January, 2019

Guatemala’s Appeal Concludes; Florida and California Continues

The Disaster Relief Appeal requested by the Grand Lodge of Guatemala and due to the devastating Fuego Volcano has concluded. The Grand Master made this determination while offering his thanks and the thanks of his jurisdiction. “Please give Fraternal thanks to every brother and sister who has helped us through donations, prayers or positive thoughts,” he said through a spokesman.

While the volcano continues to “let off steam” the residents are slowly digging out, laying new water lines, and caring for each other. The Lodge in Esquintla is “coming along,” says Brother John Mann who has coordinated relief efforts for the Grand Lodge. “Every penny that has been sent has been put to Fraternal use and making a difference.

In Florida an assessment by one lodge revealed the following: “Acme Lodge No. 222 - Partial roof missing; Callaway Lodge No. 369 - Completely covered by fallen trees; Harry Jackson Lodge No. 314 - 25% of roof missing; Ira Lindsey Sr. Lodge No. 365 - 25% of room missing; Pythagoras Lodge No. 358 - Partial roof missing; Saint Andrews Lodge No. 212 - Partial roof missing.”

Much of this damage has been repaired, but the people still are suffering the results of Hurricane Michael. The Disaster Relief Appeal requested by Grand Master Karroum continues. Brothers and lodges across the country have responded to the Appeal. Further donations are anticipated.

While the fires are out in the two areas hit by California wildfires, there are still much many recovering from the devastation. The Grand Lodge of California and Grand Master Stuart A. Wright are receiving checks from donors through MSA.

Please remember, MSA deducts no part of your contribution for administrative expenses including charges by PayPal, bookkeeping, and cost of acknowledgment letters. Your entire gross donation is sent to the affected jurisdiction. Make donations online at www.msana.com.

Please forward any donations you feel appropriate to MSA. Checks should be payable to MSA Disaster Relief Fund and sent to 3905 National Drive, STE 280, Burtonsville, MD 20866. When remitting by check, please clearly mark which Grand Lodge you wish your funds to go.

FUNDING FOR “EMESSAY NOTES” HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE SUPREME FOREST TALL CEDARS OF LEBANON
Green Envelope Donations Help Our Vets

Donations from the Green Envelope Appeal are being received daily at MSA’s Burtonsville, Maryland office. Please consider a donation of any size from your lodge or yourself.

This is the best way to show your contribution to the betterment and improved quality of life for our nation’s hospitalized Veterans. MSA sends comfort items such as toothbrush and toothpaste, magnifying readers, eyeglass cleaners, and lip balm among many other items. MSA is currently creating a puzzle book for Veterans, so they might enjoy a wider variety of crosswords, sudokus, and trivia games.

If you don’t have your Green Envelope, donate online at www.msana.com.

Audio Short Talk Bulletins Now Available at No Cost

For the past few years, the monthly Short Talk Bulletins have been available for a small subscription fee and provided by Brother Michael A. Smith, a member of the Grand Lodge of Maine. Now he has changed his business model so that the audio recordings are available at no charge at www.shorttalkbulletin.com.

Many of these “Short Talks” have been recorded by the actual authors of the Bulletins. Now you can match the voice to the word. They make a fine educational subject for a lodge meeting and can generate discussions about a variety of topics.

A portion of the costs are covered through a grant from the Grand Lodge of Maine, but everyone is encouraged to make a small donation to supplement them. New additions are uploaded regularly, and anyone can automatically receive the latest episodes downloaded to a computer or portable device.

Masonic Tidbits Perhaps You Didn’t Know

Brother and President Gerald Ford, 33° (Malta Lodge No. 465, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Columbia Lodge No. 3, Washington, D.C.) was not the first Mason to be president, but he was the first Eagle Scout to become Commander in Chief. He could wear the new Masonic Eagle Scout lapel pins - can you?

-Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Facebook Page

“Masonicons” Scheduled across the Country

New Mexico Masonicon, June 22, Albuquerque, New Mexico, nmmasonicicon.com
Texas Masonicon, July 25-26, Fort Worth, Texas, texasmasonicicon.com
Ezekiel Bates Masonicon, April 27, Ezekiel Bates Lodge, Attleboro, Massachusetts, eb1870.org

“I’ve just returned from the Texas Masonicon 2018. It was a wonderful, enlightening, and moving experience. For those aware of things seen and unseen, there was a distinct energy at this event. There was a power. It was the voice, will, and message of a group of young Masons who, in a very clear and loud voice said, ‘ENOUGH OF THE NONSENSE! We will do what we should be doing.’ And they did.

“They created a Masonic event like few I have ever attended. They were not just trying to create a true Masonic experience, they did it. They did it through hard work, determination and an understanding of what being a Mason truly means. Last night I went to sleep proud to be a Mason. In a Masonic world today of stupid lawsuits, grabs for empty power, and unMasonic acts disguised as attempts to ‘set things right,’ this event clearly demonstrated the will and determination of young Masons to do what Masons should be doing. I see great hope for a true Masonic future.”

-Brother Michael Poll

Where Can You Find the Answer to This Question?

Who is the only coach to win the AFL Championship, NFL Championship, and the Super Bowl? Hint: He happens to be a Brother Mason.

—Answer can be found on the MSA website, www.msana.com