

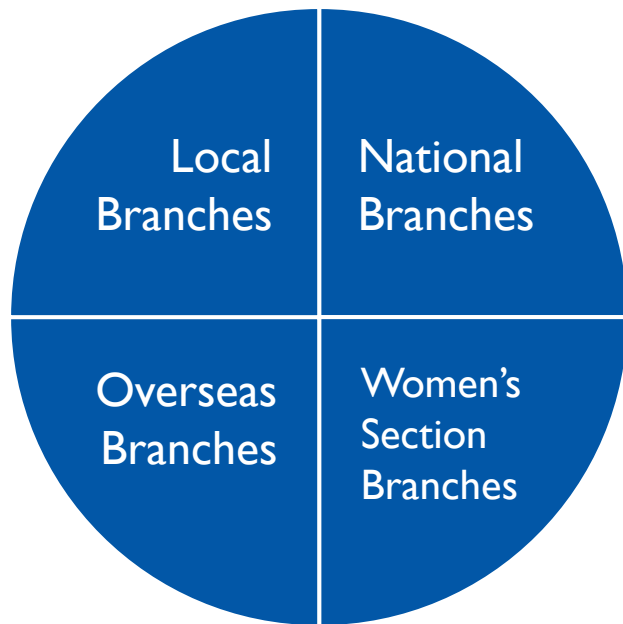
Your introduction to
RBL Membership
A branch guide for new members



What are our branches?

RBL Membership is made up of branches, which are a group of Legion members, which may be formed based on locality or shared interest. Counties are then made up of several branches.

- A member can join up to four branches. Some branches may charge a branch subscription however, members only pay one RBL membership fee.
- There are 4 different types of branches:



At the end of the Financial Year 22/23

UK	2010
Overseas	51
National	9
Women's Section	188
Total	2258

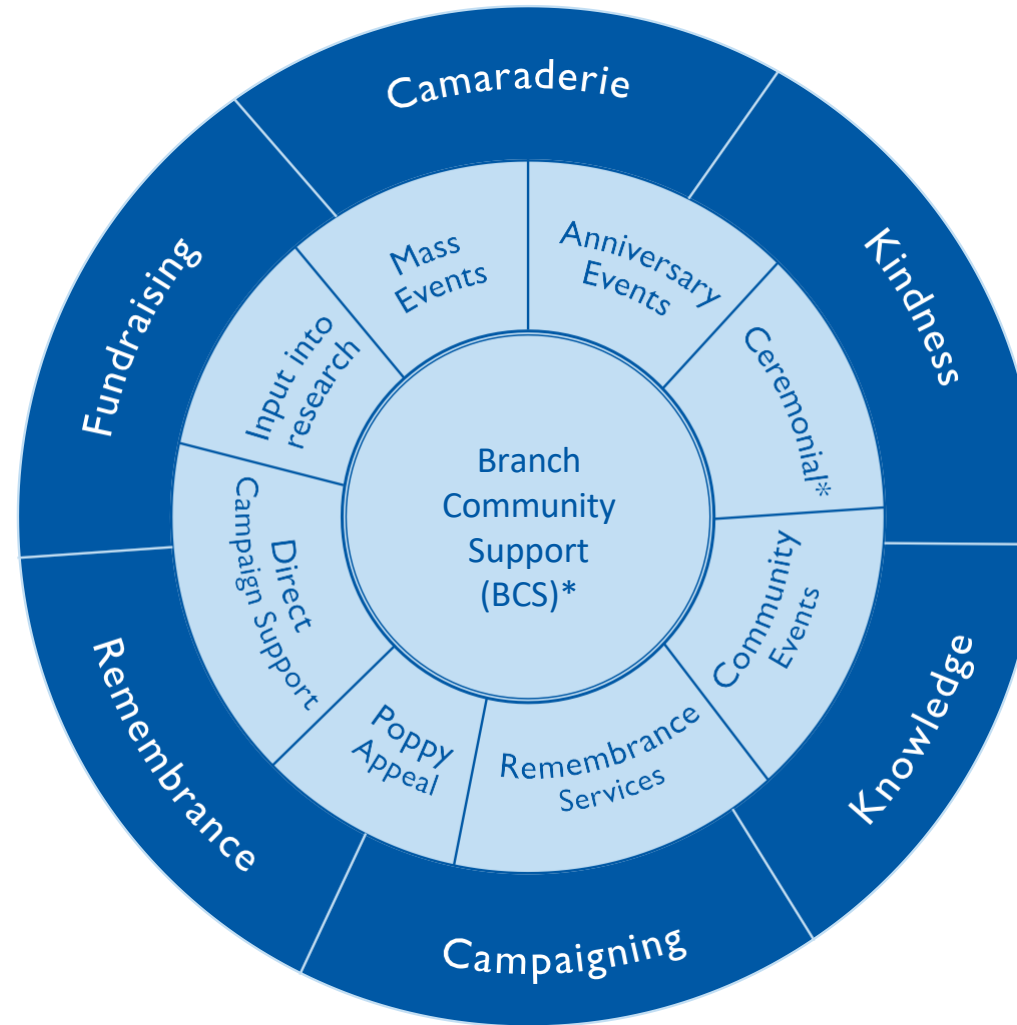
The Branch Offer

Branch membership benefits

- Meet-ups
- Join a Club*
- Comradeship/Friendship/ Helping others
- Comms/Newsletters including the Legion Magazine
- A Voice* – Opportunity to join a branch committee

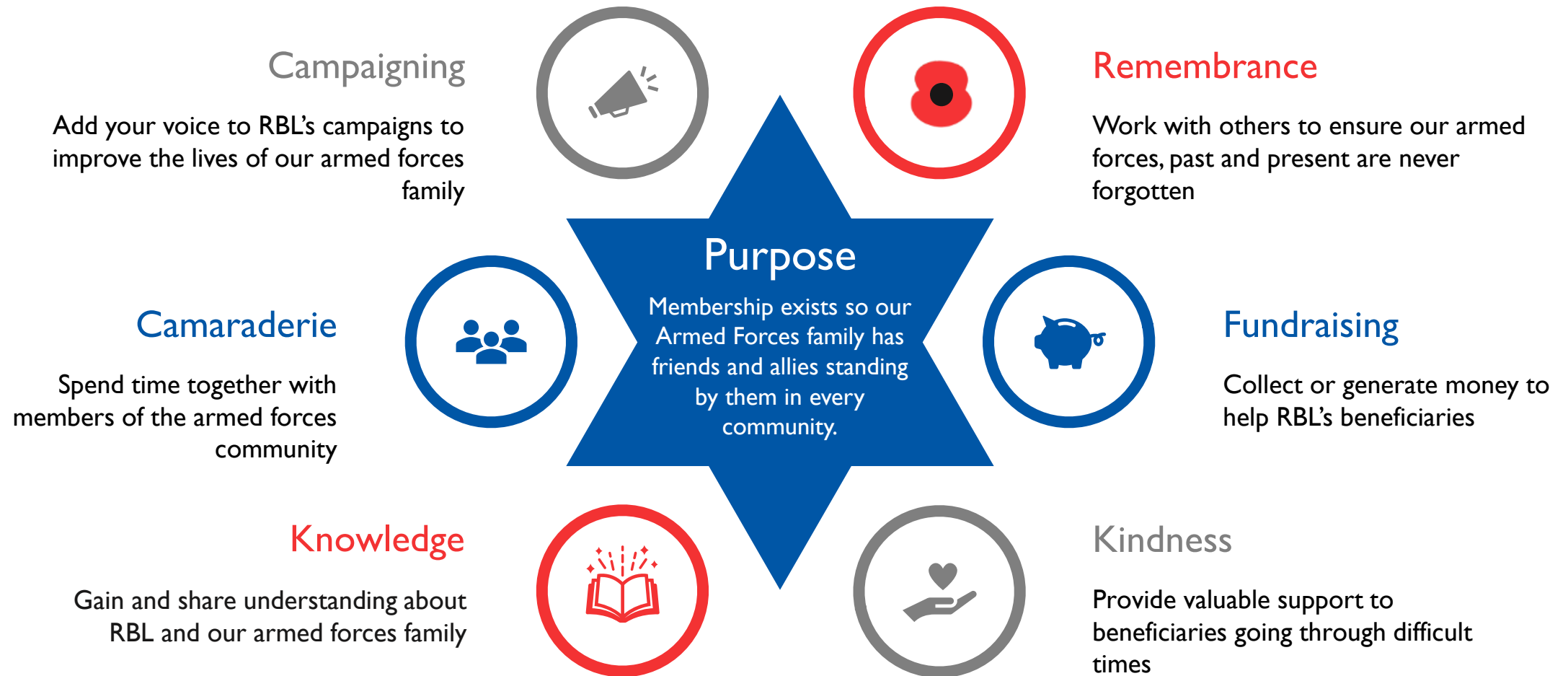
Branch Support

- Branches are supported by branch communications
- New recruitment materials
- Welcome packs
- Newsletters
- Training



- Branch member opportunities
- Value that branch members bring to RBL

The purpose and value members bring



Branch and County Roles

A branch must have a committee of at least seven members, elected and appointed. If a branch isn't able to form a committee, it can apply to its county for county-supported branch status.

Branch Roles
Chairman
Vice Chairman (Optional)
Treasurer (appointed)
Secretary
Branch Recruiting Officer
Branch Community Support Rep

County/District
Chairman
Vice Chairman
County Community Support Committee or Representative
County Recruiting Officer
County Training Officer
County Youth Officer
County Treasurer (appointed)



Remembrance

- Remembrance honours those who serve and gives us an opportunity to unite by remembering this service and the sacrifice of the Armed Forces community.
- RBL are the national custodians of Remembrance, running several annual events including the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall and the Remembrance Sunday March Past the Cenotaph.
- Members are encouraged to make Remembrance their own within their communities, however they choose to remember, be that hosting local events, parades, accessing education resources etc.
- Another way that members get involved with Remembrance is via our **Standard Bearers**. Each Branch/County/District is permitted one Standard at any one time. The Standard Bearer should be specially elected or appointed by the Branch committee and undertake the relevant training.
- It is also customary for the **Branch Standard** to attend funerals and form part of the procession.



Fundraising



- Fundraising millions of pounds every year means that the RBL can keep supporting and improving the lives of our beneficiaries.
- The annual **Poppy Appeal** is RBL's largest fundraising campaign and there are so many ways to get involved from donating to volunteering.
- Members play a key role in other local fundraising opportunities such as breakfast clubs, coffee mornings, dinners, talks and fetes etc. which help raise vital funds.

Kindness

Through the **Branch Community Support** programme, members can provide valuable support to beneficiaries. As a Telephone Buddy, Home or Hospital Visitor, our BCS Supporters help to alleviate social isolation in their local area.

How it works

Beneficiaries reach out to our Contact Centre, who appropriately triage the referral to RBL's welfare and/or local membership team.

BCS Supporters are asked to undergo a DBS check and training before we match them to a beneficiary who we feel will be a good fit.

Our local and central membership teams are there to support and assist both Supporters and beneficiaries throughout matchings.

Our BCS Supporters will be required to use basic computer skills to complete their online training and to tell us how their calls or visits are going.

Please note BCS does not entail physical support, specialist mental health support or welfare support (including assistance with food, finances, employment or housing).



Knowledge



- RBL is complex and made up of many parts. Members have a great wealth of knowledge that they can share with others in their diverse communities, as well as signposting individuals around the work of the charity and the Armed Forces family.
- To boost knowledge and develop skills, members are offered several different training courses. Training is provided by the County and National Training Officers, under the guidance of RBL's national Learning and Development team.
- There is a range of training available including courses on Branch Management, Branch Treasury and Microsoft 365.
- If you have any questions about learning, please email L&D@britishlegion.org.uk

Campaigning



- RBL champions the interests of serving and ex-serving personnel and their families and campaigns on key issues to help improve their lives and make the voices of the Armed Forces community heard.
- Members are often called upon to add their support, all of which helps to make a real impact. This may include lobbying MPs at local level to campaign for changes that will benefit the welfare of veterans.
- Members may also be asked to support our Campaigns and Policy team with projects such as the National Census.

Camaraderie

- The camaraderie and friendship that members provide is central to the existence and purpose of membership.
- The friendship that members can provide to both each other and those in their community is what makes membership invaluable.
- Involvement in local activities, bringing people together in comradeship, and spending time with the armed forces family places members and the branches at the heart of their community.
- Ways to get your branch involved in the local community may involve Veteran's breakfasts, creative activities, coffee mornings, etc.



Other ways to get involved:



Member events including Annual Conference and Regional Roadshows.

Annual Conference is the biggest member event of the year and is the perfect opportunity to catch up and meet with fellow members as well as a range of RBL teams. This is also where voting takes place on motions brought by delegates from their branches and counties. The venue changes annually.



Monthly e-newsletters and the quarterly magazine are the best ways to stay informed about activities, events and stories from across the RBL. Make sure to sign up for marketing permissions.



Virtual Townhalls happen approximately 4 times a year and are a good chance to hear updates from senior leaders at RBL and includes a Q&A session.



There are over 300 affiliated clubs to join, offering a social space for members to meet and form a community hub in the local area. Club membership is additional to Branch membership.



Contact us

Your Membership Engagement Officer (MEO) will be your point of contact for support with branch guidance and advice.	(branches please insert your own contact)
Your Membership Engagement Administrator (MEA) works collaboratively with your MEO and is your point of contact for BCS administrative support.	(branches please insert your own contact)
For any queries relating to your membership, renewals, membership card, marketing permissions etc.	membershipservices@britishlegion.org.uk
Contact Centre for beneficiary support, including BCS	0808 802 8080
Membership Helpline for queries about membership payments, lines are open 8am - 8pm Monday to Sunday	0800 307 7773

