

The New Death Benefit And Health Benefit Plans

By W. B. Benjamin T. Araniego

Blue Lodges can do a great deal to help by writing individually to their Congressmen urging support for the Educational Stabilization Fund Bill. This practice is something which is seldom, if ever, tried here but is consistently and successfully done by tax-paying citizens in the United States whenever they want their influence felt in important public issues. The Committee also feels that much can be done by individual Masons acting through their Blue Lodges if they will establish good relations with their respective Parent-Teacher Associations as well as with Barrio Councils for the same purpose.

In short, this Committee is a Guiding Committee which will attempt to bring Masons, their Blue Lodges, and Masonry into more intimate identification with the community life of the nation. It is hoped that every Lodge will give a great deal of time to a discussion of the Grand Master's Circular on this subject and that the results of their efforts will be reported to the Committee which will undertake to transmit to the other Lodges information which will be helpful to them in their respective projects.



There are but two ways which lead to great aims and achievements — energy and perseverance. Energy is a rare gift, — it provokes opposition, hatred, and reaction. But perseverance lies within the affordings of everyone, its power increases with its progress, and it rarely misses its aim.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Having at heart the welfare of the brethren in this Grand Jurisdiction, our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother William H. Quasha, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Acacia Mutual Aid Society, has placed in the hands of the brethren a challenge to accept a bold new plan, which is called the Group Death Benefit Plan. This will give to a member's beneficiary a protection coverage of P1,000.00 for a yearly contribution of only P12.00.

To be entitled to this protection coverage it is necessary that 90% of the members of a Blue Lodge apply for this plan. No medical examination is required. Every brother is qualified for coverage under this plan irrespective of whether he is young or old and whether he is sickly or in good health.

This plan will start on October 1, 1962. This P12.00 that will be collected from each brother will be kept in trust by the Lodge Secretaries until they have a 90% participation when the total collections will be turned over to the Acacia Mutual Aid Society, provided that they must turn in the list of members and the collections to Acacia before October 1, 1962.

If death occurs prior to October 1, 1962, only the amount of P12.00 paid by the brother will be returned to the beneficiary. If death occurs during the first year of mem-

(Continued on page 21)

have met all the officers of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and the Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, A. & A. S. R.

PGM MIKE GOLDENBERG

Anxious brethren will be relieved to know that PGM Michael Goldenberg who had to undergo a major operation several weeks ago and subsequently suffered a paralytic stroke, has returned home well on the way to complete recovery.



New Benefits . . .

Membership, P\$500.00 will be payable to the beneficiary; if in the second year, the amount will be P\$750.00; and after the second year the full face value of P\$1,000.00 will be payable to the beneficiary.

This is the cheapest protection any brother can obtain. So cheap that even if a brother lives a long time and continues to pay for 50 years, the payments of the member will not aggregate what the Acacia Mutual will actually pay to the beneficiary.

With this plan the Lodge will not be embarrassed for its inability to raise the amount needed for the burial of a deceased member and at the same time their widows and orphans will not undergo the very humiliating experience of being compelled to make an approach to the Lodges by reason of the unexpected demise of the head of their family.

Every Master is, therefore, urged to meet the challenge to have the

90% of their Lodge members join this Group Death Benefit Plan. If and when this is accomplished everybody — the member, their families and the brethren — can have peace of mind. In computing the 90%, those brethren who are residing outside of our jurisdiction will not be counted. However, Worshipful Masters are urged to get all their members to join by writing them a letter. Attention is invited to the Grand Lodge circular on this subject.

The other great concern of the Grand Master is the protection of the health of the brethren. For this project the Acacia Mutual has created a Health Committee, the chairman of which is Brother Damasceno J. Ago. This committee has been meeting almost every week to finalize the plans.

It is the intention of the Health Committee to make available to the brethren for a small monthly contribution hospitalization benefits which will include surgery, the hospitalization and other special services that a sick brother may require.

This plan will start on November 1, 1962.

A medical clinic is now available on the ground floor of the Plaridel Masonic Temple. A list of participating physicians will be posted at the Clinic. A physician or two will be detailed for consultation at the clinic daily. For every consultation a brother will be requested to donate a peso so that the participating doctors may receive an honorarium for their transportation.

Details of the medical health plan will be announced in the immediate future.