

WAVOAD General Meeting

April 2, 2024

Meeting led by Kathy Bryson, WaVOAD President, UMCOR PNW United Methodist Disaster Response

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 Zablony – Habitat for Humanity - WaVOAD Secretary	Nathan Emory – King County OEM
Ray Shjerven - SWWA ELCA - WaVOAD Treasurer	Jill Watson – City of Seattle
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
Forrest Wilkinson – Church of the Brethren Disaster Ministries	Zack Gifford – WA State OEM- Disaster Recovery Program Coordinator
Randy Bode – World Renew Disaster Response	Cindi Barker – Seattle HUBS
Kyle Christiansen – Whatcom County LTR – Dir. Client Supt.	Patty Baker – Episcopal Diocese of Olympia
Lisa Arellano – Salvation Army	Sarah Rollins – Medical Teams International
Brian Brozovic – Operation BBQ Relief	Tory Stine – Medical Teams International
Anita Stokes - Mennonite Disaster Services	Taylor Dietz – WA State OEM

Meeting called to order by Kathy Bryson for April 2, 2024, at 10:02am

Minutes Review

The minutes from the February 6, 2024, general meeting were presented. Christie Merrill moved to accept the minutes. Tom Link seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Review

Ray Shjerven shared to following review of the financials:

Segregated Savings	beginning balance	\$5123.04
	interest earned	\$ 2.21
	new balance	\$5125.25

Checking Account	beginning balance	\$19,393.63
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	income from 16 dues payments	\$1920.00
	Balance	\$21,313.63
Expenditures	NVOAD dues	(35.00)
	adobe license	(168.51)
	NVOAD scholarship paid to Salvation Army	(550.00)
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	New Balance	\$20,560.12

Randy Bode moved to accept the minutes. Patty Baker 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 \$550. Kathy Bryson, Christie Merrill, and Ray Shjerven will attend from the Leadership team.

WaVOAD Leadership has awarded a \$550 registration scholarship to Lauren Hazen from the Salvation Army to attend the NVOAD Conference.

WaVOAD At-Large Position

Kathy noted that when Christie Merrill was elected to the Vice President role, the At-Large position she had occupied was opened up. The Leadership team has voted to move Jim Cooper from the United Way PNW as acting into this role for the remainder of the year.

Mountain West VOAD Conference Update

Kathy updated the group on 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 evening with a dinner provided by Operation BBQ Relief. Tuesday and Wednesday being full days and Thursday a half day.

Registration is closed and there will be about 85 attendees representing 25 different organizations including Federal, State and County partners.

Presentations will include a Tabletop exercise put on by the Department of Homeland Security Cyber Infrastructure Security Administration (CISA) relating to cyber security threats. There will also be a keynote presentation by Emily Kukulies from the Hawaii VOAD on the Maui wildfires.

Vibrant Health will sponsor ASL interpretation for the event.

There will be volunteer events on Wednesday afternoon at two local Habitat for Humanity ReStores (Dave Zabloutny is the contact), the Kent Foodbank and the Emergency Feeding Program (Christie Merrill is the contact). Dave and Christie will provide additional information when participants sign up. Assistance will be needed with carpooling to the various sites.

Report Outs:

Long term Recovery Updates:

Okanogan County LTRG – Carlene Anders reported that work is nearly complete with only a few cases remaining. She also shared about the 10-year Reflection and Appreciation event to be held 7/11-7/14. Will be hosting two fire strong workshops – May 13 in Okanogan and May 30 in Pateros.

Whatcom County LTRG – Kyle Christiansen – Director of Client Support – Kyle reported that the recent focus has been on outfitting two new trailers received via a grant. These trailers will include basic supplies and PPE. Work is also being done on three houses for families with unmet needs that recently came to their attention. Kyle also mentioned there are volunteer groups scheduled for the next month.

Spokane County Wildfire Update – Lisa Arellano – Salvation Army – Lisa noted that case managers have now reached out to all impacted with the focus on FEMA applications (refusal letters).

Taylor Dietz (WA State OEM) had the following:

- 479 registrations – Registration period open until April 20 and Field Office open until then
- 583 visitors to two Recovery Centers
- Disaster Legal Services Hotline set up effective March 21 but only one call thus far
- A Resource Document is being finalized with a consolidated list of all resources

Guest Presentation – Was scheduled to discuss the upcoming NVOAD Conference but the presenter did not show.

Member Report Outs

Patty Baker – Episcopal Relief – Patty mentioned the 10th anniversary of the Oso landslide (March 22). Patty has also visited Maui twice representing Episcopal Relief and Development.

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.

Randy Bode – World Renew – Randy mentioned potential deployments coming up to Sarasota, FL, Mayfield, KY, North Carolina, and Mississippi.

Kathy Bryson – United Methodist Disaster Response – Kathy mentioned upcoming workshops – “Connecting Neighbors.” These are “train the trainer” workshops focused on individual, houses of worship and community organizations.

Dave Zaboltny – Habitat for Humanity – Was part of a speaker panel on Disaster Preparedness at the Habitat International Conference in Atlanta in March, with 2200 attendees from around the world.

Anita Stokes – Mennonite Disaster Services – Have been meeting with Spokane Valley representatives. No solid plans in place yet.

Andrew Chadick – Jewish Federation – Shared information about Project Shema. This consists of a series of workshops to help empower Jewish leaders and allies with the skills & understanding needed to navigate difficult conversations about antisemitism. Message Andrew if you are interested in signing up.

Government Partners:

Taylor Dietz - WA State OEM – Reported the following:

- Quinn Butler has left OEM and is now the Oregon DR Volunteer Agency Liaison.
- A position for Access/Functional Needs Manager has been approved and they are hiring for that position.
- A request was submitted for a State Individual Assistance Program, but it was not approved. They hope to submit again next year.
- Received \$300K for extreme weather grant.
- Whatcom recovery funds are still available relating to asbestos testing and debris removal.

Jill Watson – City of Seattle Human Services – Reunification planning being done in anticipation of the World Cup matches to be held in Seattle in 2026. This is a collective effort with the counties.

Nathan Emory – King County OEM – Focusing on planning and sheltering for extreme weather events.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 10am via zoom

Meeting adjourned by Kathy Bryson at 11:13 am.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Zaboltny, WaVOAD secretary