

CHAPTER CHARITY ACCOUNT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Can I still give money to the Michigan Masonic Home?

Yes, donations can still be designated to the Michigan Masonic Home, Michigan Masonic Museum & Library, Youth Groups, Orphans, or Widows.

Why give to MMCF Chapter Charity Account rather than to my chapter directly?

Gifts made directly to chapters are not charitable nor are they tax deductible by law. All Chapter Charity Account donations must be made payable to MMCF.

What if my chapter merges with another or becomes defunct?

Mergers: The annual withdrawal will remain \$1,000 however, the donations that had been made to BOTH Chapter Charity Accounts will be combined

example: Chapter A merges into Chapter B

Chapter B (Now primary home chapter) receives \$1,000+ 4% of combined donations from both chapters annually

Defunct chapters: Chapter Charity Account donations would be transferred to the MMCF endowment for future growth.

What if my chapter wants to spend more than what is allocated for this year?

Your chapter can spend any amount on charitable purposes that it desires; however, only \$1,000 is available through the MMCF.

If we don't use our draw for a particular year will our draw for the following year be bigger?

No, your chapter cannot "roll-over" the deposit from MMCF from one year to the next. Each year, on April 1st your chapter will be reset with \$1,000 (unless your fund is grown by donations).

If we have a member in urgent need and we don't have any funds in our account what can we do?

Outreach & Member Care will be available to help identify additional assistance, including but not limited to Outside Relief or community programs. Please contact (800) 321-9357.

Can we assist someone who is not part of the Masonic family in our community?

Yes, the gift must comply with all federal IRS and Chapter Charity Account Program guidelines.

Can we use part of our draw to give a scholarship to a member pursuing higher education?

Yes.

Can someone be the Chapter Charity Account Representative for more than one chapter?

No.

Will my chapter's funds be available immediately?

Four percent (4%) of all donations made during the prior fiscal year will be available the following April 1st.

Can we process our own donations?

No, all checks must be sent to and made payable to MMCF (with a note stating chapter name and chapter #).

Can my chapter use the Chapter Charity Account to cover the cost of degrees or dues?

No.

Can my chapter use some of these funds to maintain our chapter building?

Under very limited circumstances; your building location would need to meet guidelines for Historical Preservation.

Can we use funds from this account to put on a fundraiser? (ie. Use funds to purchase supplies for our spaghetti supper).

No. These uses do not fall under IRS regulations for charitable giving.

What does allowable withdrawal mean?

This means the withdrawal complies with the requirements for charitable donations as identified by the IRS. Examples: Charitable Outreach, Educational Programs, Relief of Distressed Persons, Historical Preservation.

Can I change the designation on a gift I have already made to MMCF?

No; however, you can change the designation of the gift moving forward. (i.e. changing the designation of a current monthly recurring gift)

Can I make a gift to my Chapter's Charity Account in my will or estate plan?

Yes, please speak with your legal or financial representative or call the MMCF office.

If I have already set up a gift in my will to MMCF can I change the designation to my Chapter Charity Account?

Yes, please speak with your legal or financial representative or call the MMCF office.

Can anyone contribute to a Chapter Charity Account?

Yes, any individual or entity can contribute to a Chapter Charity Account.

How often will withdrawals be processed?

Once MMCF receives the on-line application from your Chapter Charity Account Representative, it will be processed immediately and you will receive your funds within 10-14 business days.