

WAVOAD General Meeting

October 1, 2024

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	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 Zabloutny – Habitat for Humanity - WaVOAD Secretary	Chris Aronen – FEMA – Region 10 VAL
Andrew Chadick – Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle – SAFE Washington – WaVOAD Member-at-large	Patty Baker – Episcopal Diocese of Olympia
Jim Cooper – United Way NW – Member-at-large	Randy Bode – World Renew
Zack Gifford – WA State OEM	Brian Clark – Team Rubicon
Geri Chumley – Whatcom County COAD	Andy Royce – Mennonite Disaster Services
Shaun Jones – Salvation Army	Megan Dulgar – Red Cross
Lauren Hazen – Salvation Army	Jenny Carkner-Adams – Red Cross
Kyle Christensen – Whatcom County LTRG	Tim Perciful – American Humane Disaster Mgr.
Eric Williams – Second Harvest	

Meeting called to order by Kathy Bryson for October 1, 2024, at 10:02am

Minutes Review

The minutes from the August 6, 2024, general meeting were presented. The motion to accept the minutes was approved unanimously.

Financial Review

Ray Shjerven shared to following review of the financials:

Segregated Savings Beginning balance \$5137.95

Interest earned \$ 2.18

New balance \$5140.13

Checking Account Beginning Balance \$14,830.14 (Unchanged)

Tom Link moved to accept the Treasurer’s report. Randy Bode seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report: Kathy Bryson

Kathy mentioned the impacts of Hurricane Helene on the Southeastern U.S. There is a NVOAD call on October 3rd to discuss and there are daily calls going on in five states – North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Florida (?). There are also FEMA coordination calls taking place.

Chris Aronen shared a link in the Chat to the FEMA Weekly Bulletin – go to govdelivery.com to sign up.

Kathy also shared that we have been experiencing issues with our website. Andrew Chadick has been working with NVOAD to address. The issues are now resolved.

Open WaVOAD Board Position:

Kathy shared that Dave Zablony's term ends as WaVOAD Secretary at 2024 year end and he will not be continuing in that role. She asked that anyone interested in stepping into this role reach out to her.

She also mentioned that the current term for the Treasurer role also expires at year end and that Ray Shjerven will continue in that role for another term.

Guest Presentation – Megan Dulgar – Red Cross Regional CEO – Northwest Region Disaster Response Primer

Megan has been with Red Cross for 18 years – began as a volunteer in Minnesota and has been in her current role for about one year.

Megan explained that this presentation was developed just recently and was initially geared toward government leaders.

The hope in sharing this presentation is that we all come away with some knowledge/understanding that we didn't have before and that the connection between Red Cross and partners can become even stronger through understanding.

Mission: The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

Three lines of Service – Humanitarian, Biomedical and Training

Climate Change has led to continuous response. Some key metrics shared for 2023:

- 2023 was the warmest year on record since 1850
- There were 28- billion-dollar disasters in the U.S. - the average time between major disasters was 12 days
- Disasters displace 2.5 million Americans from their homes

Red Cross provides the following in Disaster Response:

- Basic needs – food and shelter
- Cleanup supplies and comfort items
- Financial assistance and health/mental health support

Typical response scenarios:

- Home fire response – 1028 home fires in 2023
- Disaster response – including pre-disaster, response, recovery, long term recovery

The Northwest Region consists of five chapters, 38 counties and 2,500 volunteers

Red Cross partners play an important role in helping to understand where needs exist

Here is a link to the full presentation:

<https://www.wavoad.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Red-Cross-Disaster-Response-Education-Primer-.pdf>

Report Outs:

Long term Recovery Updates:

Whatcom County LTRG – Kyle Christensen

- Kyle noted they are nearly three years into the recovery efforts from the November 2021 floods
- UMCOR continues to support their efforts – will have volunteers on site in October
- They do offer housing support for volunteers – have hook-ups available for trailers and RVs
- FEMA funding is available for elevations – currently working through process

Ray Shjerven asked about infrastructure resiliency efforts – Kyle said that is not part of the LTRG work but there is work being done adding dikes and berms to help mitigate future occurrences. He also noted that the funding for elevations will allow those who cannot afford to relocate to mitigate future flooding impacts to their homes.

Spokane County Wildfire Update – Jennifer Thomas – Executive Director – Spokane County LTRG –

Jennifer provided the following update:

- Very busy few months – feel fortunate they had no major fires over the summer
- Disaster Leadership training done with leadership team in September
- Sister-Corps built pump houses in August
- WHAM volunteers helped frame out new builds in August
- Looking for help moving shed from Airway Heights to Elk
- Homes under construction – 2 in Medical Lake and 6 in Elk
- Work being done on 5 Conex homes – plumbing and drywall

Member Report Outs:

Carlene Anders – Disaster Leadership Team (DLT):

- They have been working with the Spokane LTRG
- There is a workshop scheduled for November 12 and 13 from 10-2 each day to discuss the setup of the National LTR organization. There will be 22 positions. The National Conference will be held in June of 2025.
- They continue to assist in Maui. The work on clearing has been completed. More partners now becoming involved.

Government Partners:

Chris Aronen – FEMA Region 10 VAL – Provided an update on Hurricane Helene impacts:

- Southeastern states impacted – Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia
- Major disaster declarations for Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina (and the Cherokee Nation)
- Currently 10 search and rescue teams in NC with nine others in route with some areas still cut off
- There are still about 1.6 million without power
- FEMA distributing food, water, and supplies through personnel on site
- Major concern is additional flooding with more rain on the way for some of the hardest hit areas

Chris also noted that a major declaration was approved the Yakima Nation resulting from an August fire there. Awaiting input from Yakima Nation on needs which will help in determining approach.

Chris also mentioned Damage Assessments being done in Alaska from the Juneau/Mendenhall flooding and in Idaho relating to wildfire in Nez Pierce County.

Zack Gifford – WA State OEM – Noted that the State level is now at a Level 3 which means situations are being monitored. He also noted they are working with the Employment Security Commission to ensure needed services are available to those impacted by wildfires.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 10am via zoom

Meeting adjourned by Kathy Bryson at 11:19 am.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Zablony, WaVOAD secretary