How Rotarians Can Assist with Hurricane Relief

Note: Rotary President Ian Riseley recently sent this message to district governors on how Rotarians can assist with Hurricane relief.

“Texas and Louisiana are just beginning what we know will be a long road to recovery after Hurricane Harvey. Meanwhile, Hurricane Irma is in the Caribbean and headed for Florida and the Atlantic coast of the United States. When disaster strikes, Rotarians reach out and ask how they can help.

Rotary International staff contact district governors in affected areas to determine how best to direct any offers of aid. To that end, they have been in touch with governors in Texas, Louisiana and the Caribbean about hurricane relief. They have also reached out to leaders in district 9101 regarding the mud slides in Sierra Leone, in South Asia and in Nigeria to determine how best to direct support for their populations after devastating floods in both regions, and in Mexico after this morning’s earthquake.

Leaders in North America have responded by making two Donor Advised Funds under The Rotary Foundation available to accept contributions for hurricane relief: The Gulf Coast Disaster Relief DAF was established to assist communities devastated by Hurricane Harvey. The Hurricane Emergency Relief DAF is accepting contributions for Hurricane Irma disaster recovery.

If you would like to help please go to the following link: https://www.your-fundaccount.com/rotary/
Lorie Rheams and Nancy Teichert are this year’s District 5180 co-chairs for the Literacy Committee. A recent letter to clubs asks, “How can you make it in this world if you can’t read?” It clearly states the mission and importance of the Literacy Committee. We thought you would like to know a little more about Lorie and Nancy and what they hope to do this year.

Nancy Teichert has been a journalist for the Denver Post, The Clarion-Ledger, (Jackson, MS), the Bloomington (IN) Herald, and the Sacramento Bee. A highlight for her was receiving a Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 1983 with the Clarion-Ledger. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Sacramento.

Lorie Rheams, a member of the Rotary Club of Orangevale since 1998, has served in many Rotary offices, including club President, District newsletter editor, District Simplified Grant Chair, and Group Study Exchange Chair. Whew!

As Chairs of the District Literacy Committee, Nancy and Lorie have several requests of clubs. One is to learn more about what clubs are currently doing to promote literacy. They would like to create an inventory of what each club is currently doing.

Gov’s Spin (con’t)
fun and hospitality among Rotarians, family and friends at Steve and JoAnn Lemmons’ house with the induction of 4 new members -- 3 for North Sac and 1 for Natomas.

Great things continued on August 5 with Lunar lunacy -- the night-time community bike ride Point West has held for four years. Yours truly was there as a volunteer and participant and witnessed first-hand hundreds of happy cyclists -- from the old to the very young -- who turned out in colorfully decorated bikes to support the Making Memories program of CASA-Sacramento and other local children’s charities. Great job, President Rick Bixler and PWR!

I met with Carmichael Rotary on August 8 and was so impressed by its organized and hard-working board. Did you know that they are spearheading a water project in Uganda near Sam Owori’s hometown? Just ask President Dick Bauer and Richard Olebe. A special treat during my visit was the induction of Karen Munsterman. Her late husband Bill had been a member for 37 years, and Karen was involved the entire time. It was only natural for her to become an official Rotarian and stay involved. By the way, my cowboy hat is great!

I’m still laughing after the great meeting with the Passport Club on August 10. Thank you J.E.T. Set President JoAnne Tanner. They may not meet every week, but when they do, it’s FUN! Bicycle decorations, shoe trivia and, best of all, great attendance and camaraderie were the focal points of this meeting.
What’s Happening in the District

Fun For All at District Picnic

The District held its 2nd annual Family Picnic on Aug. 27 at Discovery Park in Sacramento. Music, games, food, and relaxation carried the day!

Gov’s Spin (Con’t)

Among their members, they have hundreds of years of experience. Many have 20, 30 or 40 years in Rotary. Others joined that evening, including the daughter and son-in-law of President Anne Browning (Fair Oaks). When it came time for open discussion, they expressed positive views about the flexibility that Passport provides.

What’s better than a governor’s visit in a hotel meeting room? A visit at Raley Field, of course! This great idea was inspired by President Roland Wright (Foothill-Highlands) who wanted to combine formality with fun. Board members dutifully reported on the status of the club and then relaxed with other members, family, friends and good food followed up with grand fireworks. Did we discuss Rotary during the game? You bet. We’re Rotarians after all.

Speaking of better, what’s better than one meeting with Rotarians? Two. I got to meet with Elk Grove’s board on August 9 and see them again and the rest of the members on August 16. Thanks to President Becky Davis, we had a lovely picnic in the park at a structure that Elk Grove Rotarians built. The structure is rich with history. They erected a commemorative wall etched with the names of Rotarians they honor. Long-time Rotarians were asked “What is the best thing that’s happened in Rotary,” and they answered: “Women!” Great answer.

Eggs. They are one of the greatest gifts I have received during my governor visits. President John Milburn (Granite Bay) presented me with a dozen eggs at the end of the meeting and sheepishly apologized because he didn’t think they were a good enough gift. He explained to me and others in his club that he and his wife raise hens and the eggs were collected that very morning from those hens. He further explained that he wanted to share something personal. What John may not have realized is that the eggs and his explanation created a very special Vocational moment -- something we need more of. Great moment, great eggs!

My final club visit in August was to Pocket Greenhaven. Our beloved friend and Past District Gover...
Hurricane Relief (con’t)

You can contribute online with a credit card or follow the instructions for contributions by check or wire transfer. You will need to provide the specific name of the Rotary Foundation Donor Advised Fund and the account number.

Enter:  The Gulf Coast Disaster Relief DAF, Account Number 608  
OR:  Hurricane Emergency Relief DAF, Account Number 296

If you have any questions, contact relief@rotary.org.

Gov’s Spin (con’t)

Hal Shipley, stepped up to the plate in early 2016 to serve as club President in 2017-18. He has been a great President-Elect and truly was excited about leading his club. In May, he suffered a stroke which has prevented him from actively serving as President. This has not stopped his club, however. His dedication has inspired members, and they are stronger than ever. Past President, Randy Burton, and President-Elect, Tony Renteria, have been sharing presidential duties and are genuinely happy to do so. The feeling at the visit was one of collective support and positivity. That is why Pocket Greenhaven is great!

Club Meetings

Where to Find Good Speakers

In a rut with speakers? Then, go to the District 5180 Speakers Bureau (www.rotary5180.org). These are the real thing. Vetted. Concise. Topical. Timely. Enjoyable. Also, check out the list of district program chairs, as each one is another source for a great presentation on a Rotary program. Want something else? Then contact speakers bureau chair, Richard Kowaleski, via 916-722-1382 or kowaleski@earthlink.net, and he will let you know about other programs that are in the works. Remember, a good program every week (AGPEW) increases attendance. Awesome!

More District News

Sept. 25—29:  Learn About Rotary Week

Hey, if you—or someone you know—has a question about Rotary, District 5180 is sponsoring the perfect opportunity to learn about Rotary. Each day from 3-4 p.m. during the week of Sept. 25-29, join an online chat to learn about Rotary. Each day will have a different theme. Questions can be submitted by text or phone. Or, just listen in to hear what is talked about. It should be easy and fun! Read more in the flyer.

Daily Themes for Rotary Week, Sept. 25-29

Here are themes for each day:

- Monday Sept. 25 - Membership
- Tuesday Sept. 26 - Foundation
- Wednesday Sept. 27 - Public Image
- Thursday Sept. 28 - Young Professionals
- Friday Sept. 29 - Rotary Operations
**International**

**Gridley Rotary Seeks Wells for Liberia**

The Rotary Club of Gridley seeks District 5180 Clubs to join them in providing water *well drilling rigs* to remote Liberian villages. It is global grant GG18-60932. This builds on the success of the Gridley and Oroville Clubs’ 2014 Rotary Global Grant for Health and Sanitation. And, it tracks with Rotary’s goal to focus on Clean Water after Polio Plus.

The Gridley and Oroville Clubs have had practical success with this program already in Kenya. Below is a picture of Kenyans drilling a water well with a new rig.

Wells are very important in Africa, since a considerable amount of time each day is spent having children walk to remote locations, wait in line, and return with heavy jugs of water.

If your club wishes to partner in this international Global Grant, email Gridley Rotarian Dan Boeger at dan@agdata-usa.com or phone him at (530) 846-3868. Your club will make a difference!

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**Youth Services**

**Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE): A Host Sibling’s Viewpoint**

by Allison Koontz

This past school year and summer were the best months of my life. I got to host my now best friend/sister due to the Rotary Youth Exchange program. I never had a sister before this summer, and I always wanted one especially with my brother leaving to join the Marines. But, don't get me wrong, there were times that I was like, “Oh, my God, space please.” I am not use to someone wanting to spend every moment with me. There was laughter, teasing, jamming to our favorite songs, and even just sitting in the same room playing on our phones and gossiping to each other about people, school, and life.

Having an exchange student changed my view of California and America in general. We would travel a lot and she wanted to visit places that I thought, “Why there”? “There is nothing there?” But we would get there and her goofy and outgoing personality would change my view of that place forever.

She left a huge hole in my family when she left. My aunts, uncles, parents, and my brother started calling her niece, daughter, and sister. She is forever welcome back here with my family and I know I am always welcome in Germany with her family.
Youth Services (con't)

I never really had any close relationships with anyone. When Elli moved in I felt like she was the one thing missing and I felt like I could tell her anything without being judged or showing my true goofy side without feeling judged.

We met in my art class senior year. We had one conversation and like that we were glued at the seams. We did everything together such as: homecoming dates, trick or treating, and senior ball. We traveled, explored, got lost. We jammed to music, movies, and laughed a lot.

All in all, this was my best summer experience. Because of our close friendship, it was easier for me when my grandpa passed this summer. She was there to comfort me and help me get over it a little better than I would have. Elli Rincke is now my family.

District Activities

How to be Active in District 5180

Are you looking for a wider role in Rotary? Do you want to champion a cause? Did you know there are many ways to participate in Districts goals and projects? Well, there are. There are individuals and groups working on Rotary Foundation grants and projects, Rotary Youth Exchange, Membership, Finances, Professional Development, and the Annual Conference. If you would like to learn more, or participate, in these activities, take a look at their meeting schedule on the...District Committee Calendar.

District Foundation Dinner

Guest Speaker: Paul Netzel, Rotary Club of Los Angeles & Rotary Foundation Board Chair

Oct. 28—6 p.m.

Citrus Heights Community Center

Foundation Dinner Flyer

Reservations: kreinero@yahoo.com

Club News

“Golf 4 Kids” is a Winner

The 39th “Golf 4 Kids” tournament, hosted by the Rotary Club of Sacramento, is arguably one of the most interesting activities in the Club’s 95 year history. It is for orthopedically challenged kids of Sacramento. And, it has a rich history.

The story begins in 1922, when Dr. Gustave Wilson – one of Sacramento’s leading physicians and surgeons at the time, and a member of our club – determined that at least sixty youngsters were unable to attend public school because of orthopedic handicaps.

He proposed that he and other doctors in the community take medical steps to upgrade the children’s condition, and that the Rotary Club of Sacramento assume responsibility for funding the cost of the necessary orthopedic and hospital equipment.

The club agreed and, with the integral assistance of fellow Rotarian, Ernie (Bert) Chappell – a local painting and interior decorating contractor -- thus began the longest-running charitable program in all of Rotary International to this day.

When the club’s financial support began, the Sacramento school district had no program to address the classroom needs of an orthopedically challenged child.

In the first seven years of its existence, Gustave Wilson and fellow doctors helped rehabilitate 167 disabled children so that they could attend public school. Since that time, tens of thousands of orthopedically challenged kids have attended school with the help of our club.

“Golf 4 Kids” is not just a golf tournament – it’s the continuance of a commitment that a doctor, a painter, and the Rotary Club of Sacramento gave to the city and its orthopedically challenged children 95 years ago.

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Sacramento!