

## Helping Those in Need

Policy for giving financial aid to those in need, be they brother Knights or other members of the community. - Rev 4 Feb 19, 2021

Financial Aid from Charitable gaming sources:

1. Our council 4442 is a “Fraternal Organization,” a 501(c)8 organization.
2. NH State Charitable Gaming laws require any money raised through gaming, such as Bingo or Poker, only be given to recognized 501(c)3 charities or 501(c)8 fraternal organizations.
3. The council may give to various recognized 501(c)(3) charities money from any source.
4. Compensation to council members who operate bingo or poker for the purpose of raising funds must be within reason, and as has been said, must “pass the smell test.”
5. If a person’s financial need is brought to the council’s attention, we may direct that person to apply for aid from any of the various established 501(c)3 charities.
6. The council may act on behalf of the person in seeking aid from the charity.
7. The charity at its sole discretion, may provide support to the person according to its internal policies and vetting.
8. Individual council members may make personal contributions to the charity on behalf of the person, to help defray the cost of that charity’s support of the person. However, this is not quid-pro-quo. The charity is free to use any donation as it pleases. The donations are subject to IRS rules on charitable donations and are tax deductible for the individual members.
9. The council may provide financial aid directly to any person deemed in need of assistance, including council members, from charitable gaming sources. Such financial aid must “pass the smell test” in being reasonable in amount, must be for a charitable need, and must be approved by a recorded vote of the council. (Most likely, this type of donation will not qualify as a charitable deduction for the council under the I.R.S. rules which require the recipient to be a 501(c)3 organization, but would be allowed as an expense of the council, a fraternal organization.

Financial Aid from personal council member funds:

1. The council members, acting as individuals, may directly support any member or cause with personal funds at any time.
2. The council as an organization may conduct fund raising activities (such as “spaghetti dinners” or “Go Fund Me” campaigns) to support any person or cause. Any funds raised may be given directly to the person.
3. Any such council fund raising activities cannot be advertised as deductible for IRS tax purposes.
4. The council could establish an emergency account, a “Fraternal Fund,” that would be available to directly supply cash as needed, as the council decides, to anyone deemed “in need of assistance” by the Council. Personal contributions to such a fraternal fund would not be tax-deductible as a “charitable contribution” according to IRS laws.