

NEW ORLEANS, LA – February 24, 2006

## *MARDI GRAS LEATHER SPIRIT*

The Lords of Leather Hurricane Relief Fund received a special gift during their Mardi Gras Beer Bust on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Phoenix Bar, New Orleans. Lord George Hester, board member of Pantheon of Leather, presented a check for \$1000.00 to Lord Todd Cole, krewe president. The donation was the result of a fundraiser held during Olympus Leather contest in Chicago the weekend of February 17-20. Lord Hester described from first hand experience, the devastation Gulf Coast residents endured from the hurricanes as collection baskets were being filled with donations from contest attendees. Pantheon of Leather XVI and Olympus Leather weekend is produced by The Leather Journal.

The Hurricane Relief Fund got another boost in funds when the Lords raised over \$3000.00 during their Bal Masque XXIII held February 26 at the Sheraton Hotel on Canal Street. Although Bal Masque was scaled down from its traditional tableaux presentation, the Mardi Gras spirit was still present. Reigning Royalty King Alan M. and Lord Consort Keith I. presided over an evening of dinner and dancing. Attendees took in the sights of Bacchus and Endymion parades from the ballroom glass wall as they rolled by. The evening closed with the traditional jazzy second line.

The Lords of Leather Hurricane Relief Fund is a 501(c)3 charitable organization established in December, 2005. Its mission is to provide charitable relief to individuals within the leather community who have had their lives, homes and livelihoods affected as a result of Hurricane's Katrina and Rita. For more information visit [www.lordsofleather.com](http://www.lordsofleather.com)