

## WAVOAD General Meeting

December 1, 2025

**Meeting led by Kathy Bryson, WA-VOAD 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
*Jim Cooper- United Ways of the Pacific Northwest- WAVOAD Secretary	Her Kait Seet - Tzu Chi Foundation
*James Mahon- Churches of Scientology Disaster Response/ WAVOAD At Large	Everet Sterling
Jay DeBoer - World Renew	Christa Seiwert- Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition
Susan Anderson, ASPCA	Elizabeth Gadbois, San Juan Islands Prepare
Marty Grisham, Latter-Day Saints Charities	Andy Royce, Menonite Disaster Services
Amanda Tawaventewa, Medical Teams International	Ann Forest, Seattle Emergency Hubs
Brian Brozovic, Operation BBQ Relief	Carlene Anders, Disaster Leadership Team
Geri Chumley, Whatcom County COAD	Jill Watson, Seattle Human Services
Jenne Patterson, Burdoin Partners in Disaster Recovery	Jordan Boustead, Medical Teams International
Lisa Arellano, The Salvation Army	Patty Baker, Episcopal Church
Michael Claypool, International Orthodox Christian Charities	Mike Thompson, Second Harvest
Tuuli Messer Bookman, Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition	Cindy Barker, Seattle Emergency Hubs
Chris Aronen, FEMA R10 VAL	

***Meeting called to order by Kathy Bryson for December 2, 2025, at 10:00 AM***

Kathy asked the WAVOAD leadership team to introduce themselves.

### Minutes Review

Approval of October 7 , 2025 minutes. Jim made the motion, & Christie seconded, passed unanimously.  
Jim C

### Financial Review

Ray Shjerven shared following review of the financials:

December 2025 Financials				
Operational Checking				

	Beginning Balance			11971.05
		refund		46.08
	New Balance			12017.13
	Segregated Savings			
	Beginning Balance			5159.25
		Oct Int		1.31
		Nov Int		1.09
	New Balance			5161.65

Questions were asked and answered. Her Kat moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Andrew Chadwick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **President's Report: Kathy Bryson**

- It is giving Tuesday- please give!
- NVOAD Updates-
  - Conference May 4-7 Reno Nevada Peppermill Resort workshop proposals due 12/5 nvoad.org. notifications go out week of 1/19. Request for sponsors is also on the website.
  - NVOAD putting out a policy brief, ask if you would like to receive.
  - NVOAD putting out grant alert also, please ask to receive.
- Mtn West VOAD in Anchorage postponed due to typhoon response. Mtn West VOAD looking at alternative locations for 2026. Back to AK in 2027.
- Annual Election Overview- Kathy Reviewed process and timeline alternating office elections.

#### **Annual Meeting Elections**

- President-Christie Merrill, introduced herself and her qualifications. Ray Motion, Brian second. Motion Carries with 14 votes! Kathy Thanked Marty Grisham for his service on leadership board.
- Vice President- Nominee: Jim Cooper introduced himself and his qualifications. Any further nominations? None. Motion Christie, Second Patty. Motion Carries with 14 votes. This makes secretary vacant. Leadership Board will appoint acting secretary in January, for one year. Next secretary election will be December 2026.
- At Large Member- Jim Mahon leaving board after long time of service. Carlene Anders introduced herself and her qualifications. Any further nominations? None. Motion by Jim C Second by Jim M. Motion carries with majority!

- Class A Memberships-
  - Michael Claypool, International Orthodox Christian Charities, introduced himself and his qualifications. Any further nominations? None. Motion by Christie, Second by Carlene, Motion Carries.
- Class B Memberships
  - Susan Anderson, American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Susan introduced herself and her qualifications (with slides)!). Motion by Patty Second by Ray. Motion carries with majority!
  - Liz Gadbois, San Juan Islands Prepare. Liz introduced herself and her qualifications. Motion by Her Kait Second by Jim M. Motion carries with majority!
  - Tuuli Messer-Bookman, Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition. Tuuli introduced herself, her colleague, and her qualifications. Motion by Lisa Second by Brian. Motion carries with majority!
  - Laura and Dave Jones, from Just Serve were not able to attend. Christie M introduced their organization and qualifications. Motion Brian, second Christie, Motion Carries.

### Guest Presentation

**Landscape of Food Shortages in WA**, Mike Thompson, Lead Food Sourcer (Sorcerer)Second Harvest. Eric had to put on a mobile market in Toppenish, so sent his regrets. Mike gave an overview of Second Harvest and their food distribution services. Since COVID funds have gone down and need has gone up. Down from 90 to 54 staff. Sources 200 grocery stores to not throw food away, 200k lbs of food/ yr. 600 mobile markets each year. # of families used to be around 300 per market, now 400-500 families. Some pantries reporting doubling of need. SNAP benefit scare really increased need. Overwhelming food drive response. Many food drives, especially produce in Eastern WA. Member of feeding America- moves 55MILLION pounds of apples around the country! Most products are nearing expiration, keeps cost low. Does weekend backpack meals- 12K per week! Cash Donations here: <https://2-harvest.org/> Funding will be spent on more expensive properties. Can go through a truck of tuna or peanut butter in one week!

### Report Outs:

#### Long term Recovery Updates:

- Spokane Region LTRG - Craig Sanders, moved into SRLTRG Executive Director. Terri Cooper is now the Treasurer. Summer 2023 fires in Medical Lake and Elk, 447 homes affected 700 structures, 22,000 acres. LTRG currently. Lots of recovery projects with many orgs. Completed three houses. Looking at 8-10 in the next phase.
- Burdoon Wildfire - Jenne Patterson, City of White Salmon gave report on July 25 fires- 10,675 acres, 44 structures lost. LTRG is actively forming Burdoon Partners in Disaster Recovery (AKA Burdoon Partners). Caseworker is engaging survivors. A dynamic response with diverse needs. Setting up advisory committee and communicating the real work has just begun, it will take years to recover.

### Member Report Outs:

- **Church of Scientology**- Volunteer ministers and operation BBQ made 270K meals for Jamacia! Locally working with Mary's place to collect socks and canned food. Had briefing on Ecuador as well.
- **Latter Day Saint Charities** is active- sent 250 trucks and trailers delivering food to food banks for thanksgiving! 2024 put out \$1.5Billion dollars and 6.6 Million volunteer hours, 3800 humanitarian projects around the world in 192 countries! Bishop storehouses are a key distribution. Light the World Giving Machines- like a vending machine to pick a charity and donate, church pays overhead. <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/welcome/christmas/light-the-world/giving-machines?lang=eng>
- **Disaster Leadership Team**- supporting in xyz for 18 months. Timeline for Nat Disaster LTRG association. Putting together a leadership team, let Carlene know if interested.
- **FEMA VAL**- Chris Aronen- was furloughed during shutdown and AK typhoon. 660 individuals were evacuated (two flights) communities will be stuck in anchorage over winter, currently in non-congregate shelters. Reminder- DO NOT self deploy without coordination with FEMA and local leaders, this causes problems. Anticipates another shut down in January.
  - Red Cross add on- was feeding people the wrong food and realized needed to feed local culturally appropriate food. Many tribal orgs donated wild food.
  - STATE EMAC- folks can deploy with travel benefits- state makes request for folks registered in EMAC system. Chris will get more details.
- **Seattle Human Services**- City of Seattle response to SNAP disruption [More than \\$1 million in food assistance reaches Seattle food banks, meal programs during SNAP disruption - Human Interests](#). Seattle also planning for World Cup, Mass Care preparations.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 10am- Virtual

*Meeting adjourned by Kathy Bryson at 11:38 am.  
Respectfully submitted by Jim Cooper, WaVOAD secretary*