

WAVOAD General Meeting

February 6, 2024

Meeting led by Marty Grisham, WaVOAD President, LDS Charities

In Attendance

Kathy Bryson – UMCOR/PNW United Methodist Church Disaster Response - WaVOAD President	Christian Burgess – Vibrant Emotional Health
Marty Grisham – LDS Charities -, WaVOAD Past President	Tom Link – St Vincent DePaul
Dave Zabloutny – Habitat for Humanity - WaVOAD Secretary	Geri Chumley – Whatcom County COAD
Ray Shjerven - SWWA ELCA - WaVOAD Treasurer	Eric Williams – Second Harvest
Andrew Chadick – Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle – SAFE Washington – WaVOAD Member-at-large	Carlene Anders – Disaster Leadership Team
Christie Merrill – Red Cross – Member-at-large	Tom Sharp – King County OEM
Terri Cooper – Mayor – City of Medical Lake	Zack Gifford – WA State OEM- Disaster Recovery Program Coordinator
Lisa Christen – Catholic Community Services Western WA	Cindi Barker – Seattle HUBS
Kyle Christiansen – Whatcom County LTR – Dir. Client Supt.	Chris Aronen – FEMA Region 10 VAL
Alexia Nobles – American Logistics Aid Network (ALAN)	Shaun Jones – Salvation Army
Celso Rangel – WA State Program Coordinator	Tom Sharp – King County OEM
Dave Baylor – Episcopal Relief & Development	Quinn Butler – WA State OEM
Delaney Graham – American Logistics Aid Network (ALAN)	Jim Cooper – UW PNW
Andy Royce - Mennonite Disaster Services	Carla Cruise
Victoria Stine – Medical Teams International	Andrea Reedy – Salvation Army

Meeting called to order by Kathy Bryson for February 6, 2024, at 10:01am

Minutes Review

The minutes from the December 5, 2023, general meeting were presented. Tom Link moved to accept the minutes. Dave Baylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Review

Ray Shjerven shared to following review of the financials:

Segregated Savings	\$5,120.87
Interest earned	\$2.17
Segregated Savings - ending balance	\$5,123.04
Operational Checking	\$19,393.63

No activity

Operational Checking – ending balance **\$19,393.63**

Dave Baylor moved to accept the minutes. Tom Link seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report: Kathy Bryson

General:

Kathy mentioned the National VOAD conference to be held May 6-9 in Phoenix. The theme is "United in Service." Registration cost is \$500 and will open soon. WaVOAD leadership will attend.

Shaun Jones asked if there might be WaVOAD funds available for scholarships. Kathy advised the Leadership team will discuss at the March meeting.

New Member Election – United Way of the PNW

Kathy introduced Jim Cooper of the United Way of the PNW. Jim provided brief background on the work UW does in the community. Many UW chapters and members of State VOADS. They worked closely with local communities of the 2020 wildfires in providing funding support. It is important for them to be plugged in locally and regionally.

A motion was made to approve the United Was of the PNW for membership by Christian Burgess and was seconded by Tom Link. The motion passed unanimously.

WaVOAD Leadership Elections

Kathy updated the group on the Vice President role as mentioned in the December 2023 meeting. She advised that Christie Merrill from the Red Cross has agreed to take on the role. Christie has served as a WaVOAD At-large member for the past year. She has experience over the past four years with volunteer coordination and communications with the Red Cross.

A motion was made by Ray Shjerven to approve Christie as the Vice President. The motion was seconded by Eric Williams, and it passed unanimously.

Mountain West VOAD Conference Update

Kathy reported on progress in planning the Mountain West VOAD Conference to be held April 8-11, 2024, at Kent United Methodist Church in Kent, WA. The conference will begin Monday afternoon/evening with Tuesday and Wednesday being full days and Thursday a half day. The theme is "Moving Forward Together."

The registration site is live, and the cost is \$75 which includes meals. There is a hotel recommendation on the WAVOAD website along with additional information.

Kathy highlighted some of the speakers including the leader of the Hawaii VOAD who will talk about the Maui recovery, along with presentations by the NVOAD, Vibrant Health and government representatives.

Christian Burgess shared that Vibrant Health is working on providing ASL interpretation for the conference sessions.

Kathy asked that everyone spread the word about the conference. She also noted that the \$75 registration covers most meals. Operation BBQ will provide dinner on Monday, Tzu Chi will sponsor Tuesday's lunch, WaVOAD will sponsor Wednesday's lunch and Caveman will sponsor Wednesday's dinner.

Kathy also requested support from membership for the following:

- Print work – signage
- Lanyards and badge holders
- Vendor table coordinator (no cost for a table)
- Volunteers for greeters, set-up and take-down

The agenda will be posted on the website soon.

Report Outs:

Long term Recovery Updates:

Okanogan County LTRG – Carlene Anders reported that there will be a 10-year Reflection and Appreciation event held 7/11-7/14.

Also partnering with DNR, WA RC&D and Fire Adapted Communities Network on preparedness and mitigation projects.

Working on completing their Smoke and Reflections exhibit to be completed in July. Looking for assistance and will be hiring a project manager starting in March.

Will be hosting two fire strong workshops this spring.

Also working on CWPP assistance , COAD and LTRG formation.

Whatcom County LTRG – Kyle Christiansen – Director of Client Support – Kyle reported there are still about 100 active cases open (from a high of 650). They are thankful for the great partners and volunteers who supported their work. Kyle also mentioned that he recently spoke at a Pierce County EM event.

Spokane County Wildfire Update – Terri Cooper – Mayor of Medical Lake

Terri shared that they are five months into the recovery process. Individual Assistance is the focus. The LTRG is in place with 13 members. The Unmet Needs Roundtable is being set up. Terri also mentioned that the Mennonites are scheduled to assist their efforts in March 2024.

Terri mentioned House Bill 1952 which established LTR under the State EM and Hose Bill 1899 which places a pause on energy code requirements in a disaster.

Shaun Jones from the Salvation Army shared that they have just over 130 open cases and have contacted just over 300 families. They are helping with immediate needs as they are able and helping some with temporary housing. Also working on repairing and winterizing RVs and on reimbursement of debris removal.

Guest Presentation – Chris Aronen – FEMA Region 10 VAL – FEMA Individual Assistance (IA) Changes

Chris presented on IA changes and shared a slide deck with the group. He outlined changes in the program that will be effective March 22, 2024. The goal is to improve the survivor experience via a simplified, streamlined process. There will be greater flexibility in decision making, reduction in red tape and expanded eligibility. There will also be a simplified appeal process removing barriers for late applications.

The full slide presentation detail can be accessed on the WaVOAD website using this link:
<https://www.wavoad.org/file-repository/downloads/>

Member Report Outs

Dave Baylor – Episcopal Relief – Dave reported that Patty Baker made a recent site visit to Maui. The immensity of the disaster is incredible. Patty found that while the area is very diverse, it is difficult to get the various groups to work together.

Eric Williams – Second Harvest – Eric reported that they distributed 35 million pounds of food in 2023. They expanded their food sources, which was beneficial. Eric thanked all those who supported their efforts.

Shaun Jones – Salvation Army – Reported that the Salvation Army is active in the Spokane Valley. He said it has been difficult getting Individual Assistance grants approved. SA is also active in Maui and in Chile at this time.

Ray Shjerven – LDR – Ray (and Kathy Bryson) gave an update on the Riverton UM situation. They reported that 100 of the residents were relocated to hotels for a limited time. They will need to look for other accommodations when that time is up.

Cindi Barker – Seattle HUBS – Announced a training session on April 7 from 1-4pm at the Red Cross on “I am safe” welfare messaging. This messaging through HAM radio has been found to be very important in disasters where other communications are cut off.

Alexia Nobles – ALAN – Noted that Blue Skies Logistics Coordination Calls that we hold monthly. These calls are primarily focused on providing education, capacity building, and knowledge about logistics services and the industries we work with to our non-profit partners. This month's call will serve as a roundtable to discuss the current challenges to non-profit logistics and to brainstorm solutions. If this is something you may be interested in, you can register [here](#).

Government Partners:

Quinn Butler – WA State OEM – Reported that support for Spokane Valley has reached \$4 million. Still supporting recovery efforts there. Work being done on environmental/asbestos cleanup. They are working on one-time funding for public assistance through the State. They are making adjustments in the IA program to be more in line with FEMA changes. They are also tracking ice and wind damage from the January 24 event.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 10am via zoom

Meeting adjourned by Kathy Bryson at 11:53 am.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Zablotny, WaVOAD secretary