

Club Puertorriqueño de San Francisco

Letter from Al Ruiz, Club President:

to All Members

Dear Members;

I do not intend to update you on the situation in Puerto Rico; for you probably have more information than me. I would however like to inform you on what your Board of Directors are planning to do. We all have had good and bad news reach us from the Island. Families seem to have held well and survived: I pray that is true for all of us. Just today I finally received news my daughter and brothers are all doing ok. What they had to say is not very encouraging. The structures, vegetation, utilities and many other important aspects within the Island are in a state of chaos.

Needless to say help is needed in every corner of Borinquen. So with that in mind one can't help but ponder on what can we do to help from so far away. Well, checking the internet and watching special news reports you can see many are answering the call for help. Some include your typical relief funds; yet others include J-Lo, JJ Barrea, Marc Anthony, Ricky Martin and Carmelo Anthony to name a few. These people feel like they can help...even a sense of obligation to do so. So, we at the Club Puertorriqueño de San Francisco feel no different. Let it be whatever motivates you, whether you've been there and others helped you before; or because of gratitude for your blessings; or because you still feel part of the Isla and you feel the pain. Trust me, you're not alone and yes we shall say *presente* too.

Your Board of Directors have discussed several options. The most sensible are fund-raisers, seeking corporate donations, personal donations and, an individual club donation. We are looking at incorporating several of these options. So far the plan is to sponsor a Salsa Dance at the club, where all the proceeds will be donated to help Puerto Rico. We propose to bear the cost for the supplies, musicians, permits and any other costs. At the end of the day, all monies received, including bar, kitchen and money collected at the door will be donated to the cause. We will sell food and even have a surprise raffle; so bring your wallet. Although it is early in the planning stages, and unless things change dramatically, Sunday October 22, 2017, seems to be the date; 2:pm–8pm. We intend on making a sizable donation; one befitting of our club history and financial status.

On a personal note, I intend to go to PR and spend some time helping rebuild. I'm also reaching out to friends and colleagues asking for help, directing all donations to the club; for accountability and greater impact. So far my families at the Salinas Police Department have answered my call for help and they're sponsoring a Zumba-thon at their PAL building. I will keep you posted on this, but if you have the time do attend (call me).

So, I ask that you attend our next meeting, Oct-15th, 2017. There will be special emphasis on Puerto Rico's need for help. See you there.

Sincerely yours,

Al Ruiz, President