



Jim O'Meara
DISTRICT GOVERNOR
2007 - 2008

Rotary District 5340



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Governor's Message

As the fires whip through our District, when every life in our District has been impacted, as losses mount, Rotarians once more come together in the Family of Rotary to meet this huge growing challenge. The Rotary Clubs of District 5340 are Sharing, and expressing their bravery with each gust of the winds.

During the last few day I have been contacting club presidents on the phone, inquiring of their safety, their families, and the well being of club members. In a word I have found hope. The presidents have also been contacting their club members, learning of lost homes, near disasters, and the joys in finding their home was spared, and always—what can I do, I have room in my home... or will we be meeting this week?

We have several Rotarians who have been evacuated, and clubs that need to reschedule meetings, and meeting locations.

Today I had the honor to speak at a Rotary club that was among those most devastated by the fires, Rancho Bernardo. When I spoke to their president Charley, the club had decided on Wednesday that they would meet as usual on Thursday. While meeting with the club I found their dedication, and actual bravery something that I have no doubt is present in each of our challenged clubs, yet still remarkable to witness.

Members shared their stories of evacuation, where they were staying, and their obvious calling to join with their friends in Rotary fellowship by attending the club meeting.

Today it was the Rotary Club of Rancho Bernardo, tomorrow I will visit another club, and there is no doubt in my mind that the courage, and strength that I've witnessed today will be shown again tomorrow, and day-after-day as I meet with the undaunting Rotary clubs in District 5340.

Reaching Out Into Our Communities

Rotarians already are involving themselves in community service activities. There are several areas where shelters are being provided within our county, and they also provide opportunities to serve. Please note, we are still receiving notice to minimize our driving throughout the area. So please, when volunteering, please choose the shelter nearest your home that is providing services, this may be your best opportunity. When at all possible, CARPOOL.

Financial Contributions

It has been suggested for those who wish to make a financial contribution that the San Diego Foundation will provide prompt services without our District.

The San Diego Foundation had established an After-the-Fire Fund following the fires of 2003 to make grants to organizations with professional disaster expertise to assist individual and families affected by those terrible fires. Thanks to the generosity of many, they were able to donate over \$3 million dollars to support emergency response, recovery and rebuilding efforts in the fire-ravaged communities. (Please go to their website at: www.sdfoundation.org to read a comprehensive report about the work following the 2003 fires).

Today they have announced establishing another After-the-Fires Fund and they are accepting donations. They will make sure these funds are disbursed as quickly and strategically as possible with the help of the San Diego Foundation

Disaster Relief Board. Once the fires have passed, our community will face immense needs in every area of life starting with food, shelter and clothing and extending to social services, ongoing health care, environmental concerns, animal welfare and even scholarship for students in fire-affected families.

If you you are interested in helping to rebuild our community following this year's fire:

1. Go to their website at www.sdfoundation.org to donate or
2. Make you check payable to:
The San Diego Foundation
and send to:

The San Diego Foundation
2508 Historic Decatur road, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92106

*In the memo area of your check indicate:
After-The-Fires Fund*

Speail Upcoming District Event

On November 17th we will be celebrating the humanitarian activities of The Rotary Foundation, and our District's activities within the Foundation.

The annual Foundation Gala will be held at the Hilton Hotel on Mission Bay. Reception will begin at 6:00pm with dinner at 7. Our keynote speaker is an outstanding Rotarian, and first woman Trustee on TRF Board, Carolyn Jones. I had an

opportunity to hear Carolyn speak at the convention in Denmark, and I assure you that you are in for a special presentation.

Following her presentation we will be providing wonderful musical entertainment for your dancing pleasure. There's no hurry to leave, and for those who wish to stay, we have discounted rooms available for your overnight stay. Please join us!