

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE STORMS:

As you know, Rotary districts in Zone 26 sustained the brunt of the two recent hurricanes. Here is an update, by district:

1. District 5910, southeast Texas, was hardest hit by Ike, sustaining widespread devastation, with prospects of a long-term recovery process. Some communities, like Galveston, were obliterated. Governor Roger McCabe is o.k., having evacuated to San Antonio. Contributions can be directed to the Texas Area Foundation, credit Rotary District 5910 Donor Advised Fund, and sent to PDG Hugh Summers, P.O. Box 1399, Palestine TX 75802-1399.
2. District 6200, southwest Louisiana. Gov Mike and Martha are o.k. Gustav hit hard, and a lot of damage in Houma and Baton Rouge. Also effects from Ike--the double whammy. Contributions can be made to the D-6200 Foundation, and sent to District Secretary Karen Viator, 2266 S College Road Extension, Lafayette LA 70508.
3. District 5890, greater Houston area. DG Rhonda and Eric are doing o.k., though they do not have electricity. East part of Houston sustained damage, downtown area did not look too bad. Ice and water from FEMA was slow in coming, but it got there...after Rotarians made that their first mission :). Their main mission right now is finding displaced Rotarians and finding interim lodging for them at the home of Rotarians. Contributions can be sent to District 5890 Charities, c/o DG Rhonda Kennedy, P.O. Box 417, Sweeny TX 77480.
4. District 5930 (Corpus Christi, Victoria, Brownsville). Dodged the bullet after Ike was headed right toward them, but changed course at the last minute. Southern part of the district (Brownsville was battered by Hurricane Dolly).

Here are my recommendations:

1. Send what contributions you can to one or more of these districts' 501 c 3 organizations cited above.
2. Districts adjacent to the affected districts can open your homes to displaced Rotarians by contacting the points of contact listed above.
3. In many areas, livestock are in need of hay and other feeds. In the aftermath of Katrina, Rotarians responded to this need, and hopefully, they will do so again.
4. Only two of our 27 districts have appointed a Rotary Disaster Response Coordinator. We all need to do this and notify our Zones Coordinator, Don Chauvin, don@facts-5.com. Don will be conducting two back-to-back breakout sessions on Rotary Disaster Response in Boise. None of our districts is immune from disaster--Kathleen and I know--we lost everything in the Aspen Fire of 2003 on Mt Lemmon, AZ.

Several of our districts are hurting badly and we welcome your assistance
Thank you for your support of Rotary.

Phil
Philip J. Silvers
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