

# WAVOAD General Meeting

February 4, 2025

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

[Recording is here](#)

## In Attendance

Kathy Bryson – UMCOR/PNW United Methodist Church Disaster Response - WaVOAD President	Christie Merrill – Red Cross – WaVOAD Vice President
Marty Grisham – LDS Charities - WaVOAD Past President	Chris Aronen – FEMA – Region 10 VAL
Ray Shjerven - SWWA ELCA - WaVOAD Treasurer	Shaun Jones, Salvation Army
Geri Chumley – Whatcom County COAD	Randy Bode, World Renew Disaster Services
Celia, Taylor, King Co Office of Emergency Management	Jim Mahon, Churches of Scientology Disaster Response
Eric Williams, Second Harvest	Taylor Dietz, Washington Emergency Management Division
Lauren Hazen- The Salvation Army	Anita Stokes Mennonite Disaster Service
Travis Bilyeu, King County Emergency Management	Her Kait Seet Tzu Chi Foundation ERT
Lisa Arellano, The Salvation Army EDS	Andy and Joyce Royce - Mennonite Disaster Service
Jill Watson, Seattle Human Services ESF 6 lead	

**Meeting called to order by Kathy Bryson for December 3, 2024, at 10:02am**

Kathy asked for introductions of Leadership Board and New members.

## Minutes Review

Meeting minutes from December 3, 2024, general meeting were presented by Kathy. Marty Grisham moved to accept the minutes. Eric Williams seconded the motion. The motion to accept the minutes was approved unanimously.

## Financial Review

Ray Shjerven shared to following review of the financials:

Segregated Savings	Beginning balance	\$5147.17
	Interest earned	\$ 1.53
	New balance	\$5148.70
Checking Account	Beginning Balance	\$14,810.14
	NVOAD Dues	\$(35.00)

Reimburse PEPC Tuition \$(450)

New balance \$14,325.14

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Randy Bode moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Jim Mahon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Presidents Report-**

- LA Wildfires- Kathy reported on working on response in Los Angeles. She gave shout out to all VO's active in region. LA VOAD opening new center in Pacific Palisades Area.
- Spring Conference Updates - [PIEP](#) April 14-17, Online Christie will rep WAVOAD, [MWVOAD](#) Boise the same week Jim Cooper will attend remotely, [NVOAD](#) May 19-24 Louisville KY, Christy, Kathy and Jim will be there for sure as well as others.
- [NVOAD](#) two Scholarship Opportunity from [WaVOAD](#) coming soon! Open to WAVOAD members in good standing; commitment to report out at June WAVAD general Meeting; submit statement of request and demonstrated need deadline coming mid-march
- April 1 In-person General Meeting at NOAA
- With Jim moving from Member at large to Secretary do WaVOAD Appointment for At-Large member of [Leadership Team](#) coming. Reach out Directly to Kathy with Interest. Leadership will announce new at large member at April 1 meeting.

### **Guest Presentation – Celia Taylor King County Office of Emergency Management**

206-205-4066, [cetaylor@kingcounty.gov](mailto:cetaylor@kingcounty.gov)

Celia described the office of Emergency Management and November response to Bomb Cyclone response to recovery. She also covered [ALERT King County](#). She also thanked WA VOAD for their partnership and participation in helping KC better serve their community. Members made suggestions and returned compliments. [Slide Deck is here](#).

### **Report Outs:**

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

#### **Spokane County Wildfire Update** – Terri Cooper – Mayor – Medical Lake

Terri provided the following update:

- Currently eight homes under construction – work on mechanicals should be complete by year end
- Mennonite Disaster Services will be sending volunteer in January, but more volunteer help is needed

- The plan for 2025-26 is for 10-12 additional homes to be built. Will need to raise about \$1million for these homes and volunteers will be needed.

### **Member Report Outs:**

#### **LTRG**

**Terri Cooper Spokane Region LTRG** gave update on August 2023 wildfire response. Largest asset loss in Spokane county history 366 homes lost and over 700 structures. Progress is going well and more FEMA funding is coming to build housing for the remaining unhoused.

**Andy & Joyce Royce, Mennonite Disaster Services** gave update on their work in Spokane- and the new funding for houses will trigger more response by their organization.

**Disaster Leadership Team** still engaging in Lahaina, forming a strike team to build 15 homes for highly vulnerable and lower income folks. Looking for creative ideas on housing for volunteers on Maui.

**Jim Mahon, Churches of Scientology Disaster Response-** they are helping in LA in a big way and in SE> here is a link to newsletter folks can see more: <https://www.volunteerministers.org/news/>

**Ray Shjerven, Lutheran Disaster Services-** Going door to door in NC to combat misinformation. Fed Govt. DOGE is also attacking LDS in an awful way. Most of what you see on social about LDS and disaster misinformation is false and we need to educate our constituents.

**Jill Watson, Seattle Human Services ESF 6 lead City** held meetings to support immigrants and refugees and is monitoring funding of programs that impact city.

### **Government Partners:**

#### **Chris Aronen – FEMA Region 10 VAL:**

- Lot's going on, agency in flux, trying to sort it all out.
- Introduced colleague Ilyssa Plumer who put in a plug for the Youth Preparedness Council

#### **Taylor Dietz, WA State Emergency Management, Human Services Program Supervisor**

- Introducing Zach Gifford is new WA state VAL, he continues as Recovery Program Specialist as well.
- Gave update on ESF6 Plan being finalized [here](#) on the WA emergency Management Website. [Here](#) are the rest of the plans.
- Damage assessment of Bomb Cyclone didn't show enough for national individual assistance, but did qualify for state individual assistance- received \$1M from Commerce Rapid Response Fund for three counties. Info [here](#).

**Jill Watson, Seattle Human Services ESF 6 lead City**

- held meetings to support immigrants and refugees and is monitoring funding of programs that impact city.
- Talked about Bomb Cyclone some too- Seattle City Light had 20% of customers lose power- worst since 2006 Hanukkah Eve Storm
- Talked about 2026 workdcup-6 games with fan sites across the state. ESF6 developing reunification plan, just in case

**Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 10am NOAA in Seattle**

***Meeting adjourned by Kathy Bryson at 11:17 am.***

***Respectfully submitted by Jim Cooper, WaVOAD secretary***