

WAVOAD General Meeting

December 7, 2021

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

In Attendance

Marty Grisham – LDS Charities, WaVOAD Vice President	Randy Bode – World Renew
Kathy Bryson – PNW UMC Disaster Response, WaVOAD Secretary	Larry Mays – Adventist Disaster Services
Dave Baylor – Episcopal Relief and Development, WaVOAD Treasurer	Carlene Anders – Okanogan County LTRG
Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology	Terri Giles – FEMA Region 10
Eric Williams – Second Harvest	Fandy Tsai – Tzu Chi
April Dembeck - NVOAD	Jill Watson – City of Seattle
Shaun Jones – Salvation Army	Cindi Barker – Seattle Hubs
Laurie Boss – Episcopal Diocese of Spokane	Chuck Massena – Southern Baptist Disaster Relief
Patty Baker – Episcopal Relief and Development	Hongwen Charn – Tzu Chi
Andrew Bogar – American Red Cross	Ray Shjerven – SWWS ELCA
Bill Gillespie - WaSARVAC	Dave Zablotny – Habitat for Humanity
Chiung-Yao Chen	Lauren Hazen – Salvation Army
Geri Chumley – Whatcom Co EOC	Greg Sobotta
Robert Russell	Faun Dublin
Sarah Peterson – Wa St DSHS Afghan Resettlement	Travis Linares-Hengen – Wa State EMD

Meeting called to order by Marty Grisham for December 7, 2021 at 10:00am

Minutes Review

The minutes from the October 3, 2021 general meeting were presented by Kathy Bryson with no corrections. Dave Baylor moved to accept. Jim Mahon offered the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Financial Review

Financials from January 1 – November 30, 2021 were reviewed. The balance in the checking accounts as of was \$20,693.72. The savings account balance was \$5,489.01. Eric Williams moved to accept. Randy Bode second the motion. The motion to approve the financial statement was unanimous. Discussion followed on ways to spend both the checking and savings account funds. Suggestions included training, National VOAD attendance, WaVOAD membership gathering.

President's Report/General Information

The slate of new officers was presented for election:

Marty Grisham – President (two year term); Kathy Bryson – Vice President (two year term); Dave Zablotny – Secretary (one year term); Ray Shjerven (one year term) – Treasurer; Members-at-Large – Jim Mahon, Andrew Chadick, Dave Baylor.

A motion was made by Bill Gillespie to elect the slate as presented, Randy Bode second the motion. Motion to accept the slate as presented was unanimously passed.

Western Washington Flood Situation Report

Andrew Bogar from **American Red Cross** reported that they are winding down their immediate response and turning over to the local chapter. His goal was to bring the several response agencies together such as WhatcomStrong, Whatcom County EOC, Whatcom County COAD. Clallam County putting together a local "VOAD" lead by the United Way. They've closed down all mass care shelters. There is sheltering at a local farm. Whatcom County just put together their long-term recovery task force. The local Red Cross will be the point of contact going forward.

Dave Baylor reported that the WaVOAD has been hosting daily 4:30pm situation report Zoom meetings the past two weeks involving State representatives, FEMA VALs, active WaVOAD members. It was determined that the meeting would be shut down unless a need came up.

Kathy Bryson reported that they sent an ERT-trained damage assessment crew to work with the County in assessing the affected unincorporated areas. They assessed about 60 homes in 3.5 days. Kathy will be traveling to Bellingham to serve with the Whatcom County EOC for the week.

Fandy Tsai reported that members of Tzu Chi distributed tents, sleeping bags, jackets/winter gear in the Mt Vernon area for unhoused people affected by the floods serving about 40 people.

Randy Bode reported that he was in the Whatcom County area. Met with the mayor of Lynden. Shared information about long term recovery.

Bill Gillespie from SARVAC reported that they had teams out in both Whatcom and Skagit supporting traffic control. One of the CERT teams lost a boat during the search and rescue. Pierce County has supplies ready to go, if needed.

Travis Linares-Hengen from Wa St EMD reported that the State EOC is still activated. Primarily focused on Whatcom County at this time, but did support Clallam and Skagit Counties. Activated ESF6, probably de-activating soon. Focusing on data to support an individual and public assistance declaration. Deadline is December 9, 2021, looking at requesting a deadline extension. They've been working with the Counties to do the home damage assessments. They spent six days on the road assessing homes, mostly in Whatcom County. Clallam and Skagit Counties were included in the assessments. Between the three counties 915 homes total, of those 16 unaffected, 205 affected, 360 minimum damage, 315 major damage, 11 destroyed, 8 inaccessible. Lots of factors in a FEMA IA declaration, not a specific threshold. FEMA is now evaluating this information. Travis announced he is leaving his position at the end of the year.

Shaun Jones, Salvation Army reported that they served 3200 meals while in Whatcom County. Total costs \$47,000. They helped Tzu Chi. They now have a large warehouse to pull supplies from.

Cindi Barker, Seattle HUBS reported that “Partners in Emergency Preparedness” (PIEP) three days of seminars is coming up again in 2022. She mentioned that County Emergency Managers could benefit by participating.

Guest Presentations

Sarah Peterson, Washington State DSHS Refugee Coordinator for the Afghanistan Resettlement gave an overview of past resettlement activities as well as current Afghan resettlement activities. Wa State has five resettlement agencies: World Relief, Lutheran Community Services (LCSNW), Episcopal Relief and Development Diocese of Olympia, Jewish Family Services (JFS), International Rescue Committee (IRC) throughout eight counties. Total arrivals are 1,628 during 2021-2022. The people are coming through Operation Allies Welcome (OAW). The refugees were brought to the US and resided in eight military bases across the US called “safe havens”. The US government is now focused on bringing people into communities through the resettlement agencies. Website for more information:

<https://dshs.wa.gov/welcomeafghans/>

Long Term Recovery Group Report-outs

Carlene Anders, representing the **Okanogan Long Term Recovery Group**, working on seven rebuild homes from the 2020 wildfire. Three are now dried in. Teams coming in this next week to put up walls, roofs. Volunteers coming in from Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS) and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission to do the construction work. They’ve 150 mile spread between the furthest north (Oroville) and south (Coulee City) homes that are being built. They’re looking for plumbers and electricians. MDS has teams arriving January 15 for two months. Looking for volunteers to tie into this group. They received a \$500,000 grant from American Red Cross for the 2020 wildfire rebuild. The OCLTRG and the Disaster Leadership Team have made themselves available to the State for current long term recovery efforts.

Kathy Bryson, representing the **Pine Creek Community Restoration recovery**, reported that foundations have been poured for six volunteer built homes in preparation for the Western Anabaptist Missionaries to come in with their rebuild teams on January 3. They’ve been pre-fabbing the walls, flatbedding to the sites. WaVOAD members are welcome to join the unmet needs roundtable with money, labor or materials. Out of the original 84 referrals, 38 cases remain open including the six rebuild homes, and several SBA-qualified homes. Kathy also mentioned the **Blue Mountain LTRG** (from the 2020 floods) Washington/Oregon recovery are down to their last 2-3 cases in Oregon out of 500 plus cases.

Member Report Outs

Jim Mahon, representing **Church of Scientology**, reported that they trained several hundred volunteers last year in earthquake response that are ready to assist.

Ray Shjerven, representing **Lutheran Disaster Response**, reported that he will now be representing three synods that fall under that organization.

Larry Mays, representing **Adventist Disaster Services**, commented that WaVOAD should collaborate with the PIEP event and be presenters.

Chuck Massena, representing **Southern Baptist Disaster Relief**, commented that he visited both Whatcom and Skagit Counties. He mentioned that there is an Hispanic church that could be a good resource for the local community.

Marty Grisham offered his appreciation and thanks to Meghan Ohara for her supportive efforts over the past two years as president.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations

- **February 1, 2021..... Zoom format**
- **April 5, 2021**
- **June 7, 2021**
- **August 2, 2021**
- **October 4, 2021**
- **December 6, 2021**

Meeting adjourned by Marty Grisham approximately 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Bryson, WaVOAD secretary