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MALCOLM J. MCPHERSON, JR.
Grand Exalted Ruler

A Fraternal Organization

Date: October 11, 2017
To: State Association Presidents
Local Lodge Exalted Rulers
RE: Elks Disaster Relief Programs, Inc.

In response to inquiries about disaster relief funding, if a disaster takes place, FEMA has declared the catastrophe a natural disaster and designated it by number then the State Sponsor(s) can request initial funding up to \$25,000 from the Elks Disaster Relief Program, Incorporated. Immediately following the State Sponsor(s) initial request for assistance, a letter will be sent to all State Associations and Lodges requesting donations for the catastrophe from which further requests of assistance are taken from. As additional funding is requested by the designated State Disaster Relief Committee and, with the concurrence of the State Sponsor(s), the requested funds will be sent. As of this writing, \$90,000 has been sent to assist those in the Houston, Texas area.

As a clarification, all Grant applications, monetary assistance disbursements and record keeping is handled by and through the designated State Disaster Relief Committee and not through Grand Lodge.

The Elks Disaster Relief Program Inc. is guided by:

- A. The Members of the Order and/or their dependents should be given first consideration, but other victims of the public shall also be included.
- B. Emergency Grant Recipients shall be obligated to complete an Elks Grant Application (see *attached Loss Recovery Form / Receipt Voucher*) describing the extent of damages, injuries and/or non-Elk facilities.
- C. Grants will be guided by information given with respect to the urgent need for food, clothing, blankets, or medical supplies which may be available from other agencies.
- D. BPO Elks, USA shall NOT and should not be the primary relief agency.
- E. Grant recipients are obligated to use grant funds for original purposes as stated in the application within 60 days of receipt. If Grant is not used within the time frame, recipient is obligated to return the unused portion to the BPO Elks, USA.
- F. Purpose of the Grant should not be to restore lifestyle to its original status, but to provide for immediate assistance for emergency goods such as food, clothing, sanitary supplies, etc.

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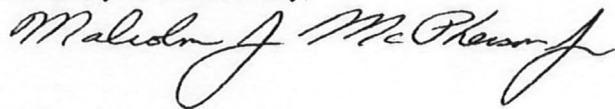
- G. The extent of insurance coverage or other sources of restitution should be examined. No money is to be used for reconstruction; —rendering facility safe, sanitary, or secure from vandalism is not considered reconstruction.
- H. No individual shall receive more than \$2,000 from this fund.
- I. The Relief Program will cease either when all applicants/recipients have received immediate assistance or when it is determined that further assistance is not required. Any excess donations for a disaster will continue to be held in Elks Disaster Relief Fund for use in future disaster relief.
- J. A designated program shall exist for only a maximum of one year and if any funds remain in the program, those monies should be sent to the headquarters in Chicago, with a check made payable to "*Elks Disaster Relief Program, Inc.*", to be used for any late application or for future Disaster Relief Programs

One item to keep in mind, if someone or an organization wants to donate directly to a Lodge, multiple Lodges or state association, that is fine. Those who make the donation must remember that the donation may, or as in most cases, may not going to a 501(c)(3) entity. If the donation was for a "tax write-off" donation, the donation might not qualify as the Lodges are a 501(c)(8) designation.

I hope this response has clarified the program and answered your questions. Any further questions shall be directed to:

Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks
Attn: Bryan R. Klatt, Grand Secretary
2750 North Lakeview Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614-1889
(773) 755 - 4708
GrandLodge@Elks.Org

Sincerely and fraternally,



Malcolm J. McPherson, Jr.
Grand Exalted Ruler

cc: Advisory Committee
Board of Grand Trustees
Special Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers
District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers
Grand Lodge Committees