

August 17, 2011

W. Allan L. Cassalou  
Grand Secretary  
1111 California St.  
San Francisco, CA 94108-2252

re: Letter from Panamericana Lodge 513 to Grand Secretary dated July 28, 2011.

Dear Most Worshipful Allan Casalou:

I hope your travels, work, and life are enjoyable and healthy. It appears your job is very demanding and requires a great deal of travel.

This letter, is in regards to the letter sent you from Panamericana 513, dated July 28, 2011. After reading the copy sent to me I was surprised and slightly disheartened to realize my "Masonic Plea For Help" letter, dated April 6, 2011, had recently perturbed some of my fellow members of Panamericana 513. This letter was originally written to you, then copies were also sent to a handful of other masons in hope of receiving their support also. Unfortunately, no help or support was forthcoming from any of my brethren, or the few other Masons outside of our lodge who received that letter. My family was evicted, as my letter warned. The only reason we were not homeless was due to a government program, Rapid Housing and Relocation Program (HRRP). This program helped us to move into another home and subsidized our rent the past few months.

Unfortunately, the funds for the program have been exhausted due to the large amount of other people in similar situations of my family. So, we received a "3-Day Notice" last week, and due to only paying a portion of this month's rent, we expect a formal eviction notice any day now.

When my "Masonic Plea for Help" was sent out in April, none of the members of my lodge complained about its contents. I've learned it was discussed among some members at that time. Recently, a couple of the masons I sent this letter to, who are not members of our lodge, thought it made our Panamericana lodge appear to not be supportive of me--and when they queried our lodge created an embarrassment for some members. For this I seriously and humbly apologize. I was desperate (and still am) and in my haste could have worded it with less disappointment. My goal was never to humiliate my lodge, and again I apologize to all concerned at Panamericana 513.

The letter sent you from Panamericana addresses some of the issues of my "Masonic Plea for Help" that were inaccurate or unknown to some of the members. In hope of creating harmony, and maintaining my friendships, I will acknowledge a few points they addressed utilizing the numbers of their letter to you:

- Item #1: Perhaps some members did not know of my guitar being stolen. The repairs of my flute were mentioned to some, but I did not formally mention this to be entered into the Meeting Minutes. Nor did I intend to imply that it was because of performing in the lodge that any mishaps or difficulties befell me.
- Item #2: I accepted the fact that our lodge could not afford to pay internet fees for me. I did not mean to insult our lodge by mentioning this.
- Item #3: I did not release the song, "Cinco de Mayo," until after resigning my Assistant Secretary position. This would have been mentioned in my emails, newsletters and websites, that not all members were reading or receiving. The "Masonic Kung Fu" was discussed in a few meetings, but mostly discussed outside of the meetings, and should have been recorded in the Minutes of Meeting at least once. It is also true that a few masons have purchased my albums and books.
- Item #4: A couple masons did attend my tournaments and classes and received emails from the nonprofit organization, Tai Chi Youth, that I founded in 1996. Several masons tried to organize "Child IDs" at these events, but perhaps I was remiss in not requesting donations more actively.
- Item #5: This paragraph was disappointing to read, but they were correct on one point: I did receive one job offer from Brother Sergio Soto for an apartment manager position. I was well-qualified for the position and submitted the application immediately. I pursued this job for several months until he said, that it was not available. On April 1, 2011, I shaved my chest length hair to enable me to acquire a Pinkerton job, that never materialized. My head is still shaved, but that job never became available due to someone not retiring as expected.
- Item #6: I apologize for having specified my brethren in my letter. Perhaps each mentioned it in a different manner, but all of them said that my financial problems needed to be resolved before spending time in Masonry. This was reiterated by two masons at the stated meeting on August 4, 2011, who that night read the introduction to my book, MASONIC KUNG FU BOOK 1, which I took to the meeting for them to peruse and provide any comments of. No one at that time told me of this letter they had sent you dated July 28, 2011. My sole purpose in attending that stated meeting last week was to make certain that none of my comments in the introduction of my MASONIC KUNG FU BOOK 1 novel were disliked by any of my brethren. So far, there have been no requests for rewriting any of that Preface.

Since my family's well-being and safety has returned to that desperate financial position of April 2011 again, it would seem practical to resend that "Masonic Plea for Help" out again. I won't. Per the letter I sent you, May 9, 2011, titled "Masonic Apology," I now realize that my hopes and desires for assistance from the Masonic Service Bureau and my fellow masons was unreasonable. As I outlined in my letter to you, my past memberships in union brotherhoods, scholastic organizations, and my study of masonic history, had created an unrealistic perception of modern masonry. This "Masonic Apology" was not sent to the people I sent the "Masonic Plea for Help." Had I sent a copy of this letter to them also, perhaps you would not be in receipt of this current complaint about me.

I will seek to mend my relationships with my masonic brethren and strive to create a positive view of modern masonry and its members.

I apologize to you specifically also, for having to correspond or deal with this "Masonic Plea for Help" issue. I hope it will not take up any more of your valuable time and effort, or require any more correspondence from you.

With sincerest apologies,

Richard Del Connor  
Panamericana 513