

# WAVOAD General Meeting

August 6, 2024

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

## In Attendance

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|--|--|
| Kathy Bryson – UMCOR/PNW United Methodist Church Disaster Response - WaVOAD President            | Jennifer Thomas – Spokane Region - LTRG                        |
| Marty Grisham – LDS Charities - WaVOAD Past President  | Tom Link – St Vincent DePaul                                   |
| Ray Shjerven - SWWA ELCA - WaVOAD Treasurer  | Carlene Anders – Disaster Leadership Team                      |
| Dave Zablony – Habitat for Humanity - WaVOAD Secretary   | Tory Stine – Medical Teams International                       |
| Andrew Chadick – Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle – SAFE Washington – WaVOAD Member-at-large | Patty Baker – Episcopal Diocese of Olympia                     |
| Jim Mahon – Church of Scientology – WaVOAD Member-at-large                                       | Forrest Wilkinson – Church of the Brethren Disaster Ministries |
| Taylor Dietz – WA State OEM  | Kate Urwin – Washington 211                                    |
| Geri Chumley – Whatcom County COAD   | Jim Sullivan – Wahington 211                                   |
| Lisa Arellano – Salvation Army   | Her Kait Seet – Tzu Chi Foundation                             |
| Lauren Hazen – Salvation Army  | Emily Goertz - Mennonite Disaster Services                     |
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*Meeting called to order by Kathy Bryson for June 4, 2024, at 10:03am*

## Minutes Review

The minutes from the June 4, 2024, general meeting were presented. Patty Baker moved to accept the minutes. Marty Grisham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Financial Review

Ray Shjerven shared to following review of the financials:

|                    |                   |           |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Segregated Savings | Beginning balance | \$5131.68 |
|                    | Interest earned   | \$ 6.27   |
|                    | New balance       | \$5137.95 |

Checking Account Beginning Balance \$15,020.14

|               |             |       |
|---------------|-------------|-------|
| Dues payments | \$ 360.00   |       |
| Check #1022   | (\$ 550.00) | NVOAD |
| New Balance   | \$14,830.14 |       |

Dave Zabloutny moved to accept the Treasurer’s report. Forrest Wilkinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**President’s Report: Kathy Bryson**

Wildfire Updates – Kathy noted there is wildfire activity around the state and asked Taylor Dietz from WA State OEM to provide an update to the group. Taylor noted the following:

ESF 14 Update – recovery activities - currently providing support to the Yakima nation on their submission of individual assistance and their Declaration request. Will also be supporting the Colville Nation with public assistance damage assessment and Declaration request.

Housing – Have reached out to Airbnb about housing and have received 200 free nights of emergency housing. Will be made to jurisdictions upon request. Individual counties would select a local nonprofit to coordinate this process.

ESF 6 – currently working with Red Cross on monitoring shelter availability. There is one shelter in place in Chelan County at Lake Chelan school district.

Taylor also noted that the specific fires around the state are monitored at the SEOC level. Currently at a Level 2.

Below is a link to the most recent SEOC update - Please note that this product is compiled by the SEOC and is for official use only.

[https://www.wavoad.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SEOC\\_FIRE\\_SITREP\\_20240826.pdf](https://www.wavoad.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SEOC_FIRE_SITREP_20240826.pdf)

Carlene Anders asked about Hazard Mitigation Grant approvals and Kathy asked about FMAGs. Taylor responded with the following in the chat:

Fire Management Assistance grants (FMAG). She noted these are for fire suppression and emergency protective measures (such as OT for sheriffs doing evacs and road closures). This is on any fire that is declared and has the potential to be major disaster declaration based on threat to infrastructure or primary homes. There are four approved this year:

- Slide Ranch – Yakima Nation
- White Swan – Yakima Nation
- Retreat – Yakima County

- Swawilla – Colville Nation

Since 2024 wildfire season is active and ongoing, they are in the process of accumulating FMAGs. At the end of the season, they'll be bundled, and the aggregate will be the ceiling for the grant round. Most likely are months out from announcing and opening the 2024 HMGP Post-fire grant round.

Kathy also noted there will be a NVOAD call later today focusing on impacts from Hurricane Debby on the Southeast U.S.

### **Report Outs:**

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

**Okanogan County LTRG** – Carlene Anders reported that they are just focused on mitigation efforts at this time as most work is complete. She also that those who attended the 10-year Reflection and Appreciation event that was held in July.

**Whatcom County LTRG** – There was no one present from the Whatcom County LTRG to provide an update.

**Spokane County Wildfire Update** – Jennifer Thomas – Executive Director – Spokane County LTRG – Jennifer provided the following update:

- They have been successful in obtaining grant funding for asbestos testing and debris removal
- Out of the 366 primary residences that were damaged or destroyed, 55% of the impacted properties have begun rebuilding
- Broke ground on 8 homes
- 5 Conex delivered (but still being finished)
- Preparing a capital campaign – will need to raise about \$4.5 million
- Sister-Corps is coming next week and will be helping build pump houses.
- Anniversary events coming up on Saturday the 17th in Elk and Sunday the 18th in Medical Lake
- Trying to prepare for winter - 30 Elk families in RV's, probably 15-20 in Medical Lake
- First Unmet Needs Roundtable to meet today – hope to set up regular meetings going forward

### **Guest Presentation – WA State 211 – Tim Sullivan, Statewide Director, and Kate Urwin, Quality Assurance and Training Manager**

Tim began by discussing the history and origins of 211 dating back to 1997 in Atlanta, Ga. In 2000, the FTC assigned the 211 number and in 2003 the WA State Legislature supported the creation of the 211 network in WA and between 2006 and 2007 all WA State regional call centers went live. Today there are seven regional call centers and 99% coverage in the U.S.

What is 211:

- No “wrong door” point of access
- Comprehensive database of health and human services resources
- Point of public contact during an emergency
- Leading surveillance system for social needs data in the state
- Assist an average of 1,600 people daily
- Efficient and effective means to extend services to rural and hard to reach communities

From July 2023-July 2024 - received 340,619 contacts and provided 759,054 referrals, the highest volume in the history of the 211 System.

Historically, the top six service needs are:

- Housing and shelter
- Healthcare
- Family services
- Utilities
- Government and legal
- Food

Access to 211 can be made via a phone call, a search of database resources or via text or chat.

211 is integrated via warm handoffs 911 (Emergency line) and 988 (suicide prevention)

Kate Urwin talked through the 211 response and support of WA State specific disasters and then explained in detail the importance of 211 during the Covid-19 pandemic. She noted that from 2020-2022 over 545,000 Covid related call were handled in WA State.

Kate also noted that system and service adjustments have been made to accommodate caller needs.

Communication challenges have been met via the following:

- A language line that accommodated 240 languages
- Bilingual staffing
- Materials in multiple languages
- TTY line available
- Partnerships with providers serving disabled populations
- Accommodations for those with vision issues

Here is a link to the full presentation with additional detail: <https://www.wavoad.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Washington-211-Presentation-for-VOAD.pdf>

### **Member Report Outs**

**Kathy Bryson – United Methodist Disaster Response** – Kathy shared that UMCOR has received relief grants for Eastern WA and SW Idaho fires and has been active there. She noted that the Idaho VOAD

has organized a Multi-Agency Response Center. They are also active in the Spokane Valley Unmet Needs Roundtable.

**Carlene Anders – Disaster Leadership Team (DLT)** – Have been talking with LTRGs and inviting them to be involved in a national LTR organization. There is a meeting scheduled for September. They are also assisting the Lahaina LTRG on Maui. Work there has focused on a 450-unit housing project, 12 new home builds, and clearing the homeless from parks.

**Government Partners:**

Taylor Dietz – WA State Emergency Management:

- Continuing to work on the State IA program – finalizing new rules
- Working on a Decision package – with funding for preparedness and response
- ESF 6 Plan – surveys are completed – hope to publish within a few months
- Close to finalizing the hire of an Access/Functional Needs manager

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 10am via zoom**

***Meeting adjourned by Kathy Bryson at 11:51 am.***

***Respectfully submitted by Dave Zablony, WaVOAD secretary***