

My fellow Presidents of C.A.R local Associations,

As we all know the town of Paradise was wiped off the map by the Camp Fire - as in gone. A city of nearly 30,000 - nearly 150,000 acres burned and it's still only 60% contained - nearly 13,000 structures, both homes and businesses destroyed, (This includes the Office of the Paradise Association of Realtors). 76 confirmed fatalities and nearly 1300 people still missing. Hundreds of pets dead and missing. Streets, sidewalks, and utilities - most of the infrastructure destroyed.

Imagine our REALTOR® Sisters and Brothers - put yourself in their place:

* That long hard deal you worked so hard on is almost done, it's going to close next week - finally. Now it isn't. Not next week, not ever.

* You finally got those listings you worked so long and hard to get - you just loaded them up and the signs are going up tomorrow. Now, they're not. Not now, not ever.

* You've spent many years making calls and door-knocking and tens of thousands of dollars on marketing, Zillow, Buffini, Ferry, etc, etc, etc, - you're farm is solid and working. All those years of hard work are finally paying off. Now it's gone forever.

* You took that big chance a few years ago, got your Broker License and started your own firm. It was hard at first with long hours and a lot of expenses that came out of your savings, including thousands in TI on the new office, and a lot of sleepless nights, and it's finally paying off - you've got a group of top agents and your market share is rock solid. Not anymore, it's gone.

* Your home is gone - you have no place to live. You have no place to work and no properties to sell. Everything is gone.

What would you do? What would anybody do? The devastation on every level is too hard to comprehend

C.A.R has Disaster Relief Funds that they will match up to \$250,000.00. Pismo Coast AOR Board of Directors held an emergency meeting and voted unanimously to donate \$5,000.00 - \$4000 TO C.A.R.'s Disaster Relief Fund which when match by C.A.R. is \$8,000.00 plus \$1000 to the northern California Association of REALTORS® for directly relief in the form of food & gas VISA cards for the local REALTORS® who lost their homes - and we are just getting started!

Our aim should be to max that fund out and then just keep going. I am asking each of you to join me in donating 1% of your closing fees (more if you're inclined) through the end of January 2019. I am asking this of both Brokerages and Associates, all sides of each deal.

I have spoken to the Presidents of each Association in Region 31, as well as our Region 31 Chair and incoming chair, and, no surprise here, they are all on board. We've contacted Joel Singer (CEO of C.A.R.) and let him know what we're doing and we're asking him to allow us to send this to the President of every Association in the state asking them to join us.

To make your tax-deductible, matching contributions please make checks payable to California Community Foundation and write "C.A.R. Disaster Relief Fund" on the "memo" portion. Send contribution checks to 221 S. Figueroa St, Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Also - week or two after Thanksgiving, Century 21 Hometown is sending their big moving truck full of donated items - and the people need everything. Clothes, toiletries, toys, etc. etc. Drop your donations at any Century 21 Hometown office.

Together we can make this happen. Let's do this ...

Your 2018 Pismo Coast AOR President

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