

October 23, 2015

Dear District Clubs,

On September 12, 2015, the Valley Fire started on Cobb Mt. in Lake County. In what seemed like minutes, the fire had swept through roughly 25,000 acres and began to spread to neighboring counties. The Lake County communities of Cobb Mt., Anderson Springs, Middletown, Harbin Hot Springs and Hidden Valley Lake were hardest hit. As of October 15th, the final report is:

- 1) 1958 structures destroyed. Of those, 1280 were homes, 27 were multi family structures, 66 commercial properties and 585 minor structures.
- 2) 4 firefighters were injured and 4 civilians lost their lives.
- 3) Over 76,000 acres burned.

In this devastation, families have been displaced, businesses have been destroyed and the citizens of this area are picking up the pieces of their lives and putting them back together. "Cobb Strong" and "Middletown Strong" are their rallying calls. While their spirits have been dampened, their resolve to rebuild and move on is unquestionable. That said, they sure could use our help.

I have personally been in contact with members of the Middletown Rotary Club as well as the president of the Lakeport Club, Jennifer Strong. They have set up a fund for donations and are asking for donations for those hardest hit by this fire. Donations of food, pet food, clothes and other supplies have been wonderful. So much so that county officials have said that they've been overwhelmed with the response. At this point, the most beneficial donations they could use for greatest benefit are monetary.

I'd like to challenge the other wonderful District 5180 clubs to step up with Roseville Club in donations to this fund. So far, the Roseville Club has committed \$1500 in club and personal donations to the fund. While we understand that this may be more than some clubs can commit, anything helps. To those who have already donated to this effort, thank you.

With help, the Lake County area can recover quickly. These are tight knit communities of hard working people. Please, let's lead the way to make their journey just a little easier.

Thank you for your consideration.

YIR,
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