

WAVOAD General Meeting

October 4, 2022

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

In Attendance

Marty Grisham – LDS Charities, WaVOAD President	Holly Stark – Washington EMD
Kathy Bryson – PNW UMC Disaster Response, WaVOAD Vice President	Ilyssa Plumer – FEMA Region X Community Preparedness Officer
Dave Zablony – Habitat for Humanity, WaVOAD Secretary	Ashley Butenschoen?? – Whatcom County LTRG
Dave Baylor – Episcopal Relief and Development, WaVOAD Member-at-large	Taylor Hennessee – WA Emergency Management
Andrew Chadick – Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle – SAFE Washington, WaVOAD Member-at-large	Jim Truitt – GNW Episcopal Area UMC
Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology, WaVOAD Member-at-large	Patty Baker – Episcopal Relief & Development
Christie Merrill – Red Cross	Jill Watson – City of Seattle Human Services
Emily Goertz – WA MDS	Lauren Hazen – Skagit County LTRG
Michele WhiteEagle – Mennonite Disaster Services	Carlene Anders – ED – Disaster Leadership Team
Bill Gillespie – WaSARVAC	Nathan Emory
Lisa Arellano – Salvation Army	Mary Schoenfeldt – Green Cross Academy
John Cornelison – Vashon EOC	

Meeting called to order by Marty Grisham for October 4, 2022, at 10:00am

Minutes Review

The minutes from the August 2, 2022, general meeting was presented with no edits. Dave Baylor moved to accept. Kathy Bryson offered to second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Review

Financials as of September month-end were reviewed by Dave Baylor, in Ray Shjerven's absence. The balance in the checking account is \$19,838.95. There was one expenditure of \$20.00 to the Secretary of State for the Annual Report. The savings account balance is \$5088.99 which reflects .08 in interest credited. Kathy Bryson moved to accept. Bill Gillespie offered to second the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report/General Information

Marty Grisham updated the group on the following:

He recently received a notice from King County relating to requests for assistance from Florida following Hurricane Ian. He will share the email. It looks like most initial requests have been met and we are currently in a stand-by mode.

FEMA recently held a call relating to the situation at the southern border. He has made it clear that WaVOAD may be able to provide assistance once refugees arrive here but would not have a role in

receiving refugees. Another call coming up next week - as more information is received it will be passed along to membership.

He has been monitoring the wildfire situation and there have been no specific requests for help to date as local emergency management has been handling.

Marty also raised a recent membership application from Yellow Dog Livestock Evacuation for discussion and approval. Dave Baylor provided a brief overview of this organization and following a brief discussion, Kathy Bryson made a motion for approval as a partner agency, seconded by Dave Baylor and approved unanimously by those voting members in attendance.

Agency Spotlight: Operation Barbecue Relief

Postponed since presenter was called out to Florida to assist with Hurricane Ian response.

Report Outs:

Long term Recovery Updates:

Okanogan County LTRG – Carlene Anders shared that there will be dedications of at least four homes and possibly one or two more over Veteran's Day weekend (November 11 and 12). She once again thanked volunteers from MDS and UMCOR for all their work on these homes. They are still looking for volunteers in October and November to help with framing and trusses as well as finish work. Red Cross funding in place for the final homes. Six of the nine homes being built are on tribal lands.

Whatcom County LTRG – Ashley Butenschoen shared that there is a focus on their First 55 projects. There is a great need for building materials. Prices have increased over 30% and Ashley said she can supply a list of those materials needed. They also have ongoing volunteer needs and said they do have volunteer housing available. They are approaching the one-year anniversary and are planning to highlight stories of rescue that occurred. They are entering flood season and not a lot has been done in terms of mitigation so there is still great anxiety for those impacted.

Dave Baylor (Episcopal Relief) asked if the heaters they had purchased had all been distributed. Ashley said there are still some in storage but should be distributing soon with the colder weather coming. Dave mentioned that the backup detail is needed for reporting on any purchases they helped to fund.

Clallam County – Dave Baylor reported that they have funding from the State in place for a PT Case Manager for up to a six-month period and have funding available for some repairs. There are about six active cases at this time. There is a need for more participation on the Unmet Needs Committee.

Skagit County – Lauren Hazen reported that they are still assessing needs, but they have hired a local Case Manager. Focus on outreach at this time and working to determine full scope of work.

Guest Presentation – Ilyssa Plumer – FEMA Region 10 Community Preparedness Officer

Community Preparedness:

Ilyssa shared some information about her background. She has experience as a VAL working on the Oregon fires back in 2020. She leads the Community Preparedness Program for FEMA Region 10. She works closely with State outreach personnel. She leads a team of three. She is responsible for Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska and 271 federally recognized tribes. Most of the outreach over the past two years has been virtual but they are now doing more in-person training. They also use social media to get their message out.

They have hosted 46 webinars since January 2021 on a wide variety of topics. They coordinate with the Region 10 Youth Preparedness Council and also do CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training. She noted that this training is 20 hours with a simulated exercise. Prepares groups to be ready to assist in disasters when first responders are overwhelmed and is also an opportunity for community involvement and engagement. There are also free online programs available at www.ready.gov.

Ilyssa noted the following to get prepared:

- Be informed of hazards that could impact you
- Have a plan in place
- Have an emergency supply kit ready
- Get involved in community preparedness

She highlighted some upcoming webinars and noted these opportunities for collaboration:

Messaging:

- Newsletter/Bulletin that reached 8,000 people
- Post about community efforts and events on FEMA social media

Event Participation and Support:

- Share ideas for webinars
- Help to strengthen efforts for vulnerable populations
- Get involved in a CERT and other community preparedness efforts

Ilyssa can be reached at ilyssa.plumer@fema.dhs.gov

Member Report Outs

Emily Goertz – MDS – Emily shared that they have been active in Okanogan County helping to finish the houses Carlene mentioned earlier. She also noted that MDS is going through a reorganization.

Lisa Arellano – Salvation Army – Lisa mentioned they have been providing support (mostly feeding) for the Bolt Creek and Goat Rock fires.

Mary Schoenfeldt – Green Cross Academy of Traumatology – They are currently pulling teams together for those areas impacted by Hurricane Ian. She said they are also developing courses on Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence in disaster areas.

Mary also added that her Everett based Rotary Club is looking for volunteer opportunities.

Dave Baylor – National VOAD – Mentioned that several guidelines are being updated at the NVOAD level including Long Term Recovery, Disaster Recovery and Emotional/Spiritual Care.

Kathy Bryson – UMCOR – Kathy noted they were deployed to Hazard, KY in September to conduct training related to Leadership Mentoring, Response Team Logistics and Case Management Structure.

Kathy also noted they have two experienced members in Alaska (Cooper Bay) to do immediate needs assessments of villages impacted by the typhoon as they prepare for winter.

There will also be ERT teams going to Florida in November and December.

Jill Watson – City of Seattle

- Responded to Seattle Teachers strike by setting up eight activity hubs where child-care services were provided, and food was made accessible to kids. Also made grab and go meals available for pick up at 38 additional sites. Seattle Housing also assisted by opening four sites in “gap” areas. Used volunteers extensively in this work.
- Received Homeland Security Mutual Catastrophic grant (still being finalized) which will help to establish resilience hubs for communities short on resources in the event of heat events, earthquakes, etc. Project focus will be on research and building a template.

Taylor Hennessee – WA State EMD – Taylor shared that they have hired an Access/Functional Needs Program Manager and a FT Tribal Liaison.

They are also assisting with Disaster Case Management in Whatcom, Clallam, and Skagit counties. Their focus is on home repairs and appliance assistance. Also secured grant to help with some housing/rental assistance in Whatcom County.

She also mentioned they are working with King County on meeting some immediate needs resulting from the Bolt Creek Fire (mostly related to food and energy).

Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 6, 2022 – 10am via zoom

Meeting adjourned by Marty Grisham at 11:38 am.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Zablotny, WaVOAD secretary