

DISASTER APPEAL FOR LOUISIANA

Fueled by drenching rainstorms, massive flooding in Louisiana has damaged and destroyed many homes and buildings, with some 70,000 persons reportedly displaced. Described as “mammoth” and “catastrophic” flooding, conditions were caused by huge rainfall. For example, Baton Rouge received 19 inches of rain in 15 hours.

The magnitude of the storm was described by the American Red Cross as the “worst natural disaster in the United States since Hurricane Sandy” in 2012.

Recovery is expected to take months, and the lack of good communications is still causing issues in finding information and victims.

The Grand Lodge of Louisiana reported that two Lodge buildings have been heavily flooded, and the building of the Scottish Rite Valley of Baton Rouge, which houses an additional three Lodges, incurred significant amounts of flooding and damage. Many Masons and Masonic families are among the 70,000 displaced.

The Masonic Service Association (MSA) has established a Disaster Relief Fund for Louisiana, with all donations received to be transferred directly to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for distribution to those in need.

Please make checks payable to **Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation** and send to: Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation, P.O. Box 430, Holden, ME 04429. When remitting funds to the Foundation in response to this appeal, please note “*Louisiana Appeal*” in the memo line, or log on to www.masoniccharitablefoundation.org and donate electronically.

Please join me in contributing to the relief of our Brethren in Louisiana.

Most sincerely and fraternally,



Thomas E. Pulkkinen
Grand Master