

DKG Benefits of Membership

Help after Disaster

With the recent Hurricane in Texas we are all aware that disaster can happen to anyone. The DKG Emergency Fund is there to help, not only the disasters on the grand scale but also personal disasters. One Pi State member got funds after her kitchen burnt. A member of one Pi State Chapter had three feet plus of water in her home. She received a check from DKG within two weeks of the incident! The procedure below shows how simple it is to get help.

Emergency Fund Recommendation Process*

Members who sustain major losses from floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, wild fires and other natural disasters may be recommended by their Chapter and State Organization Presidents to receive a U.S. \$500 Emergency Fund Award.

- **Inform State Organization President**
Chapter president informs State Organization President of member(s) affected by natural disaster. Use interactive form to expedite process.
- **Contact Society Headquarters**
State Organization President contacts Executive Director with name of member, member's Chapter, exact nature of disaster sustained and current mailing address.
- **Approved request leads to check**
Executive Director approves the request and mails a check from Society Headquarters. It is possible that the Executive Director will ask for additional information to determine whether the loss was caused by natural causes.

Responding to Disasters Since 1948

Emergency Fund Provides Support

Following a 1948 flood that destroyed Vanport, Oregon, a plea for help in the *DKG NEWS* resulted in more than \$3,000 that became the Emergency Fund. The fund continues as natural disasters affect members. Contributions demonstrate the Society's "genuine spiritual fellowship."

- **2010-2015**
Record storms, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes (Sandy et al) and wild fires resulted in checks in excess of \$125,500 for 283+ members.
- **2000-2009**
In 2000-01 Emergency Fund checks increased from \$200 to \$500. Florida remembers 2004's Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne. Gulf Coast state organizations remember Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, when approximately \$400,000 went to members. Hurricane Ike stormed his way into the Gulf Coast and inland North America in 2008. Members in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin suffered from flooding, forest fires and tornadoes.
- **1990-1999**
Hurricanes, floods and forest fires hit members in Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Dakota, New Mexico and Texas.
- **1980-1989**
The 1980s brought earthquakes, fires, tornadoes and hurricanes (including Hugo) for members in 21 state organizations.
- **1970-1979**
Mud slides, flooding and tornadoes meant that members in 18 state organizations received Emergency Fund checks.
- **1960-1969**
Hurricane Camille, earthquakes and tornadoes hit members from Alaska to Louisiana.
- **1948-1959**
From initial funds sent to Vanport evacuees to help 72 teachers and their families start anew, the Emergency Fund continued to aid members in Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas and other states. Members from nearly 60 State Organizations received Emergency Fund checks.

* Quoted from DKG International Website

Contributions to DKG Emergency Fund

Members may contribute to the DKG Emergency Fund at Regional Conferences and International Conventions and by submitting their donation to DKG Headquarters.

Jean Sekel, *Pi* Chapter