



MEETING MINUTES

Riverside County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
Thursday, December 5, 2019
Beaumont Civic Center
550 E. Sixth Street

Facilitator(s): Carol Crouch, Chair

Meeting Called to order at: 10:02 am

Welcome and self-introductions by meeting attendees

Present: Eric Cadden-EMD, Bob Yturralde-Team Rubicon, Dennis Rice-Solera EPAP-Passcom, Gerald Winkle-Red Cross, Greg Crouch-Jurupa Valley Citizens Corp, Mike Mendoza-ARES/RACES, Charlene Sergeant- SoCal VOAD, Ron Herman-I-LERT, Suzy Dick-LDS, Mike Simon-Passcom, Debbie White-7th Day Adventist, Kevin White-Salvation Army,

Via ZOOM-Lydia Arness-Cal OES, Derek Thomas-Cal OES, Alex

Approval of minutes:

August Minutes-Greg Crouch motioned to approve, Bob Yturralde seconded the motion.

October Minutes- Greg Crouch motioned to approve, Bob Yturralde seconded the motion.

Treasurer Report: VOAD funds balance is \$2653.09

Expenditure of \$300 for the website to Dennis Rice.

Purchase reimbursement of two USB extension cables for the Camera and Microphone used during the ZOOM conferencing. The USB cables were \$24.29 each. Total with tax-\$52.34 requires a motion and vote to reimburse.

Greg Crouch motioned to approve reimbursement. Mike Mendoza seconded the motion. All approved.

New Business:

- Website is ready. 932 hits. Dennis asked us to review the website and make any suggestions. He has also asked for agencies to send him their logo and contact information.
- Mario spoke about the VOAD National Conference May 18-21, 2020 in Phoenix Arizona. Hotel cost is \$180 nite. Registration fees TBA. Riverside VOAD can fund Carol's trip to the Conference. Charlene Sergeant stated that it will be 50th Anniversary of VOAD and there will be many special celebrations and workshops planned.

- ZOOM conferencing is working well and we will continue to utilize it for our regular meetings. We can also have special meetings exclusively via ZOOM.
- VOAD Deployment-Eric Cadden/EMD-Do Not by any means self-deploy. Activation will come from the EMD office to Carol, Bob, or Mario. They will in turn notify the agencies that need to respond to the event. It is also very important that we receive a response back from the agencies we put on notification as soon as possible. Reply simply Yes we can respond or No we won't be able to help.
VOAD communications and start at the local level, then immediately report to SoCal VOAD, then SoCal VOAD contacts National.
Record your agencies staff and volunteer hours during an activation to show what you're doing during the event and possibly for future reimbursement.
- Sandalwood fire in Calimesa is in need of some debris removal. Lydia stated that there were surveys taken at the Local Assistance Center and they were supposed to be turned over to the agency responsible for case management. Kevin from Salvation Army or Carol have received any surveys. Lydia asked them to call her after the meeting. Lydia also stated of the 94 people who had a loss only 15 applied for an SBA loan and 5 of those were approved.
- Kevin from Salvation Army stated he hasn't seen a survey but they had 44 households being served and several are proceeding on some kind of long term recovery and housing.
- Donations management is not an easy job and an agency with that type of experience is needed at the onset of the recovery process. People are generous and want to help but in the Calimesa situation the victims had nowhere to keep the items being donated. They had just lost their home. Between 40% and 60% of items donated are not usable.

Presentation: Ron Herman: OVERVIEW OF LUTHERAN EMERGENCY SERVICES-*Presentation information is attached at the end of these minutes.*

Agency Updates:

SoCal VOAD: Charlene Sergeant: National VOAD members and partners would like to be part of local VOADs. Some agencies may not have local offices and reaching out to the National VOAD members can also help locate local resources or may be able to help directly. Add these organizations to your distribution list during an active event and this will keep them updated on your needs and when you will need their assistance. The National VOAD website has a great resource section. Disaster response is about relationships.

California State VOAD has not been recognized by National VOAD because we had separated the state in two. North and South. Joint By-laws were created for a both North and South and National VOAD has approved the recognition of Cal VOAD as a member.

EMD: Eric Cadden-Emergency Management Program Supervisor-PSPS's are here to stay. Prepare and plan. Warning alert systems have been tested with some refinements to be made. Local and State agencies are working on a standardized verbiage with the various alert

systems. There is a **two** system warning: **Evacuation Orders** ie. Go Now, Get out, Leave. and **Warning**. Warning means the incident is heading your way and start preparing your evacuation if needed. This also gives you time to get your pets and Livestock ready.

Red Cross: Gerald Winkle-We have responded to several local fires. At one point we had four shelters open. At the LAC in Calimesa we had 113 cases we supported as an effect of the Sandalwood fire. Exercise planned in Riverside on Saturday, February 1st. Volunteers are needed to play victims. Smoke Alarm installation program still going strong. If you know of anyone that needs a smoke alarm please let us know and we'll do our best to help.

Salvation Army: Kevin White-Salvation Army Assistant Emergency Disaster Services Director-The Salvation Army was very active in support those impacted by the Sandalwood fire, providing short-term/immediate recovery assistance at the Calimesa Local Assistance Center (LAC) to affected households totaling approximately \$19,900.00 to 56 households (133 individuals), including Walmart Gift Cards, vouchers to TSA family stores, Valero Gas Cards, Home Depot Gift Cards and temporary lodging. We are still supporting one displaced individual with lodging.

There have been a few administrative changes in the county and we are working to get everyone on the same page and up to speed as we move forward, We are also planning volunteer training in the new year to increase our capacity to serve and support those impacted by disaster.

Team Rubicon: Bob Yturalde- City Administrator Palm Springs/Riverside County-Dec 14-16 Lake Elsinore cleanup that we started in February. TR is also working on a residential weed abatement program in Idyllwild. TR was contacted to be part of a fire mitigation program clearing debris at the Boy Scout Camp in Idyllwild.

LDS/Morongo Valley VOAD: Suzy Dick-Representing Marjorie Smith from Yucca Valley-Marjorie was activated to Trona after the earthquake. She found one of the items most needed were adult undergarments. They also facilitated a truck of water to the local church. Marjorie has also taken a recently on donations management.

ARES/RACES: Mike Mendoza-Banning Pass ARES EC-Riverside County RACES Training Coordinator-Banning Pass ARES participated in a SET drill. The drill is on a simplex radio frequency. This simulation is the most realistic in case of a major earthquake because many of the local repeaters would be overused or completely knocked off line. It was determined that we could communicate most easily with stations in Hemet, Nuevo and Temecula area. We were unable to reach anyone in Riverside or Moreno Valley to the West.

RACES has distributed new radios and antennas to the local hospitals. All of the hospitals will have Yaseu FT 8900 radios and antennas to communicate with each other. They spearheaded this effort because having identical radios in each hospital would make it easier for radio operators to move from place to place without having to learn to operate another model of radio. They are also working on a network of mesh stations that could allow the

passage of large amounts of data digitally. RACES has obtained a small trailer that they will be using for emergency communications. Many of us will be undergoing trailer driver's training next Wednesday afternoon in Riverside.

Community Access Center: Mario Janesin-Community Access and Disability Center-CAC has submitted two grant proposals to be used for emergency preparedness programs and education for the most vulnerable populations throughout Riverside County. PSPS has been an issue affecting everybody. Planning for a PSPS is extremely important especially if you're on life supporting electrical equipment. I recommend a Battery Power Bank for everyone. We use our phones for everything. If the power goes out you can recharge your phone with a simple battery power bank. A 10,000 mAh battery bank will recharge your phone about four times.

Jurupa Citizens Corps: Carol and Greg Crouch-Jurupa Citizen Corps - dark for December, will return on January 28th. We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Jurupa Valley City Hall 8930 Limonite Ave. All are welcome.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:55 am

The next VOAD meeting is Thursday, February 6th, 2020 at 10:00AM at the
Beaumont Civic Center
550 E. Sixth Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

OVERVIEW OF LUTHERAN EMERGENCY SERVICES

Ron Herman, RN ron.herman@i-lert.org 909-921-7059

I. Lutheran governing organizations: over 40 in North America

Three largest

- a. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: 3.4 million members
- b. Lutheran Church Missouri Synod: 2.0 million members
- c. Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod: 360,000 members

Comparison: Roman Catholic Church

1.3 billion members worldwide, 70 million US

II. Lutheran Social Services – Southern California (<https://www.lsssc.org>)

- A. Began in 1944 with a group of Lutheran congregations in San Diego and a group of Lutheran congregations in Los Angeles.
Lutheran Social Services of Southern California was officially incorporated in 1946 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit social service agency.
LSS-SC annually serves thousands of individuals and families throughout Southern California with over 50 different programs/services at over 20 different locations.
Part of Lutheran Services in America (LSA).
- B. Programs range from aging and disabled supportive services, resources for veterans, transitional and permanent affordable housing, job training and financial literacy, behavioral health services, youth mentoring and academic success, refugee and immigrant services, family services of all types, disaster preparedness and response, and many others.
- C. Emergency Services: food pantries & hot meals, clothing, emergency vouchers for hotel, bus, gas and utilities, housing and rental referrals, eviction prevention and prescription assistance, holiday, school or hygiene packs, humanitarian response during times of natural or man-made disasters and other short-term assistance programs. All programs/services are NOT available at every LSS location.
- D. Riverside County: LSS Riverside provides comprehensive case management and critical assistance like food, clothing and transportation vouchers. Outreach services that assist with mortgage/rental assistance and transportation. Assistance with obtaining legal California identification, Social Security benefits, medical, mental health and dental attention, and much more. Exclusive attention in Riverside is on low-income households and the homeless.

III. Inter-Lutheran Emergency Response Team (www.i-lert.org)

The Inter-Lutheran Emergency Response Team (I-LERT) is a network based within the Lutheran community of Southern California. I-LERT's goal is to be a central hub from which information and training on disaster preparedness is circulated, and through which resources can be directed to individuals, families, and churches in an emergency. I-LERT is a collaborative ministry between the Pacifica and Southwest California Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and the Pacific Southwest District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

IV. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (<https://www.elca.org/>)

Pacifica Synod (www.pacificasynod.org)

Southwest California Synod (www.socalsynod.org)

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to those whose lives have been disrupted by disasters, in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

Local response: One of the principles of disaster recovery work is that the disaster response is local. This means we work through congregations and organizations that already have a relationship with and are a part of the impacted community.

Emotional and spiritual care: When a disaster strikes, the effects are not only the visible signs of destruction. As people work to recover, Lutheran Disaster Response is there to walk with them, providing emotional and spiritual care to help them not only rebuild their homes but their lives as well.

Volunteer coordination: Lutheran Disaster Response coordinates volunteers through our local affiliates in order to help affected homeowners and communities with muck out, clean-up and rebuilding. This work employs a wide range of skills and interests and helps save money for homeowners. Lutheran Disaster Response also helps promote and publicize volunteer reception centers.

Long-term recovery: For those impacted by a disaster, the process of seeking help can be confusing. Lutheran Disaster Response through affiliates or long-term recovery committees provides case management to help those affected by disaster navigate the process of recovery.

- V. Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (<https://www.lcms.org/>)
Disaster Response: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Disaster Response ministry responds to immediate and long-term needs following natural and man-made disasters. Working through LCMS districts and congregations as well as with international Lutheran churches and other partners, LCMS Disaster Response builds capacity of the church’s partners to respond to needs with Christian care. The ministry reaches out to LCMS congregations and their communities with services that include on-site assessment, emergency relief and development grants, pastoral care for LCMS church workers and members, and other resources.

Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT): LERT trains congregational teams to respond as volunteers to assist in cleanup and recovery after a disaster.