfully remain on the Board and will continue to serve on the Relief Committee.

During the AGM we reflected on cases involving the 25 families and individuals who received compassionate assistance from the BBS. We provided some of these families and individuals with over \$30,000 in aid. We also thanked our partners at the British Consulate General in San Francisco for their ongoing assistance with relief cases.

In 2019 we will focus on relief and membership outreach. In an effort to have a wider reach, we hope to establish contact with charitable organizations throughout the Bay Area and ensure that any eligible Brit receives assistance when in need. We will also continue efforts to connect with British expats, families, social groups and British companies. We hope to continue to expand and evolve our thriving, fun, social and self supporting membership across California. This is a very exciting time for the BBS!

Be sure to check out more pictures on [Instagram!](#)



Malcolm Manson, Jenn Baker, Charles Cockerton
& HMCG Andrew Whittaker

Relief



The Relief Committee worked with the British Consulate on two separate cases this month. The first involved a woman who had been abandoned by her former American husband. Upon contact with the Consulate, we learned that she was homeless and without work or a place to live. The BBS helped by paying for a return flight to the UK. Her former employer offered to allow her to return to work which will give her an opportunity to re-establish her independence.

We also provided financial aid and emergency repatriation to a Brit who was suffering from severe mental health issues and had been living on the streets in San Francisco. He had been unable to continue to take his medication and was extremely vulnerable and delicate upon contact with the Consulate. It was arranged for him to stay at a hotel for two nights where he could clean up and pull himself together for a flight back to the UK. It was also arranged for him to be greeted by Travel Care upon arrival at Heathrow where they would then assist in reuniting him with his doctor.

Both cases were very serious and involved people who would have slipped through the cracks without the help of the BBS.

BBS Events

British Pub Quiz

When: Monday 10 June

Time: 6-8 PM

Where: [McGah's](#) Pub Danville, Ca

Registration: \$20



Put on your thinking caps and bring your best Pub Quiz team!

Don't worry, you don't have to be British to attend but you will definitely score extra points if you are able to answer some of our very British questions!

Register on our [website](#) today!

BBS Christmas Dinner-Save the Date!

When: Tuesday 3 December

Where: [City Club of San Francisco](#)

Mark your calendar for our annual Christmas dinner that includes Christmas crackers, carol singing and all of the traditional British trimmings. Be sure to buy your tickets once they are on sale. We sold out last year!



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