

WAVOAD General Meeting

June 6, 2023,

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

In Attendance

Marty Grisham – LDS Charities, WaVOAD President	Her-Kait-Seet – Tzu Chi Foundation
Dave Zabloutny – Habitat for Humanity - WaVOAD Secretary	Amber Martin-Jahn – Serve Washington - AmeriCorps
Christie Merrill – Red Cross – WaVOAD Member -at-large	Patty Baker – Episcopal Relief & Development
Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology - WaVOAD Member-at-large	Cindi Barker – Seattle Emergency Communication Hubs
Andrew Chadick – Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle – SAFE Washington, WaVOAD Member-at-large	Chris Aronen – FEMA Region X VAL
Dana Bryson – UMCOR Disaster Services	Jill Watson – Seattle Human Services Dept.
Lisa Arellano – Salvation Army	Andy Royce – WA Mennonite Disaster Service
Kyle Christiansen – Whatcom County LTR – Dir. Client Supt.	Derek Lane – NW Adventist Community Svcs
Tom Link - SVdP	Christian Burgess – Vibrant Emotional Health
Allen Scott – Team Rubicon	Michele WhiteEagle – Mennonite Disaster Service – Region 4
Justine Chorley – Clallam County Emergency Management	Hannah Christen – Red Cross
Nathan Emory – King County EM	Bill Gillespie – WA SARVAC
Forrest Wilkinson – Church of the Brethren	

Meeting called to order by Marty Grisham for June 6, 2023, at 10:01am

Minutes Review

The minutes from the April 4, 2023, general meeting were presented with no edits. Tom Link moved to accept. Christie Merrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Review

Dave Zabloutny presented the following review of the financials in Ray Shjerven's absence:

Segregated Savings	\$5,103.79
Interest earned	\$2.10
Segregated Savings - ending balance	\$5,105.89
Operational Checking	\$21,843.82
Dues Income – Checks	\$ 600.00

Reimbursement for NVOAD (1173.70)
Operational Checking – ending balance **\$21,270.12**

Five member organizations have not yet paid dues. Ray will send follow-up invoices to these.

Still awaiting receipt for NVOAD registration fee of \$500.00

Derek Lane moved to accept. Tom Link seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report/General Information

Marty Grisham reported on the following:

- Mountain West Conference will be hosted by WaVOAD in 2024. Kathy Bryson is working on securing a UM site in Kent, WA. Mountain West leadership will be present at our next meeting.
- National VOAD Conference update – Over 800 attendees with about 300 of those being first time attendees. Highlights included several business presentations noting their commitment to our communities. Also, a focus on diversity and inclusion – encouraging that within our organizations.
- Our August 1, 2023, meeting will be an in-person meeting. Still working on finalizing the location. Will share with membership ASAP. Lunch will be included.

Agency Spotlight: Mennonite Disaster Services – Michele WhiteEagle

Michele is the Western Regional Board Chair of MDS which includes nine western states. MDS will celebrate its 75-year anniversary in 2025. In 2012-22 a total of 6,495 volunteers were deployed throughout the U.S. and Canada. They are part of the Anabaptist movement, and their focus is working in partnerships.

The criteria for engagement includes:

- Meaningful work
- Volunteer availability
- Funding availability
- Housing availability (volunteer accommodations)

Michele introduced Andy Royce (also on the call) as the leader in Washington state. The group has done significant work over the past two years supporting the Okanogan long term recovery efforts.

Report Outs:

Long term Recovery Updates:

Okanogan County LTRG – Carlene Anders was not present to share an update but Dana Bryson shared information he had relating to the Okanogan LTR since 12/2020:

- 733 original referrals
- 213 cases opened

- 13 remain open

Nine new builds homes with seven now completed. \$500K was contributed to address unmet needs which does not include the costs for the new builds.

Whatcom County LTRG – Kyle Christiansen – Director of Client Support – Reported that the biggest need they have is for volunteers. They have funding available for materials but need volunteers to complete the work. Hoping to get as much done as possible in the summer on the 50 homes that need repairs. They are also looking for funding for three critical positions – a FT Reconstruction Manager, a PT Volunteer Coordinator, and a PT Bookkeeper. About \$170K is needed to fund these positions for a full year.

Kyle noted that UMCOR had provided initial funding and they have had volunteer support from World Renew and Habitat for Humanity.

Clallam County – Justine Chorley – Clallam County EM – Justine noted they had less damage there than in Whatcom and Skagit. They received state funding and while they had 136 applications, only 20 remain on the current list and of those only 3 may be eligible for funding due to income requirements (only low income are eligible). Any funds remaining will need to be returned to the state.

They are transitioning to a COAD approach going forward.

Skagit County – Lauren Hazen was but available but did provide a written report to Dave Zablony who shared with the group as follows:

Over the course of the event, we enrolled 45 households in the DCM program - currently down to 11 active clients. All needs should be met based on the resources we have by the end of the month. At that time, we will be wrapping up and transitioning out. With the help of State/ County funding Individual assistance funding alone we were able to provide close to \$250k of assistance related to basic needs, housing assistance, appliances, furniture, and home repairs. We have also established some strong partners in the community that have provided a significant amount of goods, services, and volunteer hours in the community. We are so grateful for the support and their ability to meet the needs of the survivors in Skagit County.

Guest Presentation

Hannah Christen – Red Cross – Be Red Cross Ready – Wildfire Preparation

Prevention is critical as people cause 85% of wildfires – most common causes:

- Burning debris
- Using equipment improperly
- Discarding cigarettes carelessly
- Unattended campfires
- Arson

Wildfire Impacts:

- Death and injury to people and animals
- Homes and businesses damaged/destroyed
- Power, water, gas, and communication outages
- Blocked/destroyed roads
- Altered water quality
- Potential for erosion, floods, debris flows

Steps to take - Before:

Understand your risk – Find out if you’re in an area prone to wildfires by contacting state and local government emergency management – wildfirerisk.org – and learn about the community response plan.

Prepare your home – Clear “defensible area” – (0-5 feet) of all brush and debris and make sure intermediate area (5-30 feet) in “lean, clean and green”

Prepare to meet basic needs – protect yourself and loved ones by having N-95 masks and air filters ready. Gather critical supplies including a portable evacuation kit, a 3 day “go bag” and a one-month supply of prescription meds. Critical supplies include:

- Water – gallon per person per day
- Nonperishable food
- First aid kit
- Battery back up
- Cell phones and chargers
- Tools/safety items
- Hygiene/sanitation
- Protective gear
- Baby and pet supplies
- Cash and keys

Evacuation Planning – be prepared to evacuate – check with friends, local hotels, campgrounds about emergency shelter options. Have a transportation plan and check with local Red Cross.

During:

Respond appropriately – Pre-evacuation (level 1&2) – Evacuation (level 3)

Evacuation – leave as soon as recommended following recommended escape routes. Listen to radio/TV for announcements and check for emergency shelters.

After: Stay Safe

- Use caution and avoid damaged/fallen power poles and downed wires
- Watch for ash pits
- Follow public health guidelines for cleanup
- Wet debris to limit dust particles
- Wear appropriate protective clothing and shoes
- Dispose of hazardous waste appropriately

Download the Red Cross Emergency App

Hannah also shared a link to a guide to fire resistant plants for Eastern Washington - file:///C:/Users/david/Downloads/rp_fire_resistant_plants_guide_easternwa.pdf

Member Report Outs

Cindi Barker – Seattle Emergency Communication HUBS – On June 11, between 1:30 and 4pm, volunteers throughout Seattle will be participating in “Power Down”; a disaster drill to test neighborhood emergency preparedness. A city-wide power outage will be simulated. All HUB locations encourage visitors – the public is essential to test the system the HUBS have in place. Full description of the exercise is at <http://seattleemergencyhubs.org>

Forrest Wilkinson – Church of the Brethren – mentioned that volunteers helped out in Oklahoma last month.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 1, 2023 - 10am in person – Location TBA

Meeting adjourned by Marty Grisham at 11:08 am.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Zablony, WaVOAD secretary