*[Original was forwarded by 6440 Gov. Sarah, 9/20/13. Additional spacing has been added]*

To:  District 5440 Rotarians

From: District Governor Julie Phares

While it is still too soon to get a true picture of the devastation impact on people and property in Colorado from the recent flooding, Rotarians from our district and so many others are anxious to help however they can. We understand that the most important assistance from Rotary and Rotarians ***at this time*** will be financial.

The District 5440 Executive Committee met in an emergency meeting on Tuesday and allocated the entire 2013-14 District 5440 Emergency Donation Fund of $5,000 to the District 5440 Foundation - earmarked for Colorado Flood Disaster Relief. The Executive Committee plans to review District unallocated funds for additional flood relief.

If you or your club would like to send contributions, please send them to:

**PDG George McIlvaine**

**District 5440 Foundation**

**2823 Olive Drive,**

**Cheyenne, WY 82001-5736.**

Payee should be “District 5440 Foundation” with “Colorado Disaster Relief Fund” noted in the memo line.

A District Disaster Relief Coordinating Committee has been created, chaired by Governor Elect Phil Murphy.  He will recruit other members this week to serve with him, including a representative from the District Public Relations Committee, several club presidents and an Assistant Governor.

The purpose of the Coordinating Committee will be to develop communications and coordination along with Rotary Districts 5450 and 5470, solicit and accept financial contributions from the other 19 districts in Rotary Zones 21b and 27 and Rotarians worldwide, and prepare a longer term strategy to assist clubs in our district in identifying specific needs and helping to coordinate “boots on the ground” and food and goods “in the pantry” when the time comes to enter the next stage of recovery.

The District Disaster Relief Coordinating Committee will also establish a process to distribute funds from the District’s Colorado Disaster Relief Fund for initiatives proposed by individual Rotary clubs in the district.

We applaud the disaster relief efforts already initiated by several clubs in the district.  Please let DGE Phil Murphy know of your plans so we can assist however possible.

The severe flooding has left so many of our friends and neighbors homeless and stranded.  This is a time that will test our resolve as citizens and Rotarians.  Thank you for all you are doing to help others.  For those directly affected please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.