

## JACKSONVILLE YORK RITE MASONIC BODIES

1237 McDuff Ave S, Jacksonville, FL 32205

Brothers,

Please consider this letter as an urgent call for financial assistance from a Temple in distress.

The Bodies at Jacksonville York Rite have known for some time that we needed to replace the roof on the York Rite Temple. Various members have tried diligently to patch it, only for the water to find another place to come in. For years, the York Rite has asked the members to contribute to the roof repair fund and we ultimately collected \$18,000 dedicated to the roof replacement. We got estimates for the repair that ranged as high as \$35,000. Eventually, we just kept patching as needed since we did not have the funds to cover a total re-roof.

Recently, the Craft decided to take the initiative to get the roof fixed properly. An experienced Roofer was referred to us and coincidentally, his quote was for \$18,000 plus any additional costs for unseen rotten wood.

Shortly after the roofer began to remove the old roof, he discovered that there were six layers of rotten roof. Also, the device that creates pitch in the roof had failed over the years and the water was pooling in the center of the roof, rather than running out the scuppers. The additional labor and tipping fees added another \$5,800.00 in cost overrun.

So, our situation went from bad to terrible.

They finally got the old roof off late Saturday afternoon. The weather forecast for that day was temperature in the high 90's and 20% chance of rain. About the time the roofers took a break, the NWS issued a severe thunderstorm warning for JAX and a strong cell formed right over the Temple. Of course, without a roof covering, the rain came straight into the Temple and caused serious water damage. We had a professional restoration company evaluate the damage and make recommendations on how to properly mitigate it. Fortunately, the wardrobe room roof had not been started and thousands of dollars' worth of antique costumes were unharmed. The water damage has rendered the Lodge Room unusable until the restoration process is complete. Hence, we have lost the reoccurring revenue from our appendant Bodies that rent our Lodge for their meetings.

We have no choice but to pay this bill. The funds will have to come from our fiscal operating account. That means any scheduled or unscheduled maintenance on our building must be postponed or terminated. There is also a very good probability that we will not have enough operating funds to cover non-discretionary items such as utilities and insurance payments through the end of FY 2020.

But now our situation has gone from terrible to dire.

Last Sunday, a large line of thunderstorms with high winds passed over Jacksonville. As the roof was still unfinished, the wind blew the underlayment and the tarps covering the roof off. This time the water flooded the York Rite business office, the dining room and the kitchen causing the drop ceiling to collapse. The water damage is extensive, especially in the office.

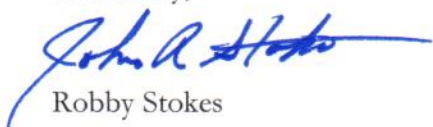
We are now at catastrophic.

Jacksonville York Rite is officially out of business until restoration is complete and we can assess the damage to computers, personnel files and electrical circuits.

All this comes as we were just starting to have our stated meetings after being closed for months due to the pandemic. As you can see, we are in big trouble. I realize times are tight but we are asking for your help to make through our FY 2020 budget. With our funds depleted we will not last long if we can't pay our bills.

We have been taught to help a brother in need, and Brothers, we are in need. Any contributions would be welcome relief and greatly appreciated.

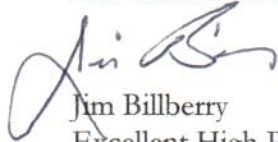
Fraternally,



Robby Stokes  
Eminent Commander



Randy Burkett  
Illustrious Master



Jim Billberry  
Excellent High Priest