

WAVOAD General Meeting

April 5, 2022

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

In Attendance

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| Marty Grisham – LDS Charities, WaVOAD President | Eric Williams – Second Harvest |
| Kathy Bryson – PNW UMC Disaster Response, WaVOAD Vice President | Patty Baker – Episcopal Disaster Services |
| Dave Zablotsky – Habitat for Humanity, WaVOAD Secretary | Fandy Tsai – Tzu Chi |
| Ray Shjerven – SWWS ELCA, WaVOAD Treasurer | Jill Watson – City of Seattle Human Services |
| Dave Baylor – Episcopal Relief and Development, WaVOAD Member-at-large | Tom Link – St. Vincent DePaul |
| Andrew Chadick – Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle – SAFE Washington, WaVOAD Member-at-large | Kathleen Voss – American Red Cross |
| Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology, WaVOAD Member-at-large | Jason Hetherington – Department of Behavioral Health |
| Randy Bode – World Renew | Ann Forrest – Seattle Emergency Communication HUBS |
| Carlene Anders – ED – Disaster Leadership Team | Lisa Arellano |
| Chad Hammond – Whatcom County LTRG | Ashley Butenschoen – VP Communications Chair - Whatcom County LTRG |
| Geri Chumley – Whatcom County EOC | Cindy Barker – Seattle Emergency HUBS |
| Taylor Hennessey – WA State EMD | Chris Polit – WA State Fire Management (Guest speaker) |

Meeting called to order by Marty Grisham for April 5, 2022, at 10:00am

Minutes Review

The minutes from the February 1, 2022 general meeting were presented with no edits. Ray Shjerven moved to accept. Dave Baylor offered to second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Financial Review

Financials as of March month-end were reviewed. The balance in the checking accounts is \$23,457.99. Income from dues of \$2,880 was received. Expenses totaled \$80.75 for new checks and SOS filing. The savings account balance is \$5088.69. Dave Baylor moved to accept. Eric Williams offered to second the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

President's Report/General Information

Marty Grisham noted that the National VOAD Conference will take place May 2-5 in Baltimore. He encouraged others to attend and noted there is some limited funding available from WaVOAD to assist with expenses. Marty referred to the email distributed in March about financial support. Marty noted he is aware that at least five WaVOAD members are planning on attending including Kathy Bryson, Dave Baylor, Ray Shjerven, Randy Bode and himself.

Marty also clarified the WaVOAD role in local disasters such as major apartment fires that have occurred recently. He explained that our role is to receive information about needs from those directly involved and then communicate those needs out to membership.

Marty touched on the Ukrainian refugee situation as well. He has been in touch with state and local support organizations about this situation. There have been about 40 families that have arrived in the Snohomish area but not through formal channels. He encouraged anyone engaged in these efforts to reach out if support is needed.

Eric Williams said that a few families have come to 2nd Harvest in Spokane, and he asked about who they could be referred to. Marty mentioned Refugee & Immigrant Services NW as a resource.

Cindy Barker mentioned that the Seattle Refugee Fund is receiving donations to assist in these efforts. Seventy percent of these donations will be used to help Ukrainians in Europe and Seattle/King County through the International Rescue Committee and the Ukrainian Community Center of WA and 30% will be used to provide services to other refugees in need in Seattle/King County.

Patty Baker mentioned that Episcopal Migration Ministries is also assisting in resettlement efforts.

Report Outs:

Long term Recovery Updates:

Okanogan County LTRG – Carlene Anders reported that good progress has been made. Four homes are being painted and nearly finished. Foundations have recently been poured for three additional homes. Fifteen volunteers are currently on-site doing framing work and they are looking for additional volunteers. They do have housing available for volunteers. A group from Team Rubicon is scheduled to volunteer in June and MDS also has a group scheduled. Carlene also mentioned they are still doing case management relating to the 20-21 declaration with the Colville Confederated Tribes.

Pine Creek Community Restoration – Kathy Bryson reported that six homes constructed by the Western Anabaptist missionaries from Montana have now been completed and inspected and the keys have been handed over to the owners. She also noted that the Unmet Needs Roundtable is still in place handling resource requests.

Whatcom County Floods – Kathy introduced Chad Hammond – Chair of the Whatcom County LTRG. Chad is a pastor in Sumas, WA. He was impacted as his house and church were flooded. Most town buildings were flooded so recovery efforts have been run out of his church. It has been the central location for donations. He said two thirds of residents still not back in their

homes. There is an immediate need for housing. Many are eligible for FEMA assistance (which could help with rent) but there are few places available to rent.

Chad also mentioned that a nonprofit (Whatcom LTR) has been formed to centralize efforts. They have hired eight case managers (4 FT and 4PT) and are in the process of hiring a volunteer coordinator. They are about halfway through calls and intakes. Their greatest needs right now are volunteers, funding for the positions they are hiring for (Whatcom Community Foundation has been supportive thus far), advocating for those impacted and mental health support.

Kathy Bryson added that UMCOR is providing Case Management training in Whatcom County.

Chad introduced Ashley Butenschoen, VP and Communications Chair for the Whatcom County LTRG. Ashley noted that additional needs will be for construction supplies and appliances. She also stated that volunteer groups interested in assisting should contact whatcomLTRG@gmail.com.

Clallam County – Dave Baylor reported that an Unmet Needs Committee has been set up and there are few identified cases at this point. Once a Case Manager is in place activity is expected to increase.

Skagit County – Dave Baylor said there is a meeting scheduled for April 18 which he will attend. He said there has been slow progress in this area.

Afghan Resettlement – Marty Grisham reported that State partners have received an abundance of donations. The two immediate needs are for housing (since temporary housing will end soon) and warehouse space for donations (space needs to be accessible). Sarah Peterson from WA State is his main point of contact.

Guest Presentation

**Chris Polit – WA State Fire Management – Assistant Grant Program Manager
Fire Management Assistance Grant Program**

Program Overview:

- Limited window to get declarations through FEMA
- Reimbursable costs - 75% from FEMA – 25% from State & local sources
- Reimbursement eligibility for State Agencies, Tribal Governments, Local Jurisdictions including Fire, Sheriff, County/Local EM, and Public Works
- Emergency Protective Measures are covered as well as Fire Suppression costs (labor and equipment)

Timing is Critical:

- Tracking of costs is critical
- Fire must be uncontrolled and in monitoring information is critical
- Fire
- Must threaten destruction that would constitute a major disaster

Situational Awareness:

- Management program staff work closely with local, state, and federal partners
- Vigilance in monitoring information sources is critical

GMAG Requests must include:

- Ignition information – Name, location, time
- Situation Report
- Threats – Communities and # of homes impacted

There have been 64 declarations over the past 10 years totaling over \$352 Million (Federal share of over \$264 Million)

Marty Grisham mentioned that there will continue to be an important focus on fires again in 2022 and stressed the importance of documentation needed to support requests for assistance.

Member Report Outs

Dave Baylor – Episcopal Relief – Dave mentioned the heater and dehumidifier purchases done with an Episcopal Relief and Development Grant and cited the level of cooperation they received in getting these distributed to those in need in Whatcom County.

Randy Bove – World Renew Disaster Response Services – has been in contact with John Perry, Mayor of Everson about volunteer support (probably in June). He is awaiting response.

Eric Williams – 2nd Harvest – seems that needs plateaued in early 2022 but have increased again over the past 6-8 weeks. Seems that increase may be inflation related. New clients from rural areas. He is expecting food supply issues and disruptions during the upcoming months.

Kathleen Voss – Red Cross – She has replaced Megan as the WaVOAD rep. They have wrapped up assistance for flood victims in Lewis, Thurston, and Grays Harbor counties. They have provided assistance recently for those displaced by large apartment fires. They have also been receiving calls for Ukrainian refugee assistance and have forwarded to the International Committee or local chapters. She mentioned that Ginny Parker is the new Relief Officer.

Jill Watson – City of Seattle – Jill mentioned the Bell Tower fire (arson) that impacted 120 individuals living in that building. The building houses a vulnerable population and over half have been relocated. There has also been a lot of focus on climate change based on recent abrupt changes (mostly heat related). She also mentioned that Cascadia Mass Care Tabletop exercise that will take place on June 15, 2022 and encouraged participation. There are three regions – Coastal, I-5 Corridor and Eastern. Patrick Niles is the Planning Coordinator.

Carlene Anders - Disaster Leadership Team – they have made six trips to Whatcom County to provide support and will continue to provide support for the next 18 months. They have also met with Skagit County officials. They are also providing rebuilding and recovery support in Oregon.

Kathy Bryson – UMCOR – they will be conducting their first hybrid Early Response Team training in May (5/16 and 5/18 on Zoom and 5/21 in person). This is open to anyone 18 and older.

Taylor Hennessy – Kathy introduced Taylor who is a Human Service Program Supervisor for WA State Emergency Management. She is from PA and moved to WA in 2019. She has experience in refugee resettlement.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, June 7, 2022 – 10am via zoom

Meeting adjourned by Marty Grisham at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Zablotny, WaVOAD secretary