



## **DISTRICT 5180 UPDATE – FIRE VICTIMS SUPPORT**

From District Governor, Sandi Sava

Rotarians and members of our communities have been devastated by the fires in Northern California with loss of homes, schools and businesses, relocation, and, worse yet, death and injuries. We all are trying to figure out how, when, where and who to best help. I have been communicating regularly with the 41 Club Presidents in District 5180, our 8 Assistant Governors, our District Leadership, and a number of Rotarians. I also have been in close touch with Rotary International, our Zone Director John Matthews, and the District Governors in 4 neighboring Districts. Several plans are being developed and carried out at this time.

First, individual clubs and Rotarians are collecting and delivering personal hygiene and related items to evacuees and to victims of the fires in Yuba and Butte Counties in the Northern part of our District. They also are helping fire personnel and first responders. Our Assistant Governors are working with Club Presidents, Rotarians and members of our communities to proactively identify needs and provide assistance. While this is very important, the outpouring of donations has exceeded some needs. And, in some cases, the donated items cannot get to or through certain locations. Collection of personal hygiene items and new supplies still should be considered for victims who you specifically can identify, but donations of gift cards is preferred for many Napa and Sonoma victims at this time.

Second, our District has developed a funding platform to collect monetary contributions from donors who want to help financially. Specific details about use and disbursement of these funds will depend upon what information we obtain about needs and forms of assistance. Contributions can be made by check payable to “Rotary District 5180 Foundation” and mailed to District 5180 Foundation Chair, Robert Deering, 4917 Olympia Court, Carmichael, California 95608. We are not accepting electronic donations at this time.

Third, District 5180 is working with neighboring Districts to develop a regional fund with the help of and through Rotary International. As with the hurricanes and earthquakes, our fires make people from all over the world want to help directly, and a “Donor Advised Fund” through RI enables this. Although a DAF provides a platform to help with immediate help, it primarily provides opportunities for longer term assistance. We expect to have this in place within the next week.

The Lake Area Rotary Club Association [[www.larca5130.org](http://www.larca5130.org)] is already set up to accept contributions and help those victims in Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino and Lake Counties. Our District will continue to work with the Presidents, Assistant Governors and other Rotarians as we navigate through this disaster. If you have specific information about how to help, please contact your Club President, AG or me. We are here to help too and will provide further updates in the future.

10/14/2017