

# WAVOAD General Meeting

June 1, 2021, 10:00 am

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

## In Attendance

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	Kim Maxfield – Washington Masonic Charities
Jim Truitt – GNW UMC	Scott Hokanson – Pine Creek Community Restoration
Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology	Laurie Boss – Episcopal Diocese of Spokane
Kathleen Voss – American Red Cross	Forrest Wilkinson – Church of the Brethren
Michelle WhiteEagle – Mennonite Disaster Service	Shaun Jones – Salvation Army
Colette Newer – Adventist Community Services	Jill Watson – City of Seattle
Gerry Bozarth – Spokane Co EMD, Pine Creek LTRG	David Reinholz – Blue Mt Region LTRG
Randy Bode – World Renew Disaster Response	Christy Lieuallen – Blue Mt Region LTRG
Christian Burgess – Vibrant Emotional Health	Zoe Vineyard – Church of Scientology
Kiana Kabanje – Wa State Emergency Management	Teri Giles – FEMA Region X VAL
Christina Lunt – Global Support and Development	Ann Forrest – City of Seattle
Patty Baker – Episcopal Disaster Relief	

*Meeting called to order by Meghan O'Hara for June 1, 2021 at 10:00am*

## Minutes Review

The minutes from the April 6, 2021 general meeting were reviewed and presented by Kathy Bryson. Kathy announced that the meeting minutes are posted on the WaVOAD website prior to the next meeting. Dave Baylor moved to accept. Marty Grisham second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

## Financial Review

Dave Baylor presented the financials from January 1 – May 31, 2021. Total deposits from dues paid were \$3240.00. Disbursements were \$180.85 including a \$100 NVOAD registration sponsorship. Account balance as of May 31, 2021 is \$20,453.72 in the checking account. The savings account year start balance is \$5,488.03. There was .44 of income interest for a May 31 balance of \$5,488.47. Kathy Bryson moved to accept. Jim Truitt second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

## President's Report/General Information

Meghan announced that we're embarking on an effort to "clean-up" the email list. Kathy mentioned to use the new online application – all organizations would re-apply with current contact information. Partner agencies could be included in the online application process. The

new membership online form can be found at: [wavoad.org/wavoad-organization-resource-page/](http://wavoad.org/wavoad-organization-resource-page/)

New member applications were presented: Good 360 (<https://good360.org>) who help with item distribution. They're starting to work in Washington State and a NVOAD partner. Impact Northwest (<https://impactnw.org>), a local Washington organization. Motion was made to accept Good 360 as a full member (subject to paying dues) by Patti Baker, second by Marty Grisham. Motion was passed. Motion was made to accept Impact Northwest as a full member (subject to paying dues) by Andrew Chadick, second by Marty Grisham. Motion was passed.

Dave Baylor mentioned that the WaVOAD membership is now at 31 organizations – the highest participation since inception.

### **Long Term Recovery Group Report Outs**

**Pine Creek Community Restoration LTRO - Scott Hokonson**, representing as the **Project Director for the Pine Creek Community Restoration**. They have a second round of cleaning up coming. There's new legislation being presented called the Malden Act, will require a written request to the President, if not approved or denied within 30 days, to be automatically approved. They've come up with a way to patch in smaller lots with old septic tanks to a new, future system. Elections are coming up so there may be changes in town leadership. Team Rubicon is coming in for about 10 days to take out trees. There's also a state contractor coming in for a second round of clean up.

**Okanogan County LTRG – Carlene Anders**, representing the **Okanogan Long Term Recovery Group**, reported that the DCM team has identified 11 or 12 potential rebuilds, five of which as soon as possible with funding and volunteer collaboration. They're looking at doing team leads from partner organizations. More follow up meetings and anyone interested is welcome to participate. Another AmeriCorp team arriving today from Sacramento for a month. This will be the last of three AmeriCorp teams. The Cold Springs Relief group are doing the larger agriculture fencing. The OCLTRG is doing smaller fencing projects. The estimated cost of materials to rebuild is currently \$120,000. Previous rebuild costs for 2014 phase one was \$70,000, phase three was \$90,000, thus the new materials estimate of \$120,000 including infrastructure and connections. Carlene mentioned the issue for materials quotes – some good for only a day.

**Blue Mountain Region LTRG – Christy Lieuellen**, Co-Chair of the LTRG with David Reinholz reported that the County requested that they hold off on the COAD developing efforts until the County has worked through their COVID issues. Christy and David were meeting with the Umatilla Flood Plain Manager regarding creek repair and looking at what kinds of permits might be needed before volunteer labor is brought in to move debris. They're also meeting with groups from Umatilla and Walla Walla Counties to look at future flood plain management. Six cases left in Washington. There's about 50 percent of cases in both Washington and Oregon are debris removal. About 17 high priority cases in Oregon with repair projects. About 148 open

cases in Oregon. Debris removal will require heavy equipment, lots of trees came down the creeks, lots of dams built up. Will need chain saws, dump trucks, excavators to pick up debris.

### **Guest Presenter**

**Dave Baylor** presented on the recent NVOAD Annual Conference. He pointed out that the NVOAD is a great place to connect though more difficult this year. Many more people could attend this year, more work could get done in between the sessions. Other activities: Three new national representatives to the Board to Representatives. Many new appointments to the NVOAD sub-committees. Feeding America was one of the organizations recognized this year. The State VOAD of the year was Puerto Rico. Partner of the year was the FEMA Donations Team. Innovative program of the year was Save the Children border response. April Dembeck is with the National staff. Proposed bylaw amendment was not approved – National members will remain with voting rights. They're hoping for an in person meeting next year in Baltimore. Marty Grisham encouraged everyone to watch the NVOAD video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KxBebqVGkFk>

Dave also reported on the NVOAD LTRG Committee for 2021/22 that the LTRG guide review and update will be completed in the next couple months. A series of LTRG webinars presented recovery tool breakouts on volunteer management, donations management, construction management, disaster case management and emotional and spiritual care. Goals are to follow up with state and territory VOADs for additional recovery tools workshops. Dave may be previewing these tools to the WaVOAD in the future including LTRG financial management, grant writing and communications. They're creating a work group on diversity and inclusion that will coordinate with the task force of the NVOAD board (DEI task force). They're considering the feasibility for a catalogue of LTRG resources from across the membership.

### **Member Report Outs**

**Collette Newer**, representing Adventist Disaster Services, reported that Patty Marsh and Larry Mays are involved in the Malden recovery.

**Meghan O'Hara**, representing **American Red Cross**, reported that starting June 7 their primary means of sheltering will be going back to congregant, they'll not be doing hotels like this last year. There's a national exercise currently underway to test all their systems.

**Jim Mahon**, representing **Church of Scientology**, reported they are still helping out the local food bank and local businesses in Queen Anne. They've been helping Mary's Place with food support.

**Patty Baker**, representing **Episcopal Disaster Relief**, reported that they're serving in the Paradise Fire recovery in California and were just awarded a grant to be the disaster coordinator for their entire dioceses to help with mitigation and resilience training.

**Dave Zablotny**, representing **Habitat for Humanity**, reported that he continues to stay in touch with the Palouse affiliate for potential Pine Creek Community recovery efforts.

**Michelle WhiteEagle**, representing **Mennonite Disaster Services**, reported that she meet with other in Pateros and working through the process to develop a response with MDS.

**Eric Williams**, representing **Second Harvest**, reported that the food need numbers for the first three months of 2021 is above 2020. They've been working with various groups to do pop-up clinics at their mobile markets but has presented challenges.

**Shaun Jones**, representing **Salvation Army**, reported that they've been busy in the Okanogan Co funding efforts. They're also busy in planning for Cascadia.

**Kathy Bryson**, representing the **PNW United Methodist Disaster Response**, reported that they continue to represent in all three current LTRGs. They're evaluating how to put their Early Response Teams and recovery teams back in the field as Federal, State and local guidelines evolve. They've been setting up regional supply centers and now have six church locations storing UMCOR cleaning/hygiene/school kits, ash sifter kits and a supplemental "soot sponge" kit. **Jim Truitt** mentioned he was working with Alaska on wildfires and the Haines mudslide and a potential of 30 impacted homes.

**Christian Burgess**, representing **Vibrant Emotional Health** provided a written summary of his report: Administered by Vibrant Emotional Health for the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Disaster Distress Helpline (DDH) is a 24/7, year-round, confidential, multi-lingual crisis counseling and emotional support resource for survivors, responders, and anyone in the U.S. struggling with distress or other mental health concerns related to any natural or human-caused disaster. Deaf and hard of hearing people may be especially at risk for disaster-related distress. Barriers to accessibility for mental healthcare, emergency preparedness, and disaster relief services are just a few risk factors that Deaf/HoH people face throughout the disaster cycle. To address this, the DDH Videophone ("DDH VP") is a new service option offering a 24/7 direct connection to trained DDH counselors fluent in American Sign Language (ASL). People who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or anyone for whom ASL is their primary or preferred language can dial the DDH hotline 1-800-985-5990 via their videophone-enabled device OR access the "ASL Now" option via the DDH website at <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline>. For more information or any questions about the DDH VP, email [ddh@vibrant.org](mailto:ddh@vibrant.org).

Vibrant is also seeking applications for part-time, flexible schedule, remote, hourly (\$18/hr) DDH Peer Supporter positions:

- Applicants will need to identify as being a part of 1 of 3 specific populations we're targeting for our new Online Peer Support Communities program: 1) Healthcare Workers; 2) Parents and Caregivers of Children & Youth; or 3) Survivors of Mass Shootings.
- DDH Online Peer Support Communities (DDH OPSCs) are private, members-only Facebook groups where people across the U.S. who have been impacted by natural

- or human-caused disasters can connect with others from similar backgrounds/experiences for mutual aid and support during recovery.
- DDH Peer Supporters will receive training in peer support and be responsible for initiating discussions in the communities on relevant topics, responding to posts and comments from community members, and sharing trusted resources for follow-up care and support.
- To learn more about each position and submit an application to become a DDH Peer Supporter in one of the three targeted communities (again, applicants must identify as being a part of the community to which they are applying) visit <https://www.vibrant.org/get-involved/work-for-us/>.
- To learn more about the DDH Online Peer Support initiative, visit <https://strengthafterdisaster.org/peer-support/> or email [ddh@vibrant.org](mailto:ddh@vibrant.org).”

**Randy Bode**, representing **World Renew**, reported that they are working with five LTRGs in Oregon for needs assessments.

#### **Other Report-Outs**

**Terry Giles**, representing **FEMA Region 10 VAL**, reported that Franchesca Gilbert has taken a job with the Corp of Engineers. Terry has been assigned to the WaVOAD. ESF6 workshop coming up on best practices, next disaster season, as be highlighting what the VOADs have done – June 17. She mentioned the FEMA funeral assistance program for \$9,000 per person benefit. Information on the FEMA.gov website. They’re also working on a Cascadia plan update and exercise.

**Jill Waston**, representing **City of Seattle**, reported that the Office of Emergency Management in Seattle is managing a series of once-a-month earthquake preparedness and response plan sessions. Information on the 6:00-7:30pm evening sessions and recordings are available at: [www.seattle.gov/emergency-management/about-us/event-calendar](http://www.seattle.gov/emergency-management/about-us/event-calendar). Vaccination clinics are closing but they’re working on targeted vaccine clinics. Information available at <http://seattle.gov/mayor/covid-19/vaccinations> They’re also looking at clean air sites and cooling centers that may of not been available last year. They’re gearing up on Cascadia earthquake planning at the State level. Jill will be coordinating the ESF6 side with the State.

**Cindy Barker**, representing the **Seattle HUBs**, reported that they are working on a process to stand up an earthquake response in the middle of a pandemic. Signs are made in the seven tier languages and will test in September during a field exercise. Also working on a just in time guide for people that may have to stand up an “emergent shelter” for anyone with a big space, hoping to de an exercise in September. The new Good Samaritan Law becomes effective July 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Next WaVOAD General Membership Meeting:** Tuesday, August 3 at 10:00am. Information will be sent out at least a week prior.

*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**

- **August 3, 2021**
- **October 5, 2021**
- **December 7, 2021**

*Meeting adjourned by Marty Grisham at approximately 11:49 am.  
Respectfully submitted by Kathy Bryson, WaVOAD secretary.*