

August VOAD Meeting Minutes

08/04/2026 10:00 AM

Called to order Christie Merrill, President at 10:00 AM

Attendance:

90 Present

Christie Merrill, Red Cross
Jim Cooper, United Way of the Pacific NW
Ray Shjerven, Lutheran Disaster Response
Brian Brozovic, Operation BBQ Relief
Carlene Anders, Disaster Leadership Team
Larry Mays, Adventist Community Services Disaster Response
Adam Lane, Children's Disaster Services
Amea Barlet, Save the Children
Andrea Lyles, Spokane Region LTRG
Andy Royce, Mennonite Disaster Services
Angela Wan, Tzu Chi Foundation
Anna Piasecki, CRESA
Ari McKenna, Regional Alliance for Resilient & Equitable Transportation
Arturo Garciascano, ToolBANK disaster services
Autumn Henderson, FEMA
Bill Zagrocki, SBA Region 10
Bob Berley
Carlie Morishita
Casey Sturgill
cfaye
Chandra Fox, Spokane EM
Cherie Carey, Thurston County EM
Chris Aronen, VAL FEMA R10
Chris Mattera, Save the Children
Chuck Messinger, United Way Skagit Co.
Cindy Dickinson, Clark County
Clint Davis, Chehalis Tribal Emergency Manager
Coumba Faye, FEMA
Daniel Arnold, NW Baptist Disaster Relief
Danté DiSabatino, WA EMD

Elizabeth Gadbois, San Juan Islands Prepare
Elizabeth Jernberg, Global Empowerment Mission
Eric Williams, Second Harvest
Erica Wrublik, United Way North Idaho
Erin Myers, Child Life Disaster Relief
Everet Sterling
Fandy Tsai, Tzu Chi Foundation
Forrest Wilkinson, Brethren Disaster Ministries
Geri Chumley, Whatcom County COAD UL
Hannah Slusher, Operation Blessing
Heidi Clark, IFOC
Her Kait Seet, Tzu Chi Foundation
Iniobong Uounwa, FEMA R10
Jack Enzminger, Good360
Jamie McConnell, Food Lifeline
Jamie Whipple, Child Life Disaster Relief
Jax Richards, Save the Children US
Jay DeBoer, World Renew Disaster Response
Jessica Goldberg, Child Life Disaster Relief
John Holdsworth, American Logistics Aid Network
Jordan Boustead, Medical Teams International
Justice Gilbert, WA EMD
Kara Gunning, Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners
Keith Skore, UMCOR
Keri Pravitz, Amazon
Kimberly Bentley, Global Empowerment Mission
Laura Chen, Tzu Chi Foundation
Laura Meissner, Save The Children

Leila Bettys, Snohomish County Human Services
Lewis Lujan, WA EMD
Lexi Nobles, American Logistics Aid Network
Lisa Arellano, The Salvation Army
Lynette Machinski
Marty Grisham, Latter-Day Saint Charities
Melissa Reece, Church World Service
Michelle Requerme, All Hands & Hearts
Nathan Emory, King County Office of Emergency Management
Nick Bacon, Asotin County
Ozzie Baron, Project:Camp
Pat Waters
Patty Baker, Episcopal Relief & Development
Patty Marsh, Adventist Community Services
Peifeng
Racine (Rae) Droz, Feeding America
RaeAnn Dietlin, Direct Relief
Richie Brower, Adventist Community Services
Sean Davis, Franklin County EM
Sharon Hawa, Good360
Staci Richard, Direct Relief
Stephanie Donahue
Taylor Dietz, WA EMD
Tim Perciful, Best Friends Animal Society
Toni-Leilani "TL" Butler, HOPE Worldwide
Tyler Verda, Snohomish Co. Human Services
Wendy Urbin, Adventist Community Services
Zac Chisum, Samaritans Purse
Zack Gifford, WA EMD

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Minutes

Motion made by Larry to approve minutes from June 2026, seconded by Jay Deboer, approved by membership.

Financials

Report by: Ray Shjerven, Treasurer

August Financials				
Operating checking				
Beginning balance			13208.1	
	2 Dues Deposits	240.00		
	# 1035 NVOAD		-1904.04	Cooper
	#1036	NVOAD	-1404.09	Merrill
	debit		-35.48	Snacks for meeting
New Balance			10024.49	
Segregated savings				
Beginning Balance			5167.1	
	June and July interest		1.73	
New Balance			5169.29	

President Report, Christie Merrill

- VOAD Secretary Role - Call for Secretary help. If interested in helping to serve WA VOAD in this role, please get in contact with Christie
- Upcoming National VOAD Conferences
 - May 3-6 2027 Daytona Neach, Florida
 - May 1-4, 2028 Seattle, WA
- October VOAD Meeting will be held in the Wenatchee area for those wanting to be in person. More details will be shared soon.
- Looking at how we are communicating with Membership. Looking to maybe begin utilizing WhatsApp platform.

New Membership:

Ray Shjerven presented on behalf of Brian Baer for [Elevated Studio](#), National VOAD member. Motioned made by Ray to accept as partner organization, Larry seconded, approved by membership.

Eastern Washington Fires Coordination Call

Thursday 8/6/2026 9:00 AM Coordination Call – Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81155766634?pwd=bj69lv8NpjvaUfgb2FNU8bJZlOFRV0.1>

PRESENTATION

Dante DiSabatino – WA EMD – 2026 Great Washington ShakeOut

- Held every year, 3rd Thursday of October: October 15th 10:15 AM
- [The Great Washington ShakeOut - Resources](#)
[ShakeOut-Poster-Global-Date-JoinUs-EN.pdf](#)
- [ShakeOut-Graphic-Global-Date-JoinUs-1200x630-EN.png \(20000×10500\)](#)

REPORT OUTS

Government

Taylor Dietz, WA EMD – Emergency declarations approved, collaboration with FEMA IMAT in place, organizing Mass care (shelter, feeding, hydration, pets, donation management, reunification potentially). On ground in Spokane where DAC planning is underway with one being set up (maybe 8/6 opening?).

- Shadle Park High School, 4327 N Ash St, Spokane, 99205
- Opening hours: Initial opening, 6-Aug, 12 noon; daily hours TBD, probably 0900 – 1900 hrs; at least thru Sunday
- Simone Ramel-McKay, Spokane Disaster Assistance Center - 509-477-3006, sramelmckay@spokanecounty.gov

Chris Aronen VAL FEMA R10 – Emergency Declaration, Category B: Emergency Protective Measures. Once locals complete damage assessments can hopefully get a major declaration approved: public assistance, etc.

- Emergency Declarations
 - Counties: Chelan, Ferry, Okanogan, Spokane, Stevens, Yakima
 - Tribes: Yakima, Colville, Spokane

Counties

Chelan – Carlene reporting out. In need of clean up resources, dates to come for specifics.

Ferry - Carlene reporting out. Need for drinking water donations (Food Lifeline/Second Harvest to help)

Okanogan – Carlene reporting out. EOC is open

Spokane – Chandra Fox reporting out. 76,000 evacuated, 450 in shelter (elderly/memory care needs present), 700-1000 destroyed homes, DAC Thursday opening goal at 12pm Noon,

Yakima – representative could not attend, but news from Ray that there will be some great needs in White Swan

Individual Report Out

Jim Cooper - United Way - Spokane LTRG in contact, United Way helping, raising money to help support needs, setting up website called "Mindful Giving" to help connect need with resources, knows of a need for warehouse Space needed in Spokane area 50000 sq ft, United Way is also getting simple cash assistance card application to LTRG case managers in Spokane LTRG today.

Lisa Arellano- Salvation Army – Mobilized emotional spiritual care (convention center and mobile), gathering care kits, planning (locations, needs), vouchers for store, food bank open (Spokane), working with Baby2Baby to get baby and infant supplies

Keith Skore - UMCOR – Staging supplied, teams to be prepared to mobilize. Any questions, contact Kathy.

Hey Kait Seet – Tzu Chi Foundation – ready to join DACs with cash cards to help support needs

Lexi Nobles – American Logistics Aid Network - supply chain help

Chris Mattera – Save The Children – helping with baby supplies, flexible cash assistance, childcare/education facility repair grant funding, in Colville DAC, Spokane DAC soon.

Toni Leilani Butler – HOPE Worldwide – church access, help with children services, mobile feeding

Andy Royce – Mennonite Disaster Service – looking for space to help store vehicles & trailers (3 trailers, 1 truck)

Chuck Messinger – United Way Skagit County still has needs for funding and meeting unmet needs for LTRGs

Amee Barlet – Save The Children – happy to help in long haul

Marty Grisham – Latter Day Saint Charities – ready with support and resources, waiting to here from leaders regarding needs. Food, clothing, etc.

Liz San Juan Islands Prepare – connection with National Crisis Response K9's might could deploy to shelters sheltering elderly/memory care. Will follow up coordination with Red Cross.

Reports Out Via Zoom Chat:

- **Melissa Reece.** Senior Program Officer **Church World Service.** mreece@cwsglobal.org. Any of your orgs can ask for our kits & blankets if you want to distribute them. [Request Kits - CWS Kits](#) We have clean up buckets which are good for those who have had long power outages, but not for lost homes. Blankets and Hygeine kits are good for those who are sheltering.
- **Sharon Hawa - Good360** has bottled water as well as some other supplies. We need to received a request to disasterhelp@good360.org and a public charity to be registered with us to support. As well as warehouse information
- **Jessica Goldberg** - Hi! I'm Jessica from **child life disaster relief**. We can send child life specialist trained in support for children after disaster to provide psychosocial support and opportunities for child led play. We also collaborate with children's Disaster services that sets up safe play spaces in shelters, school, etc to provide childcare. Happy to connect Jessica.goldberg@cldisastetrelief.org

- **Jim Cooper – United Way** - we have offers for tesla mobile charging stations AND Verizon connectivity vans- please let me know if you hear of any needs there.
- **Tim Perciful - Best Friends** is the Animal Branch Lead under Spokane EM. I was going report out but need to jump. We have a lot going on pet supply distribution , animal sheltering, veterinary assistance, transporting animals, etc.
- **Chris Mattera – Save the Children** - cmattera@savechildren.org, 475-450-5280. I also wanted to mention we can coordinate/connect care for children in shelters through the Safe Space Coalition group
- **Rae Droz – Feeding America** - Apologies, I need to hop off the call, but I wanted to provide a quick Feeding America (FANO) update. We remain in close coordination with Second Harvest Inland Northwest, Food Lifeline, Northwest Harvest, and other Washington partners as wildfire response efforts continue. We have coordinated deployment of two trailer loads of disaster food boxes to Second Harvest Inland Northwest to support impacted communities, including tribal partners. We're also working with Oregon Food Bank as a regional pre-staging site to strengthen response capacity and enable rapid deployment of disaster supplies across the Pacific Northwest as additional needs arise. Please continue to keep us informed of any unmet needs. We're here to support our Washington partners however we can.

LINKS

Wildfire Capabilities: <https://forms.gle/GFfcRTcDJYcwzTt19>

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