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From: **Phil Fleming** <philfleming@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Fri, Nov 22, 2013 at 10:04 AM

Subject: Updates

To: ...

Fellow Rotarians...

I got home about 1030 pm last night and was too tired to send out an update.

This morning we had our usual hour+-long multi-agency conference call, with at least 60 voluntary agencies on the call, plus FEMA and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

The breaking news is that a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) will open Saturday at 8AM at Five Points Washington. The MARC will run Sunday thru Tuesday from 8AM to 7PM, and will stay open longer if needed. This is a one-stop shopping point for potential clients / persons affected by the disaster to come, have one intake (so they don't have to repeat their story with each agency), and then meet with voluntary agencies (17 signed up last night, more today) and possibly some local and state agencies for assistance.

FEMA is on the ground doing assessments. In the absence of a Federal disaster declaration, FEMA cannot (by law) provide resources, but they are providing liaisons and assessment teams. It will be next week before all the assessing is done and a determination made for a Federal declaration. In the meantime, state, local, and voluntary agencies are handling things.

Individuals and organizations wanting to volunteer can contact ...

Financial contributions should go to ...

The Tri-County (Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties) Long-Term Recovery Committee will meet Monday at 10:00 AM at the Peoria City/County Health Department, 2116 N. Sheridan Road, Peoria, to coordinate long-term recovery efforts. It may be more than a year from now before things are back to "normal." Immediate needs will also be discussed. Local clubs are welcome to send a representative.

Rotarian (and future District Governor) Steve Hopper of D-6460 is coordinating ..

I visited the Morton Rotary Club yesterday and they had their usual large turnout. One of the Rotarians in that club lost his house in the tornado, and the club has really rallied around him. I had a chance to speak to him about resources, and I also spoke briefly to club about Rotary involvement and what efforts were being made by all the involved agencies and governments. A representative of Tazewell County Emergency Management Agency was a guest and she also spoke about relief efforts. The club also inducted a new member as a Rotarian.

Afterwards, I drove up to Washington through the disaster area on my way to the Red Cross coordination headquarters in Peoria, where I spent the rest of the day working on behalf of the Illinois Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (IL-VOAD) and then attended and spoke at a meeting of the Central Illinois Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) in Peoria.

Today I will be back at coordination headquarters in Peoria by noon.

If you have questions or need more information, please check the two OFFICIAL information sources. The information has been vetted and approved by the Joint Information Center:

www.ready.illinois.gov and On Facebook: Central Illinois Emergency Information.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Phil

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309-696-4089 Voice and/or text

From: **Phil Fleming** <philfleming@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Wed, Nov 20, 2013 at 9:49 PM

Subject: RE: Central Illinois Tornado 11/17/13 Disaster Relief

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Fellow Rotarians:

The day started with an 8AM conference call with voluntary agency partners, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and FEMA. There was a lot of discussion about establishing a multi-agency resource center (MARC) in the four areas affected by the storms (not all I D6460), in Washington, Coal City (NE Illinois), Brookport in Massac County, and Gifford, near Rantoul in Champaign County.

I then went to a very enjoyable Pekin Rotary Club meeting. The Red Cross Shelter at the same location wasn't seeing much activity, but the Rotary Club had a large turnout. The club gave me the results of the 50-50 drawing to send to the D6460 Foundation, and I spoke briefly about how to access help and how Rotary can look at long-term recovery. The club will consider how to respond at future meetings.

I spent the rest of the afternoon and evening at the Red Cross center in Peoria in planning and coordination meetings. It was decided to establish four MARCs, including in Washington. The Washington MARC is scheduled to open Saturday morning, and the partner agencies will be advised to be prepared to move in once the location is nailed down. That is supposed to be tomorrow morning, at a facility run by a Washington Rotarian. Pekin and East Peoria residents will be able to access the Washington MARC. The MARC will be open "as long as necessary."

I have an 8AM conference call tomorrow, followed by a visit to Washington, and then off to the Morton Rotary Club. In the afternoon, I'll be back at the response and recovery headquarters, now moved to the Peoria Civic Center due to the growing number of participating agencies.

Please note: the donation centers are overwhelmed with all kinds of things, and have run out of space. Please emphatically DO NOT send any more clothes, blankets, or bedding. Consumables such as food, pet food, toiletries, and such are still welcome.

Official information for the Central Illinois area can be found on Facebook at Central Illinois Emergency Information. This is vetted and confirmed information, issued by the Joint Information Center through the various county Public Information Officers. Any other Facebook page is NOT official or verified information.

Official information for all the state sites are at www.ready.illinois.org – click on the red banner in the upper center of the page.

If you need more information, please contact me. A text message is the fastest way.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Phil

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