

To Apply for Membership

Write or email to:

The Membership Secretary
Royal Artillery Association
Artillery House, Artillery Centre
Larkhill, Salisbury
Wiltshire SP4 8QT
Tel: 01980 84 5362
Fax: 01980 84 5497

Email: AC-RHQRA-RAA-MemSec@mod.uk

Giving your:

Name
Address
Telephone
Email

Regimental Number
Main RA Unit and Rank

or

Other Regiment /Corps

And whether you would like to join your local
branch or the Headquarters Branch.

Join your
Regimental Association
for friendship and support

**Be part of the
Regimental Family**

For more information please call

01980 84 5362

or see our website:

www.raa.mod.uk



**ROYAL ARTILLERY
ASSOCIATION**

The Royal Artillery Association – What is it?

It is the Regimental Association of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. Set up in 1920, the Association provides a network of Branches throughout the country to promote and provide comradeship and look after the needs of Gunners and their families, especially those who fall on hard times, and to provide opportunities for Gunners to meet and have fun. There are some 15,000 serving and retired members, and more than 125 Branches and Ladies' Sections. It is at the very heart of the Gunner Family.

What are its aims?

The aims, quite simply, are the promotion of Gunner welfare and comradeship; aims which are as important today as they were back in 1920. Welfare of our friends concerns us all but in the Association we have Branch Welfare Officers to focus welfare efforts for those who require it. Comradeship is fostered in the Association's Branches and Ladies' Sections in the UK and abroad, and by affiliation to other Gunner organisations, by regular contact, meetings, outings and parties. The Association provides a ready made network of Gunner friends and useful contacts for those leaving the Army and settling into civilian life.

Who may join?

Membership of the Association is open to Gunners of any rank, male or female, who are serving, or who have served, in any unit of the Royal Artillery or in the Artillery of a Commonwealth Country. Members of other Corps/Regiments who have served on the strength of any RA unit, and wives/widows and husbands/widowers of Artillery men and women may also join as full members. Other Ex-Servicemen or women, wives/widows, husbands/widowers and relations or any person who has Gunner interests at heart may become Associate Members. Members of Gunner Old Comrade Associations are especially welcome.

Ladies' Sections

Many Branches have Ladies' Sections which run their own affairs and events. Membership of a ladies' section is open to any lady who is the relative of a Gunner, or any ex-Servicewoman who has served on attachment with the Royal Artillery. Honorary membership may be granted to any lady who has Gunner interests at heart. Ladies' Sections are a valued and integral part of the Association.

What does it cost?

There is no entrance fee to join the Association but Annual and Associate Members pay a very modest subscription. Life Members pay a 'one off' subscription. Members of Ladies' Sections pay a small subscription to their Section.

How does the Association work?

The core of the Association is its Branches and its Ladies' Sections. They are backed by 26 District Representatives who, in turn, are supported by 12 Regional Representatives who make up the National Executive Committee, which reports to a Royal Artillery Association Board of Management. The Association is served by a small permanent staff at Artillery House, Larkhill. Meetings are held at every level throughout the year, and each year, in May, delegates meet in a relaxed and congenial atmosphere at the Royal Artillery Assembly for an informative and fun weekend. The Assembly elects the Association's representatives on the Board of Management and provides an opportunity for grass-root views to be expressed and democratic decisions to be reached. It is also a very relaxing and highly entertaining weekend. Every Battery in the Regular and Territorial Army is affiliated to a branch throughout the UK so there is regular contact between Batteries and branches; serving and retired.

What does it provide?

For a serving Gunner, Association Branches can provide support during the difficult transition period into civilian life and thereafter with a network of comrades who may prove useful when settling in an area, together with the friendship of a caring group of people who understand your problems. For Members, Branches provide a focus for social activities, fun, comradeship and practical assistance and support if it is needed. It also allows ready access to the Gunners' charitable funds to assist those in need.

What about Social Activities?

Each Branch and Ladies' Section runs their own social programmes that incorporate a whole host of activities and entertainment; outings, discos, dances, sponsored events, dinners, raffles to name but a few. On a national level, Artillery House organises the Annual Assembly in May, the St Barbara's Day service at Larkhill in December, a Service of Remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire in July. The Association also plays its part at the

Regiment's Service of Remembrance at our magnificent Memorial at Hyde Park Corner on Remembrance Sunday.

What about Welfare?

The Association provides all its members with the opportunities to help others less fortunate than themselves and to receive help if they are ever in need. It helps others primarily through the work of Branch Welfare Officers who, if extra assistance is required, can contact the Welfare Officer at Artillery House. Branches and Ladies' Sections also assist by raising money for the Royal Artillery Association and the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund. The Association helps Serving Gunners by making generous grants to units for projects designed to assist welfare and morale. It is not necessary to be a member of the Association to receive assistance; the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund will help any Gunner or his dependants who are in need, but being a member of the Association does make it easier for those who need help to be identified.

Royal Artillery Charitable Fund

During the course of an average year the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund:

- Spends nearly £1,000,000 on welfare grants helping over 2000 Gunners.
- Obtains a substantial sum for Gunner welfare from other charitable organisations, such as the Army Benevolent Fund.
- Makes a Christmas grant to each Gunner unit.
- Takes a Christmas present to Gunner residents at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and the Royal Star and Garter Homes.
- Arranges for members of the Association to present Christmas gifts to Gunners in homes and hospitals throughout the country.
- Monitors the occupation and maintenance of 163 Royal Artillery War Memorial Homes throughout the country, now administered by Haig Homes.
- Administers 4 RA Cottage homes at Colchester and Bath. It does its best to help all those Gunners in need.

I'm interested how can I join?

If you would like to renew old friendships and make new ones within the Royal Artillery Association, please write to us with your details as shown on the page overleaf. If you live some distance away from your nearest local Branch, you may prefer to join Headquarters Branch, which although based in London at The King's Troop RHA, St John's Wood provides a point of contact with the Association throughout the world.