



Long Island Past Masters Association



January 4, 2021

Dear Worshipful Master & Brethren:

I hope this letter finds you all well and everyone safe and healthy during the pandemic.

During these difficult times, the **Long Island Past Masters Association (LIPMA)** realizes that Lodges throughout the Suffolk Masonic District have been impacted not only in their ability to meet and conduct Masonic business, but also in their ability to generate revenue from building tenants and to collect dues from those Brothers who may have been impacted financially by the pandemic. In addition, LIPMA recognizes that many Lodges in the Suffolk Masonic District operate on ‘thin margins’ and may not have the financial resources to meet their monthly expenses without these normal inflows of revenue. Given these unusual circumstances, LIPMA believes that some Lodges may require financial assistance in order to ensure their long-term viability during this singular event.

As such, LIPMA has determined it is imperative to assist those Lodges that are experiencing cash flow deficiencies because of the pandemic and its ancillary impacts. To that end, LIPMA has created an “**Assistance to Lodges for Covid Relief Fund**” grant program for those Lodges that may need temporary financial support. These one-time grants will be limited in amount and may be used toward the operational expenses of the Lodge, such as utilities and property taxes. Although LIPMA is categorizing these funds as “grants”, we hope (and encourage) each Lodge will be able to repay LIPMA at some point in the future when the Lodge has regained its financial stability. In this way, LIPMA can best ensure that it will be able to provide emergency assistance to the District in the future by replenishing its coffers.

If your Lodge is experiencing financial difficulty because of the pandemic, please find enclosed an application form that is to be completed and submitted to LIPMA for consideration. Please provide all requested information, including any and all additional information that you deem relevant for LIPMA to review and make an informed determination. Please note that documentation for the **total** financial assets of the Lodge (bank accounts, investment accounts, trusts, etc.) should include not only the Lodge’s accounts, but also the accounts of any affiliated entities or “holding companies” that have an association with the Lodge’s interests. Such entities may include, but are not limited to: historical societies, museums, and not-for-profit or limited liability companies. To maximize its limited resources and provide assistance to the neediest Lodges, it is necessary for LIPMA to have a ‘complete’ assessment of each Lodge’s overall financial condition and long-term viability.

LIPMA will review and evaluate all requests for assistance as expeditiously as feasible and will endeavor to initially respond to each request within 30 days. LIPMA may contact the requesting Lodge in order to clarify details within the provided documentation or to request additional information.

Finally, LIPMA strongly encourages each Lodge to take this opportunity to conduct an in-depth assessment of its overall financial condition, membership, dues structure, and operating income & expenses so that it can best evaluate its situation and consider any adjustments and/or action(s) that may be necessary for continued success and growth. LIPMA stands ready, willing, and able to provide guidance and advice to any Lodge that requests it.

All applications must be received by the committee between January 2021 and March 31st, 2021 to be considered. Please send completed applications to Jeff Santorello, address below in the contacts.

Please feel free to contact me or R. W. Jeffrey Santorello, Secretary of LIPMA, with any questions.

Stay safe and have a Happy New Year.

Cordially & Fraternaly,

V. W. William Arnold, President
LIPMA

Contacts:

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Mail Completed applications to:

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