

# WAVOAD General Meeting

February 1, 2022

Zoom Meeting led by Marty Grisham, WaVOAD Vice President, LDS Charities

## In Attendance

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| Marty Grisham – LDS Charities, WaVOAD President   | Lauren Hazen – Salvation Army  |
| Kathy Bryson – PNW UMC Disaster Response, WaVOAD Vice President                                 | Larry Mays – Adventist Disaster Services                               |
| Dave Zabloutny – Habitat for Humanity, WaVOAD Secretary   | Fandy Tsai – Tzu Chi   |
| Ray Shjerven – SWWS ELCA, WaVOAD Treasurer  | Andy Royce – Washington Mennonite Fellowship                           |
| Dave Baylor – Episcopal Relief and Development, WaVOAD Member-at-large                          | Byron Dulan – Adventist Community Services Disaster Response           |
| Andrew Chadick – Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle – SAFE Washington, WaVOAD Member-at-large | Kathleen Voss – American Red Cross                                     |
| Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology, WaVOAD Member-at-large                                       | Deborah Witmer – City of Seattle Human Services – Emergency Management |
| Randy Bode – World Renew  | Michelle WhiteEagle – Mennonite Disaster Services                      |
| Carlene Anders – Okanogan County LTRG   | Lewis Lujan – WA State Emergency Management                            |
| Terri Giles – FEMA Region 10  | Sarah Jensen – FEMA  |
| Eric Williams – Second Harvest  | Ryan Clair   |
| Shaun Jones – Salvation Army  | Forrest Wilkinson – Church of the Brethren                             |
| Patty Baker – Episcopal Disaster Services   | Jake Gillanders – EMPACT Northwest                                     |
| Bill Gillespie – WaSARVAC   | Tom Link – St. Vincent de Paul   |
| Jill Watson – City of Seattle   | Hank Oltmann – FEMA VAL  |

***Meeting called to order by Marty Grisham for February 1, 2022, at 10:04am***

## Minutes Review

The minutes from the December 7, 2021, general meeting were presented with no corrections. Ray Shjerven moved to accept. Patty Baker offered the second to the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Shaun Jones abstained from the vote since he was unable to access and review the minutes on the WaVOAD website.

## Financial Review

Financials from year end December 31, 2021 were reviewed. The balance in the checking accounts as of December 31, 2021, was \$20,693.72. The savings account balance was \$5,489.10. Ray Shjerven noted that expenses incurred on behalf of WaVOAD by Kathy Bryson of \$400.67 in January 2022 were paid out of the savings account bringing the current balance to \$5088.52. Dave Baylor moved to accept. Kathy Bryson offered to second the motion. The motion to approve the financial statement was unanimous.

## **President's Report/General Information**

Marty Grisham noted that he has discussed 2022 Goals and Objectives with the WaVOAD leadership team with the following being the recommended key focus areas for 2022:

1. Membership records clean up. He requested that organization reps go to the WaVOAD website and update organizational information.
2. Invite NGOs and other organizations not currently involved with WaVOAD to join. Marty asked that members put the word out to others not currently involved. Requirements are that the organization must have a disaster response program of some sort and be a member of the National VOAD. There is also an opportunity for "partner" organizations to become involved with no dues and no voting rights.
3. Focus on relationship building with county/city agencies.
4. Determine how to best use funding in accounts. Possibilities include grants to cover member dues, reimbursements for expenses related to WaVOAD involvement and for use on training programs. A lengthy discussion on the training topic followed with possibilities including presentations about WaVOAD (who we are, mission, structure and how we engage and support), possibly a resource guide but would need to be general with enough information but not too detailed. Also recommended was use of funding to support member attendance at meetings and events (not restricted to the leadership team).

## **New Partner Application**

Marty noted we have received a membership application form from the Disaster Leadership Team (DLT) that has been discussed by the leadership team. Carlene Anders provided background: This group was founded in 2016 by Mennonite Disaster Services. It is a volunteer organization that has a mentorship function. Currently a State VOAD member in Texas and applying for membership in California, Colorado and Washington.

Kathy Bryson made a motion to accept DLT for membership (as a Class B member) and Dave Zabloutny seconded. The motion was approved.

## **Report Outs:**

### **Long term Recovery Updates:**

**Pine Creek Community Restoration** – Kathy Bryson reported on follow up activities related to the 2020 wildfires in the towns of Malden and Pine Creek. She noted there were 84 referrals and 56 of those have been closed. Six homes are currently under construction by the Western Anabaptist missionaries from Montana with a projected finish date of March 1. There are still outstanding needs for outbuildings and fencing.

**Okanogan County LTRG** – Carlene Anders reported that four homes are currently being built – focus on the mechanicals at this point. There are about 10-15 weekly volunteers who are moving these builds along. These efforts are expected to carry through June 2022. Hoping to pour an additional three or four foundations soon depending on funding. Eight homes in total

should cover the need. An unmet needs roundtable was recently held. Also, in the process of building 26 outbuildings.

### **Current WA State Relief/Recovery Updates:**

**Western WA Floods** – Kathy Bryson detailed her visit to Whatcom County (December 13-17). She was able to tour impacted areas and met with local leadership. It was a good opportunity to share more about WaVOAD and also to represent UMCOR and share expertise on long term recovery. Carlene Anders added that she has attended several meetings in Whatcom County. Said good progress being made in the process of hiring of case managers. Also noted that Kyle Christiansen, former mayor of Sumas, has been hired as long-term recovery coordinator. Dave Baylor added that 85 space heaters are being distributed by Whatcom County EOC (donated through Catholic Community Services).

Dave Baylor reported on Clallam County. Discussion about the viability of an LTRG is taking place but no decision has been made at this time. Much of the damage in this area was to mobile homes. He shared details about the process of procuring space heaters through various organizational grants.

Marty Grisham noted that we are on standby in Skagit County where they are trying to determine viability of LTRG.

**Southwest WA Floods – 2022** – Kathy Bryson noted that WaVOAD was involved in initial state coordination calls related to these floods. Lewis Lujan from WA State Emergency Management provided a brief update. In Pacific there are eight high need homes and two that are medium. In Greys Harbor there are between 12 and 20 homes with high need - still trying to clarify.

### **Guest Presentations**

**Terri Giles – FEMA – Region 10 - Presented FEMA VAL Report related to recent WA flooding-** Working closely with Lewis Lujan – State VAL. This is the first Individual Assistance (IA) grant in WA State. 12% is covered by the State, 12% by the County. A cleaning and sanitation program and crisis counseling program have been approved. The Whatcom County LTRG is active, Clallam County still trying to capture unmet needs and in Skagit County VALS still trying to identify unmet needs. At this point there are over 1300 registrations for assistance with just over 1000 homeowners and about 360 renters. The average award is about \$5,340.

Terri noted that the goal is that FEMA resources are used first, if available, so other monies available can be used to expand recovery.

Sarah Jensen outlined the sequence of Delivery. Initial requests for assistance are made initially to voluntary agencies and insurance providers. She noted that FEMA assistance may be available to those who are uninsured or underinsured or are experiencing a delay in receiving insurance benefits. Help can be requested for FEMA Housing Assistance or for other forms of assistance (medical, dental, moving/storage, cleanup) through Federal, State, Territory or Tribal entities before applying to the SBA for assistance for real property or personal property assistance.

**Afghan Resettlement** – Marty Grisham provided a quick update – local congregations are assisting families who are moving off military bases and trickling in – but nothing major to report.

**Member Report Outs**

**Randy Bove – World Renew Disaster Response Services** – currently in early stages of planning for with the LTRG for unmet needs assessment for Whatcom County. Also, in early stages of planning for short term groups in early summer (typically young folks).

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 5, 2022 – 10am via zoom**

***Meeting adjourned by Marty Grisham approximately 12:00 pm.  
Respectfully submitted by Dave Zablony, WaVOAD secretary***