

WAVOAD General Meeting

October 3, 2023

Meeting led by Marty Grisham, WaVOAD President, LDS Charities

In Attendance

Marty Grisham – LDS Charities, WaVOAD President	Andy Royce – Mennonite Disaster Services
Dave Zabloutny – Habitat for Humanity - WaVOAD Secretary	Forrest Wilkinson – Church of the Brethren
Ray Shjerven - SWWA ELCA - WaVOAD Treasurer	Eric Williams – Second Harvest
Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology - WaVOAD Member-at-large	Carlene Anders – Disaster Leadership Team
Kathy Bryson – PNW UMC Disaster Response, WaVOAD Vice President	Brittany Jahnke – NVOAD
Andrew Chadick - Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle – SAFE Washington, WaVOAD Member-at-large	Gerry Bozarth – Spokane County Emergency Management-
Lisa Arellano – Salvation Army	Erin McCann – Red Cross
Kyle Christiansen – Whatcom County LTR – Dir. Client Supt.	Rafael Estevez – Disaster Reservist
Randy Bode – World Renew Disaster Response	Jim House – CIEP/WASILC
Christian Burgess – Vibrant Emotional Health	Chris Aronen – FEMA Region 10 VAL
Patty Baker – Episcopal Relief & Development	Quinn Butler – WA State OEM
Larry Mays – Adventist Community Services	Leonard Westermeyer – Adventist Community Services

Meeting called to order by Marty Grisham for October 3, 2023, at 10:00am

Minutes Review

The minutes from the August 1, 2023, general meeting were presented with one edit. Ray Shjerven noted that the Savings account ending balance should have been \$5112.16 rather than \$5,110.16 as noted in the minutes. Randy Bode moved to accept the amended minutes. Larry Mays seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Review

Ray Shjerven shared to following review of the financials:

Segregated Savings	\$5,112.16
Interest earned	\$4.44
Segregated Savings - ending balance	\$5,116.60
Operational Checking	\$19,470.32
Reimbursement to Marty for 8/1/23 lunch	(\$416.69)

Secretary of State filing	(\$20.00)
Dues Paid – 3 members	\$360.00
Operational Checking – ending balance	\$19,393.63

Kathy Bryson moved to accept. Randy Bode seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President’s Report:

Mountain West VOAD Conference Update

Marty reported that there has been good progress made on planning for the conference which will be held April 8-11, 2024, at Kent United Methodist Church in Kent, WA.

There will be an ice breaker/dinner on Monday, April 8 (evening), two full days of meetings/workshops on April 9 and 10 and a half day on April 11.

Arrangements have been made to cover most meals with one opening remaining.

Speakers have been lined up for many of the sessions and that work continues.

Registration for the conference is \$75 which is consistent with recent Mountain West conferences.

WaVOAD Leadership Elections

Kathy Bryson provided a brief update noting that Marty Grisham will be moving into the Past President role in January and Kathy will assume the President role. She noted we are looking for nominations for the VP role. Suggestions should be passed along to Marty or Kathy. Elections will take place at the December meeting.

Report Outs:

Long term Recovery Updates:

Okanogan County LTRG – Carlene Anders reported that the last home dedication was done on September 1. She said there are a few follow up issues on the past few homes that are being handled now. She thanked everyone who provided support over the past few years.

Whatcom County LTRG – Kyle Christiansen – Director of Client Support – Reported that three World Renew teams will continue to be active there until mid-November. There are 15 houses being worked on that need reconstruction.

Spokane County Wildfire Update – Gerry Bozarth – Spokane County Emergency Management-

There were two major fires at opposite ends of the county – their largest disaster ever. 366 primary homes and over 500 total structures were destroyed. There were two deaths.

The good news is that there has been a strong response. The 4th meeting of the Medical Lake LTRG takes place this week. The mayor of Medical Lake is heading up the response and it has been encouraging. They have received strong support from partners including Second Harvest Food Bank and UMCOR.

Quinn Butler complimented the work of Gerry's team and all the support thus far. They did not meet the \$13 million threshold for public assistance. This was the most damaging fire in terms of homes destroyed in WA history. Fortunately, there was not significant infrastructure damage.

The FEMA IS Request was submitted on October 2. The likelihood of assistance is minimal – if denied SBA support is likely.

Governor Inslee has approved \$2.5 million in funding to be used for asbestos testing (required) , disaster care management and debris management.

Spokane County has applied for \$2.9 million for debris management for the uninsured and underinsured. The county is also working with the Salvation Army on four disaster case managers.

Kathy Bryson asked how WaVOAD members could help. There are no pressing needs right now, but the Unmet Needs Roundtables could uncover future needs.

Guest Presentation - Bethany Jahnke – NVOAD

Bethany is the State/Territory Program Director for NVOAD – She lives in Texas but spent 15 years in the Spokane Valley area.

Bethany supports two functions:

Blue Skies – ensures that State and Territory leaders have programs to support them.

Gray Skies – involves disaster support and has been very busy recently covering flooding in New Hampshire, hurricane support in the Southeast U.S. and Guam, wildfires in Hawaii, tornados, heat and severe weather in the South and wildfire and saltwater issues in Louisiana.

Blue Shies supports operations within States and Territories using a program called LEAD 2.0, established in 2019. The program uses technology to support capacity building, increasing diversity and promoting sustainability using funding strategies. It is an 8-part program with a focus on:

- Board development
- Member engagement
- VOAD Support
- Communications
- Finances

It allows four users per state to access the Training Curriculum and Media Library.

Bethany shared information on the following upcoming events:

NVOAD Conference – May 6-9, 2024, in Phoenix – Conference fee - \$500

Fall member meeting – Open to State VOAD leadership and Territory associates – expanded voting will be in place. Ad Hoc committees include Advocacy, Communications, Community preparedness, Disaster case management, Disaster health, Donation management, Emotional care, Housing, International LTR, Mass care and Volunteer management. NVOAD members can join any committee and there are three spots open for States/Territories.

Will be accepting proposals for Conference presentations in the next few months.

Member Report Outs

Larry Mays and Leonard Westermeyer – Adventist Community Services – There are limited donation opportunities in the Spokane Valley area. They have set up a sorting operation for clothing donations. Also partnering with other organizations using donated warehouse space for furniture.

Ray Shjerven – Lutheran Disaster Relief – They have doubled their feeding program in the Medical Lake area following the fires.

Christian Burgess – Vibrant Emotional Health – Noted there is support available for responders and impacted survivors. There have been 38 contacts over the past two months from Washington State. There have been over 2000 calls over the past two years from the deaf/hard of hearing. Christian will be attending the NVOAD mid-year meeting in Washington, DC October 24-26.

Lisa Arellano – Salvation Army – They are working on getting agreements in place for work in Spokane Valley. Also doing work on the Maui wildfires.

Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology – Work going on in Florida – hurricane response. Also sponsoring a donation event at the Queen Anne Food Bank.

Erin McCann – Red Cross – Provided numbers on the work done in Spokane Valley area: 227 shelter registrations, 1195 overnight stays, 1926 meals, 4404 snacks, 323 emergency support, 293 cases.

Carlene Anders – Disaster Leadership Team – They provide mentorship for those engaged in LTR situations and they held a retreat/workshop for mentors last week.

Chris Aronen – FEMA Region 10 VAL – They are awaiting a declaration request. May also be other programs available. Recent focus has been on multiple disasters in Alaska with deployments there now.

Quinn Butler – WA State Emergency Management – A request has been submitted for permanent funding for the State IA program. They have been meeting with state agencies to develop rules to guide the administration of the program.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 10am via zoom

Meeting adjourned by Marty Grisham at 11:37pm.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Zablony, WaVOAD secretary