

WAVOAD General Meeting

June 3, 2025

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	Christie Merrill – Red Cross – WaVOAD Vice President
Ray Shjerven - SWWA ELCA - WaVOAD Treasurer	Forrest Wilkinson – Brethren Disaster Ministries
Larry Mays - Adventist Community Services	Celso Rangel - Serve WA.
Cherie Carey - Thurston County Emergency Management	Tyler Verda - Snohomish County Human Services
Jay DeBoer - World Renew	Eric Williams, Second Harvest
Shaun Jones - TSA	Her Kait Seet - Tzu Chi Foundation
Lauren Hazen - TSA	Patty Baker, Episcopal Church
Jill Watson - Emergency Management Strategic Advisor, Seattle Human Services Department,	Carlene Anders - Disaster Leadership Team
Brian Brozovic - Operation BBQ Relief - Area Coordinator	Michael D Claypool - Preparedness Coordinator. International Orthodox Christian Charities
Paul Love - Dept. of Ecology/WA Conservation Corps	Cindi Barker

Meeting called to order by Kathy Bryson for December 3, 2024, at 10:03am

Kathy asked the WaVOAD leadership team to introduce themselves.

Minutes Review

The minutes from April 1, 2025, general meeting were presented. Due to the high number of errors in the minutes they were deferred until the August membership meeting.

Financial Review

Ray Shjerven shared to following review of the financials:

June Financial statement

Segregated Savings
Account

Beginning Balance	5148.7
interest March* April and May	5.39
New Balance	5154.09

* was not reported
on April report

Operating Checking Account		
Beginning Balance		17542.83
Dues collected	Times 6	720
NVOAD basket Debit		-136.3
Galt House Breakfast		-152.68
#1027	reimbursement Shjerven	-575
NEW Balance		17398.85
pending charges		
#1024	reimbursement Merrill	-2016
#1025	reimbursement Bryson	-2461.64
		12921.21

Questions were asked and answered. Larry Mays moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Christie Merrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report: Kathy Bryson

- NVOAD 2025 Conference Overview
Kathy gave a recap of the experience and learnings at the conference. Next National VOAD conference is in Reno, NV May 4-7.
- Update from WA State EM- Taylor Deitz ESF 6- They may be standing up more coordinating calls as we get into fire season. Looking to upgrade to increase SEOC level to level 2, currently at level 3 enhanced. At Level 2 they start populating the EOC facility, may be at partial level 1 by end of May and full level 1 by July 1. Staffing Changes, project-based positions ended, so staff moved to other permanent state positions, but can rely on them if activated to level 1. Question was asked about federal funding and wildfires. DEI is engrained in state programs and may present challenges with federal funding.
- Grays Harbor Emergency Management, Emergency Preparedness Expo- July 26 from 10-2 at Olympia Gateway Plaza. <https://www.gograysharbor.com/community/event/emergency-preparedness-expo5/>

Report Outs:

Long term Recovery Updates:

- Spokane Region Long Term Recovery- Lauren reported Disaster Case management program is transitioning out, and feels like good timing, as people are stable now.

Guest Presentations:

NVOAD Conference participant Overviews

Members who attended gave updates from their learning and experiences at the conference.

- Active disasters while in KY!
- Interest in joining WAVOAD by national orgs with no presence in WA who want to be on all of the statewide VOADS that exist.
- No FEMA represented at Conference. EM's were missed!
- Disaster Finance; Climate/ Disaster roundtables; Migrant Community Conversations; Long Term Recovery.
- New resource: Recovery Tools Workshops, multi topics of presentations from NVOAD to equip groups for LTRG functions and setup. Ask Kathy if you are interested.
- Crisis Clean Up and Disaster Leadership Team were accepted as NVOAD Associate Members.

Christie Merrill- is Chair next year and is calling members to plan for her term.

PIEP Recap- Christie Merrill- It went fully remote at last minute so that made it hard to engage.

MWVOAD 2025 Conference- Jim Cooper and others who attended- Jim was unable to be at the meeting. Larry Mays, Shaun Jones & Jay DeBoer attended- Hosted by Salvation Army. Emphasis on VOADS getting to know each other. Also, they toured NOAA and Smoke Jump School. Next Year in March in Anchorage, Alaska.

Member Report Outs:

Larry Mays Adventist Community Services is still sending teams to Augusta, GA and Western NC for Hurricane recovery to do donations operations.

Forrest Wilkinson – Brethren Disaster Ministries – involved in LTR in KY and NC. He went to NC to help build a house in mountains.

Ray Shjerven – Lutheran Disaster Response building bridges connecting to private property- there are 5000 and they are building one at a time! Lutherans and Presbyterians gathering faith orgs to rethink the word missionary in disaster context.

Michael D Claypool - Preparedness Coordinator, International Orthodox Christian Charities introduced himself and org. They do international humanitarian aid and development. Domestically they do emotional spiritual

care, muck outs, clean outs and home repair. He went to LA, CA Wildfire deployment. Also, they are in SE following Helene and Milton. He is based in tri-cities. Was CA EMT/Paramedic for 40 years.

Carlene Sanders, Disaster Leadership Team - New mentor/support requests - OK Stillwater Wildfire; MT - Crow Nation Storm; TN - Helene LTRG support. Continued support in Washington, Iowa, Hawaii (Maui). DLT Leadership Exchange in Maui, 3rd wk of June, 1 week, 10 experts for across country. Limited assistance with CA wildfires.

Eric Williams, Second Harvest- 26 counties, 90% of food privately donated from local farm production and donations.

Government Partners:

Cindi Barker- Seattle Emergency Communication HUBS- 73 places in City where folks can come together while waiting for first responders. Annual Field Exercises in JUNE. Looking for volunteers and observers. All City HUBS coming together.

Cherie Carey - Thurston County Emergency Management- role is doing mass care and shelter in Thurston County. Had a DAC and is transitioning to a COAD. Preparedness expo Sept 20, 10-1 in Olympia at Olympia Center.

Tyler Verda, Snohomish County Human Services – looking at rebrand into COAD. Looking for partners interested in being a part of it. Closing out admin of state individual assistance program from bomb cyclone. This program is a giant help!

Jill Watson City of Seattle Human Services Dept- ESF 6 – doing annual extreme heat and wildfire smoke prep. Centering work around World Cup and developing a reunification plan. Club World Cup and FIFA International World Cup coming in 2025 and 2026.

Paul Love Dept of Ecology Washington Conservation Corps- No longer an Americorps programs now. WCC has historically done disaster response. Muck and gut, roof tarping, chainsaw, fuels reduction.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 3th, 2025, 10am via zoom

Meeting adjourned by Kathy Bryson at 11:38 am.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Cooper, WaVOAD secretary