

Society NewsFLASH 2004:04

Friday, January 14, 2005



Society sends \$20,000 to South Asia tsunami relief effort

The Society Board has made a contribution of \$20,000 to the Red Cross to assist in relief efforts in South Asia.

In a meeting of the Executive Board held January 5th, concern over the plight of the millions of South Asians without access to basic needs prompted OPGN Local Vice President **Olaf Heilandt** to move that the Society make a significant donation to the relief effort.

"We have a lot of members with family and friends who live in the disaster area," he said, "and no doubt many have suffered losses of loved ones. The relief effort will go on for many years."

The \$20,000 figure was based on Heilandt's suggestion of \$3 per member, and the Board approved it unanimously. While Vice President Finance Bill Jones acknowledged that it was greatly in excess of the maximum donation as set in the Society's policy on donations, he noted that it was a very special case of extraordinary need, and that it could come out of the surplus expected by the end of the fiscal year.

The donation was presented to the Red Cross on January 6th, well in time to qualify for the federal government's donation-matching program.

Local VPs at the Board were urged to contact their employers to challenge them to match the Society donation. Many of them have already offered to match the contributions of individual employees.

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