Kentucky Disaster Appeal Update

The response to the disaster relief appeal for the tornado victims in Kentucky has been great. As of March 15, 2022, over $376,567.00 has been collected. Periodic payments are prepared and submitted to the Grand Lodge of Kentucky on a continuing basis. Please forward any donations you feel appropriate to MSA to help our impacted brothers and their families of the jurisdiction.

To donate online with a credit card, go to https://msana.com/current-appeals/

To donate by check or money order, make payable to MSA Disaster Relief Appeal and send to: Masonic Service Association, 813 1st Avenue SE, Suite 357, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. Mark clearly on your check that this gift is for the “Kentucky Disaster Relief Appeal.” All such donations are tax deductible. MSA is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Boombas Sock Donation

The Masonic Service Association’s Hospital Visitation Program recently received a donation of 3000 pairs of socks to add to the other comfort items that are distributed by our hospital representatives. The socks came in two sizes, medium and large and two styles, ankle, or calf. The donation was made possible through a partnership with Boombas. According to the Boombas website they have donated over 50 million items to over 3500 giving groups. This gift is exciting, and we hope to continue this relationship well into the future in support of our Veterans.

A Word on Ukraine

Many phone calls and emails have been received on the establishment of a Disaster Relief Appeal for Ukraine. Masonic Service Association Administrator, Craig L. Davis, P.G.M. has been in contact with Grand Secretary of Ukraine. Communication with the Grand Lodge of Ukraine has become more difficult as the conflict continues and escalates. The MSA will continue to reach out to the Grand Lodge of Ukraine to receive an official request for a Disaster Relief Appeal. As soon as a request is received, we will send notice to all member jurisdictions and place information on our website, https://msana.com.
Nunc Coepi
By Francis Way, Editor of Connecticut Freemasons Magazine

"Nunc coepi," a Latin phrase familiar to fans of retired NFL quarterback Philip Rivers, translates to "Now I Begin." It comes from a quote by 19th century Catholic priest, Venerable Bruno Lanteri, who said, "If I should fall even a thousand times a day, a thousand times, with peaceful repentance I will say, 'Nunc coepi.'" It is Rivers' motto, and a touchstone of his Catholic faith.

As we begin 2022, lodges will have installed, or will shortly be installing, new Worshipful Masters for the upcoming year. Some will be brand new and undoubtedly nervous as they preside over their first Stated Communications in command of the lodge. Some of us (for this author will be assuming the Oriental Chair for the 5th time in 25 years) will be returning to the chair as we help our lodges progress and move forward...in truth there may, or there may not, be some butterflies even for those "veteran" Worshipful Masters.

But regardless of how many times one has assumed the Oriental Chair, nunc coepi is well worth remembering. Now I begin....

Incoming Worshipful Masters are always told to "plan your work and work your plan" but anyone who has served any time at all in the East knows very well a corollary, first put forth by Field Marshall Helmuth Karl Bernhard Graf von Moltke, "no battle plan ever survives first contact with the enemy."

It may be that no matter how well laid, a Worshipful Master's plan won't happen as envisioned (just ask any Master installed in January, 2020). In those instances, all he can do is Nunc Coepi. As the Master goes, so goes the lodge, and being flexible enough to pivot if needed, can be a valuable skill for any Worshipful Master.

The Master's Achievement Award can provide a Worshipful Master a wealth of program ideas that will help a lodge grow and prosper. If a plan falls apart, there are more than enough ideas in the program to allow a Master to pivot and turn failure into success. Past Masters can also be a resource if things start to go south. Successful Past Masters always have a memory of a successful program or event that may be worth trying again. Just ask them, and they will surely describe, often in great detail, just what worked.

But even if all is going smoothly, and the Stated Communications are fun, informative and educational, each time a Worshipful Master dons the Crown of Solomon and picks up his gavel, it is an opportunity to excel, to grow the lodge, and to inspire the officers and brethren. Even if the Worshipful Master has not fallen a thousand times that day, he might do well to whisper a little prayer, "Nunc coepi," before he raps his gavel, congregates his lodge, and says, "Brother Senior Warden, proceed to satisfy yourself...."