



## **ORVOAD General Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Adventist Boardroom, Oregon Conference Headquarters

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**In attendance:** Michelle Hamrick (Red Cross), Karen Layng (OEM), Susan Romanski (Mercy Corps), Sonya McCormick (OEM), Mike Johnson (LDS Charities), Jan Wierma (Oregon Synod), Laura Pascoe (ACS), Carie Bauer (Oregon Volunteers), Rashad Bauman (The Salvation Army), Robert Worlock (Scientology Disaster Response), John Legler (Portland NET), Michelle Liang and Pei (Tzu Chi Foundation), Alexis Fleming (Mercy Corps), Vanessa Jones (Mercy Corps Northwest), John and Wendy Colvin (Mennonite Disaster Service)

**On the phone:** Dan Moseler for Larry Johnson (UMCOR), Sidney King (Central Oregon COAD), Alita Ostapkovich (WA Co EM), Terri Gilles from FEMA region X, Chris Taylor from IT-DRC

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### **Welcome & Introductions**

A training and simulation, Volunteer Reception Center Simulation Workshop, was given earlier in the morning by Karen Lang and Laura Pascoe. It focused on the implementation of a spontaneous volunteer management plan in the wake of a disaster, including the setup and working of a Volunteer Reception Center. It demonstrated coordinating and maximizing the assistance from spontaneous volunteers to aid response and recovery in a community.

Michelle opened the meeting at 1:00 pm and the general meeting was held to one hour.

### **Review of minutes & Treasurer's report**

Wendy Colvin presented the treasurer's report with the balance at \$8,788.

Discussion about Mountain West VOAD conference (4/29-5/1 in Jackson Hole) and National VOAD (5/18-21 in Phoenix) – registration is required before next general meeting.

Members agreed to allocate up to \$2500 for conference fees, at \$450 (early) for National and \$75 for Mountain West VOAD. Motion made, seconded and passed. Contact

[ORVOADleadership@gmail.com](mailto:ORVOADleadership@gmail.com) by the end of January if interested, and if so, a trip report

shared with the group makes it worth the cost. Our COAD development kit is directly influenced from earlier conferences we have been to.

## **Subcommittee reports**

Membership Committee – Susan reported, one meeting since the last general meeting. Reached out to Catholic Charities and Tzu Chi Foundation and invited to join the group. Focus is on engaging with some key past members and key new members where we can speak from increased participation and training.

Communications Committee – John Legler started off with discussion on setting up use of HAM radio communications within ORVOAD so that the group has some redundancy in the event of a very large event. Working with Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Portland NET ARES, we're talking with the groups and studying how best to set up a workable system for ORVOAD. Robert indicated that progress has been made on internal communications with a nicely configured Google environment incorporating documents, spreadsheets, incident logs, member lists and email tools, making this information usable by leadership and select information for members. The next meeting will focus on external communications including additional work on the Web and the ORVOAD Facebook page and newsletters, with information for COADs, members and the general public. If anyone is interested in contributing to this committee, contact [Robert.Worlock@comcast.net](mailto:Robert.Worlock@comcast.net).

Long Term Recovery – Michelle provided information as Charlene couldn't make the meeting. This is a very important piece of ORVOAD and she and Charlene plan to meet face-to-face in the next two months.

COAD Development – Michelle indicated that the team is moving forward with plans to travel to and visit regions interested in/working on a COAD. This direct connection will facilitate better collaboration. A draft outline of the COAD Toolkit exists and is being worked on.

Bylaws Committee – John uploaded several versions of bylaws into our Google documents and notified members that they are there as examples and work is starting. Additional clauses such on dissolution and sexual harassment are being added for completeness.

Other business – Michelle talked about the Nonprofit Association of Oregon and our work with Jim White, who helped us with the ORVOAD revisioning and work with our mission statements and goals last year. Jim is working to secure funding from the Ford Family Foundation for help with select actions to help get ORVOAD fully on its feet in the areas of process and administration.

## **Takeaways from the Intl. Assn. for Emergency Manager's Conference**

Susan gave a report on her attendance at the IAEM conference in 2019. This was attended by top-level emergency managers and the bar for being a presenter was especially high. Key take-aways included lessons in new scientific understandings and an excellent focus on

Emotional Intelligence during and after a crisis, in particular what steps can be taken during a crisis to help ensure adequate information was captured to be able to process the event and follow-up actions. She noted that last year, for the first time, there were more suicides by emergency responders than were killed in action.

Key takeaways in this area were exercising personal health during deployments – sleep, exercise, gut health and spending some time in creative activities, even for just a bit to cut down on cortisol exposure. A lack of sleep cuts down on capability but also boosts one's confidence in actions, a bad combination per research.

Click here for the presentation and notes: [Take Aways from the IAEM 2019 conference.](#)

### **Upcoming Events (OEM and call for pictures for ORVOAD presentation)**

Karen with OEM announced the OEM conference, Oregon Prepared, March 17-19 in Sunriver, OR, with additional pre- and post-sessions. This workshop provides training and information on programs, current issues, lessons learned, and best practices related to all phases of emergency management, plus several days of networking opportunities. This event will be co-presenting with the Oregon Health Authority. ORVOAD will be presenting a morning panel on our key value add, best practices and we'll be hosting a panel discussion showcasing actions taken by members over the last year and a half. Please send in any pictures and stories your organization may have showing recent actions.

### **Closing**

Michelle asked all participants in the meeting today to go back to their organizations and work on becoming more involved in actions with ORVOAD. We have a key role in disaster mitigation, handling and recovery and the involvement leads to strength.

Round-table comments: Jan with Oregon Synod mentioned a new bishop in their area. Dan M-Regional Methodist teams deployed into Puerto Rico and are still experiencing aftershocks. Mike J mentioned the emotional toll on a strong youth from the experience of an earthquake and how he suffered PTSD symptoms and would only sleep under a table. Don't underestimate the effects of disasters on all people, young and old.

Michelle ended the meeting shortly after 2 pm.