

WAVOAD General Meeting

February 2, 2020, 10:00 am

Zoom Meeting led by Meghan O'Hara, WaVOAD President, American Red Cross

In Attendance

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| Meghan O'Hara – American Red Cross, WaVOAD President | Patty Baker – Episcopal Relief and Development |
| Marty Grisham – LDS Charities, WaVOAD Vice-President | David Zablony – Habitat for Humanity |
| Kathy Bryson – UMC/UMCOR, WaVOAD Secretary | April Dembeck - NVOAD |
| Dave Baylor – Episcopal Relief and Development, WaVOAD Treasurer | Cindi Barker – Seattle Emergency HUBS |
| Andrew Chadick – Jewish Federation | Patty Marsh – Adventist Community Services |
| Eric Williams – Second Harvest | Ray Shjerven – SWWS ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response |
| Fandy Tsai – Tzu Chi Foundation | Jason Hetherington – Wa St Mental, Behavioral Health |
| Her Kait – Tzu Chi Foundation | Laurie Boss – Episcopal Diocese of Spokane |
| Kathleen Voss – American Red Cross | Forrest Wilkenson – Church of the Brethren |
| Michelle WhiteEagle – Mennonite Disaster Service | Larry Mays – Adventist Disaster Services |
| Colette Newer – Adventist Community Services | Jill Watson – City of Seattle |
| Gerry Bozarth – Spokane Co EMD, Pine Creek LTRG | Kayla Sainati |
| Deborah Witmer – City of Seattle | Bob Moore – Adventist Disaster Response |
| Trevor Covington – Wa St Mental and Behavioral Health | Terri Giles – FEMA Region X VAL |
| Randy Bode – World Renew | Bill Gillespie – Search and Rescue Advisory Council |
| Shaun Jones – Salvation Army | |

Meeting called to order by Meghan O'Hara for February 2, 2021 at 10:04pm

Minutes Review

The minutes from the December 1, 2020 general meeting were reviewed and presented by Kathy Bryson. Dave Baylor moved to accept. Andrew Chadick second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Financial Review

Dave Baylor presented the financials from January 1 – January 31, 2021. Eight dues renewal checks received totaling \$960 added to the account balance of \$18,364.57. Disbursements were \$80.85 for the WaVOAD domain name. Account balance as of January 31, 2021 is \$18,273.72 in the checking account. The savings account year start balance is \$5,488.03. There was .09 of income interest for a January 31 balance of \$5,488.12.

Patti Baker inquired if monies from the checking account could be moved to the savings account. The Leadership Board will review this during the March meeting. Marty Grisham moved to accept. Patti Baker second the motion. The motion to accept the financial report was passed unanimously. Meghan O'Hara added that WaVOAD badges or logo materials might be considered. There has also been conversation about doing a conference or workshop for emergency managers to help them better understand what the WaVOAD does.

Dave Baylor mentioned that the NVOAD has a process of voting that includes seeking objections and if there are none, the motion passes.

President's Report

Meghan brought up the proposal to amend the membership bylaws. The deadline to consider this change missed this meeting's deadline by one day. Dave recommended to postpone until the next general meeting in April as per the notification guidance. The change, under Article 6, A - Leadership Team, and would include a change in the secretary and treasurer positions to: "and two consecutive years for Secretary and Treasurer to be elected on the off Terms of the President and Vice President, to provide continuity."

Couple of reminders:

The WaVOAD general membership meeting is the first Tuesday of every other month beginning February – dates are April 6, June 1, August 3, October 5, December 1. The hope before the end of this calendar year is to do some of these meetings in person.

NVOAD is having their virtual conference May 17-20, 2021. More information to come out. Looking at Baltimore, Maryland for the 2022 meeting, 2023 in St Louis, Mo.

Ray Shjervin asked about the Mountain West VOAD meeting status. Andrew Chadick confirmed with the Mt West VOAD representatives that there will not be a 2021 conference.

Long Term Recovery Group Report Outs

Blue Mountain Region LTRG – Kathy Bryson reported that the Unmet Needs Roundtable have moved their meetings times to every other week. Cases are being presented. There are current needs for a construction manager position, insulation and skirting installation in a mobile home part.

Okanogan County LTRG – Carlene Anders reported that they just hired an ESL disaster case manager to take on between 16-30 Hispanic client cases. WAMS group of Montana have built 30 10x12 sheds with CAM to help survivors with storage until rebuild starts in the spring. Doesn't have status of clean up in Douglas County. A Douglas Co and Bridgeport area metal clean-up was completed late Fall. There were problems with dumping debris at the landfill – the OCLTRG is looking into the situation. They are doing volunteer coordination, with 2.5 DCMs currently working 144 open cases. They just housed a large family that had been separated into a home.

Gerry Bozarth, representing **Spokane County Emergency Management and the Pine Creek Community Restoration** reported that there's lots going in the Spokane area including vaccinations and supporting the health department. Regarding Pine Creek, there was a recent change in board membership to five members due to resignations. The PA and IA Declaration requests are in review with the new administration and he anticipates a decision to be forthcoming. The Mennonites and Amish from Montana have committed to build two smaller homes for families selected by them. They'll be staying in a rented house near Malden. The

owner of No Lie Brewery raised about \$100,000 for survivors that are being held at United Way. Funds are to be distributed on a tier system through an online application process. He added that the new mayor Dan Harwood has been a huge asset in moving the town forward.

Member Report Outs

Cindi Barker, representing **Seattle HUBS**, provided an oral and written update on their groups involvement with the Washington State Good Samaritan Law. She gave a brief history of the Seattle HUBS. The proposed update to the Wa St Good Samaritan Law would expand the coverage to include “non-medical” provision. See Cindi’s written report for details:

Hubs Briefing on Good Samaritan Law change Requested by Seattle Hubs - House Bill 1209

- Background
- The bill as introduced
- Actions for Hubs or supporters - please write your legislators!
- Summary “talking points” for letters or testimony

Background

The current Washington State Good Samaritan Law covers only medical aid given in times of a disaster. The requested addition, extends the existing law to include non-medical aid given in times of disaster. Representatives from the Seattle Emergency Communications Hubs sent a letter to Rep. Eileen Cody asking her to sponsor the bill and it is now moving through the legislative process. It was read into the record last Friday and is now scheduled for its first public hearing on Jan 26 10:00 am at the Civil Rights and Judiciary Committee. Here is the link to the webpage for the House Bill, HB1209 should you want to track what’s going on and to read the full 2 pages of the

bill. <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=1209&Year=2021&Initiative=False>

The words in the bill excerpted below are the same as the hubs coordinated with legislative staff:

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. A new section is added to chapter 4.24 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Any person who, without compensation or the expectation of compensation, renders nonmedical care or assistance at the scene of an emergency or disaster shall not be liable for civil damages resulting from any act or omission in the rendering of such care or assistance other than acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

And

(b) "Emergency or disaster" means an event or set of circumstances that:

(i) Demands immediate action to preserve public health, protect life, protect public property, or to provide relief to any stricken community overtaken by such occurrence; or

(ii) Reaches such a dimension or degree of destructiveness as to warrant the governor declaring a state of emergency pursuant to RCW 43.06.010.

(c) "Nonmedical care or assistance" includes rescue operations as well as the provision of such necessities and amenities as food, supplies, shelter, transportation, and child care.

The rest of the words in the bill cover who this change does not apply to (professionals or others receiving compensation or others already covered by emergency worker coverage).

Actions needed to support this bill into law

If you would like to **write a letter of support, or also provide public comment**, here’s how

Written testimony: Go to this link (it's on the HB1209 home page) and submit electronically <https://app.leg.wa.gov/pbc/bill/1209>

How to Register to Testify Remotely go to this link <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csiremote/house>

1. Select the committee (House: Civil Rights and Judiciary) and meeting date and time (Jan 26, 10:00 am), then select the bill for which you would like to testify remotely (HB 1209).
2. Select "I would like to Testify Live During the Hearing." Remote testimony registration will close 1 hour before the start time of the hearing. Anyone who does not register before this deadline will be unable to testify before the committee.
3. Ensure your registration information is accurate. It will be a part of the legislative record and used by TVW for online and television graphics.

Summary "talking points" for letters or testimony

High level "talking points" are included below, The full letter that sent to request the bill is available at : https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yXAZCST_Sov-AALtDb8F4ASqMPY88FoM?usp=sharing

- I support this bill.
- Emergency Managers throughout the State of Washington work to help their residents prepare for disaster and build community resilience as their resources will be overwhelmed in a major disaster.
- The Good Samaritan Law as written currently covers only medical assistance. In a major disaster, if neighbors are going to help neighbors, as is promoted by emergency management across the state, then the state should extend the law and its liability coverage to those volunteers.
- CERT programs, medical and first responders, as well other emergency worker volunteer teams will NOT be affected by this change, and will provide those teams with more willing and protected people who will help them in a disaster.
- Also you can provide examples of when and why this would make a difference

This bill, should it rightly pass through the house, it will be picked up by the Senate, and will get an SB number that doesn't match the HB number. When the companion bill is in the Senate, it will also need to be advocated for there.

Cindi Barker and Catherine Weatbrook
Seattle Emergency Communications Hubs

<http://seattleemergencyhubs.org/>

Bill Gillespie (Search and Rescue Advisory Council) asked about emergency worker card coverage which Cindi said doesn't apply to their organization. Bill also said counties can meet the emergency worker coverage if they meet criteria designated by the county and State. Cindi said Jason Bearman in Snohomish was working on a field registration program for his emergency workers and could be a good resource. Gerry Bozarth mentioned that a volunteer registered in one county can work in other counties and be covered under the liability protections. The criteria are that volunteers have to be requested by the County Emergency Manager of the requesting county and there has to be a mission number.

Marty Grisham updated on Wa State ESF6 Mental and Behavioral Health meetings: The group cut back meetings to every other week. They're finding demand is dropping a bit. In the area of professional mental health they're seeing an increase for support needs. Marty emphasized that as a group WaVOAD doesn't provide support but that the individual organizations at the local level may have involvement. Marty introduced **Trevor Covington** for further Mental and Behavioral Health updates as well as updates on State vaccine status.

Trevor Covington, joined by **Jason Hetherington**, reported out that there is a shift towards supporting vaccine efforts. Crews are setting up "point of dispensing" or PODs being run by public and private partnerships. He also mentioned this is a rapidly changing strategy. For example, shifting towards mass vaccinations as vaccines become more available. Currently to get a vaccination a person needs to be in the appropriate phase and schedule a vaccination appointment. <https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/COVID19/Vaccine> There is a broad link to sign up as a health volunteer: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/what-you-need-know/how-you-can-help/community-health-volunteer> Trevor also mentioned to search local counties, health department for potential volunteer opportunities.

Trevor also reported out on his Mental and Behavioral Health committee meetings. Washington Health is running the Wa Listens line: <https://waportal.org/partners/home/WaListens> They're also involved with tracking surge, impacts, messaging. He provided the monthly status link: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/1600/coronavirus/BHG-COVID19StatewideSummaryForecaseofBHImpacts-Jan2021Update.pdf> Keep in mind we're in the "disillusive" stage of the disaster cycle – the gap between where we are and where we'd like to be. This is the highest stage of depression and anxiety, where most concerned of suicide risk. We'll start to see that recovery period progress as we move to the new normal. They're also concerned about pediatric surges and looking at what they can do to address. They're looking to assist with school guidance, behavioral health messaging campaigns and standing up assistance for those campaigns. The most common reaction to disasters is resilience and most people will return to their pre-disaster baseline once we hit reconstruction. What can WaVOAD organizations do? Focus on individual organizational resilience. Create opportunities for people to connect. Finding purpose – can be big or small. Reframing problems as challenges – things we can solve. Knowing eventually we'll get back to a new normal.

Terri Giles, FEMA Region X, VAL, joined the conversation adding that FEMA supports the States, whether it's planning teams, logistics, whatever the State may need assistance with as they gear up. She anticipated involvement as early as this month. She anticipates the volunteer organizations may be asked what their capability may be to assist. She also mentioned that NVOAD may ask what the WaVOAD organizations positions may be across the State.

Eric Williams, from **Second Harvest**, reported that they are wrestling with a shortage of volunteers and are incredibly grateful for the National Guard help. He said the Guard will be demobilizing in mid-March from food distribution support.

Dave Baylor introduced **Randy Bode** who is now representing **World Renew**.

Michelle WhiteEagle, representing **Mennonite Disaster Services**, reported that the Mennonite and Amish teams building in Malden are a different organization than who she represents. She emphasized that MDS is very interested in helping with Okanogan Co and Malden through the long term recovery groups.

Kathy Bryson, representing **PNW UMC Disaster Response/UMCOR**, mentioned that disaster case managers are now in place for the Okanogan Co LTRG, Pine Creek Community Restoration LTRO and the Blue Mountain Region LTRG.

Patty Marsh, representing **Adventist Community Services**, had information that the Mountain West VOAD will not be holding the 2021 conference but planning one for 2022.

Ray Shjerven, representing **SWWS ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response**, asked Kathy Bryson about the Early Response Team training. Kathy said potentially there could be a class in the Fall but most likely in early 2022.

Jim Mahon, representing **Church of Scientology**, written report-out: Our Volunteer Ministers did stay very active throughout last year supplying local organizations with food, socks, hygiene products, face masks and other essential items; the need was great then and it remains so now.

As you probably already know, churches in Washington State have been allowed to be open at 25% capacity for many months now by order of the Governor, and that also has meant that all governmental protocols on cleaning and sanitizing, etc. have to be met as well. Our church has all the state requirements in place to ensure everyone is safe in our building including masks, gloves, sanitizing stations, social distancing and special decontamination fogging we use each day to ensure our building is a safe space for everyone.

As a public service we are inviting our friends and neighbors into our church for a short event - a presentation on what our church has been doing locally and around the world to help keep people safe during these difficult times. We have daily showings of this presentation on Monday-Friday at 10:30, 2 and 7 pm and on the weekends at 10:30 and 2 at the Church of Scientology, 300 W Harrison, Seattle WA 98119. For additional information call 206-284-0604.

Next WaVOAD General Membership Meeting: Tuesday, April 6 at 10:00am. Information will be sent out at least a week prior including information on the proposed bylaws amendment.

Additional information can be found on the VOAD calendar at <http://www.wavoad.org/cms/node/147> or the affiliate links listed on the agenda.

Future General Meeting Dates and Locations

- **April 6, 2021 – Zoom Meeting**
- **June 1, 2021**
- **August 3, 2021**

- October 5, 2021
- December 7, 2021

*Meeting adjourned by Meghan O'Hara approximately 11:54 am.
Respectfully submitted by Kathy Bryson, WaVOAD secretary.*

DRAFT