Masonic Service Association Moves Back To Its Roots

The Masonic Service Association has now, in effect, moved back to its roots — relocating its headquarters to Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

MSA was created at a meeting of Grand Masters of the United States in 1919 in Cedar Rapids, and now, in its 101st year, it comes back to that birthplace.

Most of MSA's life has been headquartered in the Washington, D.C., and nearby Silver Spring and Burtonsville, MD, areas.

MSA has been restructuring its organization in the past year, to provide a more functional and cost-savings method to serve Freemasonry across the continent. Its long-time home near the nation's capital is a very high rent district.

MSA's new address and contact information:
813 1st Avenue SE STE 357 Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-5001
Tel: 319-206-5411
Fax: 319-365-1439
msaoffice@msana.com
www.msana.com

MSA now will be operating out of the building housing the Iowa Masonic
Library and Museums, which is regarded as one of the best facilities in the world to perform Masonic research. The large marble structure houses the library, several museums, special exhibits, and the offices of the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

“What an outstanding location for the Masonic Service Association and its variety of service and information-producing responsibilities,” said Lanny Sander, Chairman of the MSA Board of Commissioners.

The Library houses more than 250,000 volumes, of which thousands are rare Masonic books for the serious researcher and a circulating collection for the casual reader. The Library also collects materials dealing with non-Masonic topic.

Last year, as part of the reorganization, Craig Davis was named Administrator for the Masonic Service Association, its chief operating officer. He also serves as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

In its new home, MSA will continue its variety of services to Freemasonry in North America, including:
   — Service to military Veterans at approximately 150 U.S. Veterans hospitals and clinics in the country. MSA is the only Masonic organization represented on the Veteran’s Administration’s Voluntary Services Organization Advisory Board.
   — Preparation and dispersal of Masonic information to assist Lodge education efforts, general Masonic content for the public, and useful data for the benefit of any Mason. These efforts include monthly distribution of the Short Talk Bulletin and Emessay Notes publications, operation of the Masonic Information Center, and periodic development of brochures and digests.
   — Gathering and dispersal of Disaster Relief Funds to Grand Lodges in times of need. Millions of dollars over the years have been collected and provided to assist in times of trouble. MSA has become the key organization trusted by Grand Lodges and Masons to filter such relief to needed areas. Every penny donated through MSA for disaster relief is sent to those in need.

**Milestone for The Masonic Society**

The Fall 2020 issue of the Journal of The Masonic Society marks its 50th issue, since the magazine’s first quarterly effort was published in the Summer of 2008.

The 50th issue of the magazine, always filled with Masonic articles and papers, summarizes its history and successes.

The first 30 issues of the publication, 2008 through 2015 are now available for reading at the Society’s website, themasonicociety.com.

**Indiana Awards 400 Scholarships**

The Grand Lodge of Indiana has awarded 400 scholarships, totaling nearly $500,000 this year.

The 400 students are enrolled at 47 different Indiana college campuses and include 25 Master Masons.

Funding for the scholarships comes from the Ralph W. Searight Trust Fund and the Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund. During the past 32 years, more than $12 million has been awarded to about 10,500 Indiana students. Many are now Freemasons, according to Gregory N. Jordan, chairman of the Scholarship Board.