

EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA INTERNATIONAL
DISASTER FUND INFORMATION/GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

The purpose of the ESA International Disaster Fund is to assist an ESA member whose home and/or personal belongings are destroyed or damaged extensively by one of nature's causes - fire, flood, etc. Assistance may also be given when a member incurs heavy financial responsibility due to a debilitating illness or accident which involves her or the immediate family *who reside in her home and for whom she is legally responsible*.

In the event a member's chapter requests additional help for her after one claim has been paid, the State Committee **MUST** investigate the application thoroughly. As the Disaster Fund is not an on-going source of assistance, a second claim will not be paid for the same illness or accident. If the State Committee establishes that the additional need is valid, the application must be submitted (along with the information regarding the reasons for recommending the additional claim) to each member of the International Council Disaster Fund Committee. Following receipt of such an application, the International Council Disaster Fund Committee, comprised of the IC Disaster Fund Chair, the IC President, and the IC First Vice President/President-Elect, will make the final determination regarding the additional claim.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

(1) Active Members, (2) Members-at-Large, (3) Life Active Members (4) Other applications that may arise out of special circumstances may be submitted and the determination of the validity of those claims will be determined by the IC Disaster Fund Chair in agreement with the IC President and First Vice-President – President Elect.

STATE DISASTER FUND CHAIR

The State Disaster Fund Chair shall review all claims and send only those onto the IC Disaster Fund chair that have been found to be valid forms in compliance with the IC Disaster Fund Chair Guidelines. It is of vital importance for the Chair to assess the need carefully when making a recommendation for acceptance of any claim. Affixing their signatures to the application indicates that they have investigated and found the claim to be valid according to the International Council Disaster Fund Guidelines.

AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE

\$5,000.00 is the maximum amount given to a member of a Disaster Fund claim. Every consideration will be taken when determining the total amount that will be paid to the claimant. The International Council Disaster Fund Chair will determine the total amount to be paid based on the nature of the claim. The International Council Disaster Fund Committee will review the claim and make the final decision if there is some doubt as to the amount to be paid

Revised: July 2006

HOW TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE

Step 1 - Chapter: An application **MUST** originate with the local chapter of the member involved, even if she is MAL, and be signed by the Chapter President. The Chapter Vice President, or the next highest elected chapter officer not related to the member, must sign the application if the Chapter President is the member involved. All information requested on the application **MUST** be completed or the application will be returned. Dollar amounts must be given as requested on the application form. Additional pertinent information, which would help the IC Disaster Fund Chair in reaching a decision,

may be included in an accompanying letter. If assistance is needed due to a terminal illness, it is recommended that the request be made as early as possible. A claim initiated before or within 30 days following the death of a member will be paid to the surviving family providing it meets all other criteria.

An original and three (3) copies of the completed application are to be submitted to the State Disaster Fund Chair. A copy should also be retained in the chapter files. (In the event there is no state council, the chapter may follow the procedure outlined below for the state. The request for assistance in such a case is submitted directly to the IC Disaster Fund Chair.)

Step 2 - State: The State Disaster Fund Chair is responsible for approving the application. They **MUST** recommend the amount being requested from the Disaster Fund based upon the nature of the claim rather than automatically stating the maximum amount allowed. Following approval, the State Disaster Fund Chair **MUST** sign the application. If the State Disaster Fund Chair is involved in the Disaster Fund Claim she must disqualify herself from the investigation and approval process and send the claim directly to the IC Disaster Fund Chair. *The signature of the State Disaster Fund Chair to the application indicates that they have investigated and found the claim to be valid according to these guidelines.*

Distribution of the copies of the application by the State Disaster Fund Chair shall be as follows:

Original and three (3) copies to the IC Disaster Fund Chair (the IC Disaster Fund Chair will send a copy to the IC President and President Elect). One copy retained by the State Disaster Fund Chair

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DISASTER FUND

All checks are to be made payable to the ESA Disaster Fund and mailed to the State Disaster Fund Chair.

The State Disaster Fund Chair will record the checks and forward them, along with her monthly report, to the IC Disaster Fund Chair. (If there is no state council, contributions may be mailed directly to the IC Disaster Fund Chair.) Reports of donation will be sent to each State Disaster Fund Chair by the IC Disaster Fund Chair quarterly.

EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA INTERNATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR STATE DISASTER FUND CHAIR

The duties of the State Disaster Fund Chair are two-fold:

- I. Receive and process donations from the membership.
- II. Receive and process Disaster Fund Applications.

I. DONATIONS

A. Promotion

The State Chair is to promote the Disaster Fund within her state, reminding members that it can never be anticipated when disaster money will be needed. Promotion may include: special projects such as raffles at state meetings, Memorial or Honorarium donations, contributions in lieu of Christmas or Valentine's Day greetings, etc

B. Chapter and Individual Donations

Chapters and individuals within the state should be requested to send all donations to the

State Disaster Fund Chair. The State Chair will record donations and report to the IC Chair.

C. State Record Keeping

Donations are to be recorded in a book or on a list as the State Chair receives them. The State Chair may set up books/records to fit her needs for accurate, efficient reporting to the IC Chair which will include the following:

1. Preparation of Disaster Fund Report and transfer of funds to the IC Chair monthly.
2. The annual period to be covered is June 1 through May 31.
3. The State Chair will determine and report the top three (3) chapters in the state with the highest contributions during the year, as of May 31, to the IC Chair.

(Comment: A suggestion is for the State Chair to prepare a list of all chapters in the state (including name and number), then record donations to the side of the chapter name as the donations are received. This will provide a reference as to whether a chapter has donated as well as accumulate a chapter's total when more than one donation is submitted during the year.)

D. Disaster Fund Report and Transfer of Funds to the IC Chair

A supply of forms for the Disaster Fund Report is enclosed. Once a month, if you have received donations, complete three (3) copies of the report form. Mail one copy to your State President, keep one for your files, and forward one copy to the IC Chair along with donations received. (Note: A report is not necessary unless you have donations to forward to the IC Chair.)

1. States with Fewer than 20 Chapters

- a. Be certain that all chapter checks have been properly made out and signed; and that all have been endorsed if made payable to the State Chair, State Council, etc. Endorse the check with the name on the check and show "For Deposit Only" under the endorsement. Checks made payable to the ESA Disaster Fund do not require an endorsement by the State Chair.
- b. Complete the Disaster Fund Report by listing each contribution by check number and other self-explanatory information requested on the form. Be certain checks endorsed total the same as "Total This Report." **DO NOT** hold checks - this causes "stale" dates and many banks will not honor checks after a certain period of time.

E. Disaster Fund Report Number

The first Disaster Fund Report submitted to the current IC Chair is to be numbered 1 - usually in August or September. On Report Number 1, do not show any previous contributions or number of chapters previously reported. These should be zero. Each report thereafter will be numbered in sequence with previous totals brought forward. The final report submitted to the current IC Chair will be the one ending May 31. Report numbers are applicable to the term of the current IC Disaster Fund Chair, not the State Disaster Fund Chair.

F. Awards

1. The following three (3) awards are given by the Disaster Fund Chair at IC convention: **Eugenia Sapp Award** - presented to the **chapter** contributing the most money to the Disaster Fund, June 1 through May 31. There will be a 1st,

2nd & 3rd place. **State Disaster Fund Award** - presented to the **state** that has the highest average donation per chapter, June 1 through May 31. There will be a 1st, 2nd & 3rd place presented. **State Disaster Fund Chair Award** - presented to the **State** contributing the most monies June 1 through May 31. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

2. **Period Covered**

The year will be from June 1 through May 31. The final May report to the IC Chair must be postmarked by June 1. This can be accomplished if the State Chair starts the May report before May 31, and is ready to add any donations received on the last day of the period. Donations made or postmarked after June 1 will be counted toward the next year's awards.

3. **Chapter Awards**

The State Chair is to determine the top three (3) chapters in her state with the highest total contributions during the period June 1 through May 31. She shall send a notice postmarked no later than June 10 to the IC Chair with the chapter name, number, city and total contributed by each of the three chapters. The State Chair may wish to send this notice "Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested."

G. **IC Reports**

The IC Chair will send status reports to the State Chair and State Presidents at the end of October, January, April, and June showing each state's contribution and claims paid to date. These reports should be in agreement with state records unless donations are held by the state or chapters/members within the state send donations directly to the IC Disaster Fund Chair.

The International Council Executive Board requests that checks be processed as outlined in these "Procedures for State Disaster Fund Chairs." By doing so, it will enable the IC Chair to keep her records up to date, provide money for claims, and relieve the heavy end-of-the year load for both the State and IC Chair.

II. **DISASTER FUND APPLICATIONS**

A. **Notification**

Keep the membership within your state informed that the Disaster Fund is available and assistance may be given when a member's home and/or personal belongings are destroyed or damaged extensively by one of nature's causes - fire, flood, tornado, etc. Assistance may also be given when a member incurs heavy financial responsibility due to serious accident or catastrophic illness (or death) which involves herself or her immediate family who reside in her home and for whom she is legally responsible.

B. **Application Form**

An application form is provided for copying and distribution as handled within respective states. **DO NOT SUBMIT CLAIMS ON AN OUTDATED FORM.** (See enclosed "Disaster Fund Information" for details on handling applications.) Be sure that ALL information is complete and legible before sending to the IC Chair. Avoid delays caused by the return of the application form due to incomplete information. The forms must be signed by the chapter president and State Disaster Fund Chair before submitting the claim to the IC Disaster Fund Chair.