

Oregon VOAD Meeting Minutes



January 16, 2018

Attendance: *26 individuals*

Anna Meyer, Church of the Brethren
Ashley Volz, Deschutes County COAD, Emergency Services Coordinator
Brent Carlson, Church of the Brethren
Brian Sylvin, Dept Hum ?
Cathy Guptill, American Red Cross
Charlene Larsen, Lutheran Disaster Response, Vice President-Rural
Curtis Peetz, American Red Cross
Dan Moseler, UMCOR, OR-ID Conference of United Methodist Church;
Dick Raub, Episcopal Dioceses of Oregon, Vice President-Urban
Jo Becker, "Animals And Disasters" of Oregon City
John Colvin, Mennonite Disaster Service
John Legler, Portland NET
Justin Ross, Multnomah County EM
Karen Layng, Oregon Office of Emergency Management
Kate Castenson, Mercy Corps
Larry Johnson, UMCOR
Major Hendrik Sumter, The Salvation Army, Cascade Division
Major Mark Gilden, The Salvation Army
Michael Riedy, FEMA VAL, Region X
Michelle Taylor, American Red Cross
Mike Johnson, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Robert Worlock, Church of Scientology Disaster Response
Sherry Young, Oregon Lions District 36-0
Steve Howard, HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response
Susan Romanski, Mercy Corps
Wendy Colvin, Mennonite Disaster Service

Dick Raub - Vice President-Urban, opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

At the request of the board, Dean Alby formally severed all ties with Oregon VOAD. It was with deep regret that we took this action. Unfortunately, an event dated 25 years ago, and for which Dean paid a terrible price, resurfaced. The Food Bank knew of this past, and employed and fully supported Dean. He, as with ORVOAD, has been a tireless and active contributor. However, because a lawsuit related to the event resurrected that past, his continuance with both the Food Band and ORVOAD would have interfered with future work. We are extremely sorry to lose him, and his enthusiasm and help as a colleague. If communications with Dean on behalf of ORVOAD are required, please contact

Charlene Larsen (VP Rural), at president@ORVOAD.org, or Dick Raub (VP Urban) at dickraub70@gmail.com.

Secretary's Report (position is currently vacant)

As prior meeting minutes were not available, a vote to approve them was postponed.

Treasurer's Report – Wendy Colvin

Beginning balance Nov. 14, 2017 - \$7,104.94. \$400 member dues paid in, \$35 NVOAD dues paid out, Balance \$7,469.94. Dick asked that if any organizations haven't paid, to please do so. There was no vote to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Partner Spotlight – Mercy Corp, Northwest

Susan Romanski and Kate Castenson gave a presentation about Mercy Corps' work. Mercy Corps (see the "[about us](#)" video) is a global humanitarian and development organization with programs in 40 countries and a headquarters in Portland. We work with local communities to develop innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems (we showed an [innovation video](#) from one of our programs).

While most of our programs are international, for the past few years our two-person Cascadia team has been working on emergency preparedness (especially around the Cascadia earthquake) for communities in the Pacific Northwest. Last year, we focused on preparedness presentations at schools and co-founded the group "[Parents for Preparedness](#)," which provides information for parents who want to help their schools be better prepared for disasters. This year, we are concentrating on preparedness for culturally-specific groups, and we are working closely with Multnomah County to design curriculum to train "preparedness advocates" who can educate and encourage their own communities to be better prepared for emergencies. We will update the ORVOAD members once we have a job description for the preparedness advocate position, since we would like to disseminate this information widely. In addition to thinking about preparedness in the community, Mercy Corps is also looking inward and developing a business continuity plan for the agency.

Another highlight from 2017 was that for the first time since Hurricane Katrina, Mercy Corps responded to a natural disaster in the US. Due to the significant humanitarian needs resulting from last year's hurricane season, we responded to Hurricane Harvey in Houston and Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. In both responses, we provided financial assistance to vulnerable families.

Mt. West VOAD Conference planning update – Karen Layng

The conference is scheduled for April 22-24, 2018 at the Adventist Community Center in Gladstone. The theme will be, Together We Serve. The committee is

looking at opening night activities, registration will be open in the next few weeks, looking at \$75-\$100 fee including two lunches, Monday dinner and conference materials.

Dick mentioned the difficulty in getting from the Conference Center into Portland and hopes organizations such as the Red Cross can offer vans to shuttle participants. The Salvation Army volunteered to help with this.

We will be looking for volunteers from ORVOAD members for session time keepers and other helpful support and organization. Please contact Karen or Dick.

RF-C and 501(c)3 Status for ORVOAD – Mike Johnson

Progress is being made, many little steps are done. ORVOAD needs to get the leadership gelled, needed for corporate status – officers need to be identified.

Committee Reports

Long Term Recovery Groups, COAD and VOAD Development – Charlene Larson

No report as Charlene wasn't on the call. John and Wendy are waiting to hear from Brookings. Karen had no report from the state level. Dan Moseler reported that California VOADs had lost institutional memory due to length of time since last used, now looking to organize LTR – it is important to keep this strong. John Colvin reported that it takes 18 – 24 months before LTR really gets going if the memory is gone. FEMA does help. Brent commented that the National VOAD also has lots of material available. Dick reminded the group that after the Canyon Creek fire, many donations sent were not useful and the groups tried to sell the items for what was really needed, cash. Dick had contact with Puerto Rico VOAD and other than specialized services, they only needed cash, to spend in the right direction. Mike Riedy mentioned the need of a strong volunteer donations in VOADs - best to have plans to get cash. He mentioned one person on Facebook requesting “stuff” and the sudden arrival of mostly useless materials into the area.

Nominations Committee – Steve Sirkin, Laura Pasco, Wendy Colvin

Dick mentioned the call for nominations, four officers (President, Vice President Rural, Secretary, Business Relations Liaison) and Member-at-large, possibly all two-year terms. Two are currently filled, three are not. The role of president is key. Dean did a wonderful job, including as liaison with National VOAD (very important). The actions of spokesperson are important as ORVOAD is not directly responsible for disaster response, but through its members.

The secretary role keeps the member list current, records notes and minutes and gets these distributed.

Our InStove contact was the Business liaison but has moved on. ORVOAD has two of their stoves but these need to be located. Business Liaison helps to get local involvement from organizations represented at the national level, such as United Way, along with such local companies as PGE.

Self nomination is encouraged and we welcome people to step up. Dean can be contacted as mentioned in Dick's opening remarks and is available to help if needed in providing information/perspective on the positions. The election will be in May.

Membership Committee – Brent Carlson

Brent mentioned that the National VOAD organization, NVOAD, has 54 organizations represented and each of these can be members in local VOADs. As people move about in those organizations, the connections to ORVOAD sometime get lost, and this is a challenge. Dues paying members have better investment, can vote and be elected.

Mike Reidy mentioned ITDRC, an organization willing and able to provide IT support, "America's premier team of volunteer technology professionals - connecting communities in crisis.". <https://itdrc.org/> They help provide computer, phone, satellite and web support for region 10. Mike provided two contacts via email to ORVOAD and these will be added to the ORVOAD web.

Communications Committee – Robert Worlock, Scott Reuter

The web is being kept current with updates and information and to contact Robert if needed to get information posted or any recommendations on web content or organization – Robert.worlock@comcast.net

Sherry Young (Lions) would like to see an internal update as to who members are for help in conversations, and is concerned about the speaker list for the upcoming conference.

Emotional & Spiritual Care Committee – Christian Burgess

Christian has been deployed since fall and there has been no further update on this.

Current ORVOAD responses – Members and Partners

Brent mentioned two responses by the Church of the Brethren, respite care (for childcare providers) at the invitation of the Red Cross, and the other a long-term recovery effort still going in MO and SC, (flood and hurricane). Also, Okanogan, WA where 500 homes were destroyed by fire, 30 have been rebuilt so far. The church will offer a 3-day training soon in Child Care.

Dan Moseler, Methodist Church, mentioned that three teams have gone into TX, Larry Johnson leading one and having to wait a month and a half after the storm

due to lack of logistics available in TX. Last summer a grant from UMCOR provided 3 shower trailers. Puerto Rico just opened for teams to go in – requires highly trained individuals, no health issues. First actions are to rehabilitate facilities for follow on work, starting in the SE and moving to the NW of the island, same as the storm track.

John Colvin, Mennonite Disaster Service, indicated 17 concurrent projects, TX and PR included that are being worked by his group. In PR, a roof is going back on a church, which will then be used for staging further recovery. Infrastructure there is non-existent. He and Wendy recently returned from Saipan, after typhoon Soudelor, where most of the recovery has been done with “found material” in very difficult tropical weather. Work is also proceeding in the US on a tool trailer with an RFP out for \$30k in tools.

Dick mentioned the Episcopal Church of NY is providing grants with the contact for the local parish now being Sheryl Gerety, Sheryl.gerety@gmail.com (Diocesan Dist. Coordinator). A recent example is money after a tsunami to get fishing boats drydocked and inspected so they could work again.

Larry with UMCOR said that they’ve got 50 people trained in OR and ID and are continuing to expand that number.

Steve Howard, HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response (AARC), said his group has been active in the Eagle Creek area and in CA. They helped in a non-crisis response at a funeral for a fire fighter.

Justin Ross, Mult. Co. EM, said that work is progressing on creating a COAD for Mult. Co. He is back from 345 days out of 365 with FEMA.

Brent C. – January is the month to check fire extinguishers and smoke detectors. Also go through personal disaster kits and make sure everything is current.

Curtis Peetz, Michelle Taylor, Red Cross – continuing to make smoke detectors available. Was involved in recent Amtrak accident providing emotional care. Thanks there to HOPE AARC also and their dogs.

Robert Worlock, Church of Scientology Disaster Response – Utah chapter organized and helped fund five semi-trucks loaded with plywood that traveled from Salt Lake to the Texas efforts at reconstruction.

Major Mark Gilden, The Salvation Army sent people to TX, the Virgin Islands and PR, along with Northern California and Santa Rosa. Continuing work on trainings, with the district training retreat in Boring, OR in April.

Dan M. – the key is tools. Availability of kitchen or shower trailers, 2 in CA, one each in ID and WA.

Sherry – donations from Lions clubs contributing \$100k each to PR, TX and FL, with close to \$1M in total. OR Lions contributed to Brookings and Curry Co. needs. We need to capture “Lessons Learned”. Those that are doing long term

recover should ensure coverage in their organization for immediate care in case they aren't available. OR Lions are interested in trailers and in attending some of the training offered by Church of the Brethren on child care. Club hosted radio operators.

Brent mentioned Portland Tool Bank at 6424 NE 59th Pl, Portland, offering tools for local use as well as for disasters. Recommended going to next open house – website www.portlandtoolbank.org/events/ for details.

Mike Johnson, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints – They continue providing non-perishable food to PR and grants to local grocery stores. Comparable work being done in Mexico.

Jo Becker, “Animals And Disasters” of Oregon City – She is a household preparer in animal preparedness. Has not had to deploy.

Ashley Volts, Deschutes County – early work on establishing a COAD with surrounding counties. Steering committee has been established.

Mike Riedy, FEMA – Quarterly VAL call in four states. Hopes to get someone from ORVOAD to be involved.

Workshops/Conference Debrief - All

Dan discussed an UMCOR meeting in LA. For years, the group has shipped kits internationally to disasters but have realized that local businesses often fail due to lack of work/deliveries, so allowing them to provide needs through cash helps keep them in business. UMCOR disaster relief now staffed with three people.

Brent mentioned that the National VOAD 2018 Conference is in May. Your organization may be able to help with fees AND, ORVOAD can too. Contact Charlene or Dick for more info. There are already a few of us signed up. Early registration is \$450, regular is \$500. May 7-10, 2018, Providence, RI.
www.nvoad.org

Next Oregon VOAD Meeting is **Tuesday, March 20th, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.**, location TBD. Contact Charlene or Dick if your church/organization can host the meeting. The location can be outside the city of Portland.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Notes taken by Robert Worlock, Church of Scientology Disaster Response