

WAVOAD General Meeting

October 5, 2021

Zoom Meeting led by Marty Grisham, WaVOAD Vice President, LDS Charities

In Attendance

Marty Grisham – LDS Charities, WaVOAD Vice President	Hank Cramer – Pine Creek Community Restoration/Malden, Pine City
Kathy Bryson – PNW UMC Disaster Response, WaVOAD Secretary	Christian Burgess – Vibrant Emotional Health
Dave Baylor – Episcopal Relief and Development, WaVOAD Treasurer	Carlene Anders – Okanogan County LTRG
Andrew Chadick – Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle	Terri Giles – FEMA Region 10
Eric Williams – Second Harvest	Fandy Tsai – Tzu Chi
April Dembeck - NVOAD	Deborah Witmer – City of Seattle
Shaun Jones – Salvation Army	Cindi Barter – Seattle Hubs
Laurie Boss – Episcopal Diocese of Spokane	Her Kait – Tzu Chi
Patty Baker – Episcopal Disaster Services	Hongwen Chargin – Tzu Chi
Kathleen Voss – American Red Cross	Ray Shjerven – SWWS ELCA
Bill Gillespie - WaSARVAC	

Meeting called to order by Marty Grisham for October 5, 2021 at 10:01am

Minutes Review

The minutes from the August 3, 2021 general meeting were presented by Kathy Bryson with no corrections. Ray Shjervin moved to accept. There was a second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Financial Review

Financials from January 1 – September 30, 2021 were reviewed. The balance in the checking accounts as of September 30 was \$20,693.72. The savings account balance was \$5,488.83. Kathy Bryson moved to accept. Eric Williams second the motion. The motion to approve the financial statement was unanimous.

President's Report/General Information

Marty Grisham reported that he's actively involved in the Afghan refugee resettlement in Washington. Federal Way has a hotel that will be used. DSHS leading the coordination effort. The major challenge will be housing. WaVOAD members are invited to contact DSHS direct. Several WaVOAD members expressed interest in finding out point of contacts to offer support.

This is an election period for WaVOAD. Open positions are Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Contact Meghan Ohara or Marty with interest in the positions. WaVOAD members were encouraged to update current information through the online member application.

Member Poll on meeting preference. A live poll was launched during the meeting to find out attendee meeting preferences. Results indicated that 72% of meeting attendees preferred a

Zoom format, 28% in person. Majority indicated they were willing to attend an in person meeting, if offered. South Seattle was first choice for in person meetings (50%) then Central Seattle (44%), Eastern/Central Washington (22%).

Guest Presentations

Bill Gillespie presented on **Washington State Search and Rescue Volunteer Advisory Council (SARVAC)**. 22 counties have active search and rescue programs. SARVAC is the coordinating body with the State. All search and rescue volunteers are both background checked and have gone through an application process with both the Sheriff's office and local emergency manager office. Many participants are CERT training. Participants are training in efforts outside of search and rescue – work with local Sheriffs during fires, traffic control, evacuation notifications, transport (both people and animals). All participants are registered emergency workers which gives them indemnification and immunity when staying within their training. Training is provided to fill, lift stack and load/unload sandbags and support in active areas of the National Guard, Coast Guard, National Forest, Navy (Whidby), Airlift, Life Flight, multiple county helicopter programs. To become involved, go to County websites for information on their SARC team. Training is also available to teams and communities through a new one-day intensive program on keeping families, dwellings, neighbors safe. Bill also mentioned that our volunteers are eligible to be emergency workers. Apply through the County emergency management program to get the status and State EMD mission number associated with the event. Bill made a request to WaVOAD members for volunteer management training.

Dave Baylor, in his role with the **National VOAD LTRG Committee**, shared that the group has been developing a number of "Recovery Tool Workshops" which are now available in volunteer management, donations management, construction management, disaster case management, emotional and spiritual care. Two new workshops are in development – grant development/financial management and communications. These tools can be presented by recognized subject matter experts. Dave focused today on the volunteer management presentation tool.

Long Term Recovery Group Report-outs

Hank Cramer, representing the **Pine Creek Community Restoration recovery**, reported that the most vital need right now is volunteer build housing for survivors. 27 families have already wintered over in temporary RV housing. The Western Anabaptist Ministries from Montana have volunteered to build survivor pre-fabricated homes in a limited time frame. Two were built early in 2021, with plans to build six two-bedroom houses in January and February 2022 with an estimated cost of \$150,000 per home.

Carlene Anders, representing the **Okanogan Long Term Recovery Group**, shared that there are six, with a possible seventh, on the brink of rebuild. Restoration Hope is there doing dirt work. Of the six homes, four are veterans, four have disabilities, five are elderly, the sixth is a single father of our children. Of the six, three are on the reservation. Two are in Douglas County, four are in Okanogan County. Cost of building has increased. Homes were originally budgeted at \$120,000 and now at \$130,000. Permits are done. Foundation pours are starting next week.

United Methodist Volunteers in Mission and North Creek Presbyterian Church volunteers will start in October. A Mennonite Disaster Service team from Pennsylvania will arrive in November to help with dry-ins. There's a distance challenge in that there's 2.5 hours between the furthest north and south homes.

Any interested volunteers and/or volunteer organizations can reach out directly to the two recovery groups through their Volunteer Coordinators at:

Pine Creek Community Restoration – Doug Arlt: dougarlt@gmail.com

Okanogan County LTRG – Amiee Bannwarth: amieeocdcm@gmail.com (605)941-2229

Member Report Outs

April Dembeck, representing **National VOAD**, reported that they're having their Fall members meeting this month for primary and secondary members of each state and territory VOAD. They're still anticipating the Annual Conference to be in person. Any changes will be decided early 2022. There's a Lowe's grant of which Washington State VOAD members with national VOAD ties is eligible. No applications were received so the deadline has been extended to this Thursday. Email April at april@nvoad.org for more information. The amount for Washington is \$10,000-20,000. Details can be found at: [Lowes Reconstruction Grant RFP 2021.pdf \(d31hzhkh6di2h5.cloudfront.net\)](https://www.dropbox.com/s/d31hzhkh6di2h5/Lowes_Reconstruction_Grant_RFP_2021.pdf?dl=1)

Terri Giles, representing **FEMA Region 10**, reported they don't yet have a permanent regional VAL. FEMA funeral assistance is still available: [COVID-19 Funeral Assistance | FEMA.gov](https://www.fema.gov/covid-19-funeral-assistance). The Cascadia Rising exercise that was to be held in June 2022 has been rescoped with a focus on targeted engagements including webinar, seminars, workshops and tabletop exercises. This is a scale back from the original functional exercise.

Kathy Bryson, representing **Pacific Northwest United Methodist Church Disaster Response**, reported that UMCOR is supporting the Afghan resettlement through a partnership with Church World Service. UMCOR just provided approval to teach a remote Early Response Team Basic Training which will be presenting the first part of December. The preparedness program Connecting Neighbors is also now available in a remote teaching format.

Dave Baylor, representing **Episcopal Relief & Development**, reported that are involved with the latest resettlements in Haiti, partnering with local organizations to provide tents, taking food packets out to the providences in the resettlement area.

Shaun Jones, representing **Salvation Army**, reported that they're looking to hire a couple more people.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

- December 7, 2021..... Zoom format

Meeting adjourned by Marty Grisham approximately 12:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Bryson, WaVOAD secretary