



**Delaware**  
Voluntary Organizations  
Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION |

# **2021 – A Year in Review for the Delaware VOAD**

*Picture of the North Market Street Bridge over the Brandywine River, Thursday, September 2, 2021.*

The remnants of Hurricane Ida, which brought heavy rain and high winds through Wilmington overnight, caused extensive damage and historic flooding across the city. Multiple emergency operations involving City, County and State personnel were launched, including water rescues by the Wilmington Fire Department and New Castle County, and several streets and bridges were closed.

*Report prepared courtesy of DEVOAD Affiliate Member Nanticoke Global Strategies LLC*



[www.nanticokeglobal.com](http://www.nanticokeglobal.com)

[LinkedIn](#)

---

## 2021 – A Year in Review for the Delaware VOAD

Looking back over the year 2021, the Delaware Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (DEVOAD) encountered many new experiences. DEVOAD emerged from those experiences as a much stronger organization for disaster relief in the State. This report presents the last year in review.

### About DEVOAD

[Delaware Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster \(DEVOAD\)](#) is an affiliate of [National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster \(NVOAD\)](#). National VOAD, an association of organizations that mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters, provides a forum promoting cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration; and fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster.

The membership of Delaware VOAD consists of both locally based organizations and local representatives of National organizations. Our mission is to strengthen the capabilities of organizations working together in our State/Territory to respond to communities affected by disaster. Delaware VOAD member organizations cover a broad range of missions and technical expertise, and adhere to the 4 Cs: Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration.

### Response Activities

**Hurricane Ida Flooding Response** - The biggest natural disaster event of the year was the historic flooding in Wilmington due to the remnants of Hurricane Ida passing through the region in early September 2021. This was the largest flooding event confronted by the City of Wilmington and the State in recent history. Almost 250 residences in the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge community of Wilmington's 3<sup>rd</sup> District were impacted by the high water, with some homes in 13<sup>th</sup> and Heald Streets area suffering catastrophic damage.



*Wilmington –Search and rescue operations underway, 11th St area right after the flooding (2 Sep)  
from a DE State Police drone*



DEVOAD jumped into action within days of the flooding, with DEVOAD member organizations like Red Cross and Salvation Army and staff members like Marty Brett responding to help residents with immediate needs and bringing hope to the community. We worked closely with Willie Patrick, the



*Toby French, DEVOAD Chair, with Major Tim Sheehan (on left, white shirt), Salvation Army (SA) Coordinator for Delaware and another SA Major. SA brought a mobile kitchen and served hot meals for over a week. Marty Brett assisted SA in visiting the right neighborhoods. A great partnership!*

Director of Emergency Services for the City, using the City's EOC as a base of operations and helping with coordination on City services. The response effort continued into the coming several months, with DEVOAD member organization Team Rubicon bringing over 20 of their "greyshirt" team for 10 days to



*This was our DE Best team who provided mental health counseling, fall under Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH). In the center is Celeste Peart, Head of DE Best and member of DEVOAD Board. September 11, 2201*



perform muck-outs on 34 flooded properties. Hundreds of volunteers provided support in debris removal, further muck-outs, and mold remediation, with ten DEVOAD member organizations participating in a set of Volunteer Workdays that extended into October.



*Volunteer Work Day ("A Day of Service"), 43 volunteers. Shown are members of Day of Service leadership team, L to R: Willie Patrick, Emergency Manager for Wilmington, Josh Kelly (DEMA Natural Hazards Supervisor), Chris Murtha (Dpty Dir DEMA), Toby French (Chair, DEVOAD), Christa Baird (DEMA, CERT Lead), Marty Brett (vice chair, DEVOAD), Unknown (DEMA Logos) September 11, 2021*

### Recovery Activities

**Hurricane Ida Recovery** - As the response work wound down, it became clear that some of the damage would require a rebuild, or Response, effort. That called for the launching of a Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) for the sustained effort required. Guided by the experience of Rev Phil Huber of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), the Eleventh Street Bridge community established a LTRG (ESBC LTRG), with resident Tamika Collick stepping up as Chair for this important group. There is a lot of work ahead!



*Pastor Phil Huber of Lutheran Disaster Response leading session to form an LTRG.*

## Grants

In 2021, DEVOAD received two grants to assist in covering costs associated with DEVOAD's response to the tornado damage from Tropical Storm Isaias in 2020. The State of Delaware provided a grant of \$2,000 to help cover expenses from the storm. In addition, in the months after the storm, DEVOAD member organizations performed a lot of work in southern New Castle County (Townsend area), cleaning up storm damage for residents who were elderly and/or could not afford hire contractors to perform the work. DEVOAD worked closely with a New Castle County Councilman, Dave Carter, and a grant of \$1,500 was provided to cover some of expenses, such as chainsaw fuel and oil, repair of tools, mileage.

## DEVOAD Informational Video Released

In November 2021, an [informational video](#) about the DEVOAD, sponsored by the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), was released. The brief video describes the vital role DEVOAD plays in preparation, response, recovery, and mitigation phases of the disaster lifecycle and encourages support for and membership in the DEVOAD



*[DEVOAD Informational Video Released in November 2021](#)*  
*[Click to View](#)*

## Awards and Recognition

Marty Brett and Ellen Udovich, two members of DEVOAD, received Governor's Volunteer Awards for 2021, (BCMD). Congratulations to Marty and Ellen, we're proud to have them as Members!

The winners are scheduled to be honored with the **2021 Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Award** during a virtual ceremony to be held Feb 24, 2022 (delayed by COVID). The recipients will be recognized for significant contributions, engagement, and impact in diverse service activities. The Governor's Outstanding Volunteer Service Awards, administered by the State Office of Volunteerism, honors the contributions of individuals and groups in Delaware that have made a positive impact in their communities or across the state through service and volunteering.

**Volunteer Leadership** - Martin Bret, who as Vice Chair of the DEVOAD and Field Lead for our Hurricane Ida Flooding Response, worked closely with team leaders during volunteer workdays to identify and structure the work to be done, as well as to guide the teams through any changes or decisions necessary in work to be performed. For three weeks, Marty was on scene every day to coordinate response activity for numerous organizations and his leadership enabled the VOAD to provide timely and effective services to the citizens of Wilmington in their time of need.



*Marty Brett, DEVOAD Vice  
Chair and recipient of DE  
Governor's Volunteer  
Award for 2021*

**Volunteer Group** - Ellen Udovich and her team from the Baptist Convention of Maryland and Delaware (BCMD and member organization of the DEVOAD) work in disaster response and recovery, primarily focusing on helping those in special populations or in high SVI areas recovering from disaster. They do this through muck-outs (cleaning out flood waters from homes), debris removal (removing flood-damaged items from homes or clearing damaged and dangerous trees/vegetative debris) and mold remediation. This is often the first step toward making a home habitable again and the first step in a disaster survivor's path to recovery.



*Ellen Udovich - BCMD and  
recipient of DE Governor's  
Volunteer Group Award for  
2021*



## 2021 A Strong Year – Other Items of Note

Here is ample evidence that DEVOAD ended the year stronger than it started:

- ❖ **Financial Growth:** DEVOAD seen steady financial growth in the last 2 years, including, for the first time, receiving two grants.
- ❖ **New Officers:** DEVOAD started the 2022 year with a strong slate of officers on the Executive Board, to include several new officers to replace old friends that chose to retire during the year, like Jim Richmond, Ron Templeman, and Ingrid Hansen. We wish them well and send thanks for their support to DEVOAD!
- ❖ **Learning and Growth:** 2021 was full of new experiences, including a DEMA led Radiological Exercise, FEMA webinars on a variety of informative topics that included disaster philanthropy, applying for, and receiving grants for the ESBC LTRG, our first flood response, standing up an LTRG, and many other new experiences that are making us stronger as a disaster relief organization for Delaware.
- ❖ **Post-Disaster Collaboration:** Working closely with Willie Patrick: it is rare that a VOAD has an opportunity to work closely, on a sustained basis, with an emergency manager, especially one with a true passion for helping his community like Willie. The DEVOAD leadership has learned and benefitted from working with Willie, establishing a real partnership to help the affected Wilmington residents of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge community.
- ❖ **Outreach and Visibility:** Thanks to the National VOAD, which provided a template for a new VOAD website, we launched a new DEVOAD website during the year. Site Web master, Marty Brett, did a great job of populating it, and it has become a useful tool for outreach to those hoping to learn more about DEVOAD. That was combined with DEVOAD's Facebook page to gain visibility for DEVOAD across Delaware.
- ❖ **Partnerships:** Stronger relations with Partners (MDVOAD, FEMA, DEMA, EMs): The year has seen a significant increase in relations with partner organizations in disaster relief. From planning on joint conferences (MDVOAD), to getting a new FEMA VAL for Delaware, to continuing strong support from DEMA (to include the new DEVOAD video) and developing relations with state emergency managers.
- ❖ **Strong Participation:** An important measure of the success of DEVOAD is whether representatives from members organizations participate in meetings and activities. DEVOAD is pleased to report strong participation in the four Quarterly Meetings, with 30 people dialing in for the recent Annual Meeting.

Thanks to all for a strong and productive 2021 for Delaware VOAD!



---

## Learn More About DEVOAD

To learn more about DVOAD, please visit our [website](#), [Facebook page](#),

## Interested in Joining DEVOAD?

Both volunteer and charitable organizations located in the mid-Atlantic Region may become full members of DEVOAD.

**Affiliate Organizations** - DEVOAD recently updated their bylaws to allow Affiliate Organizations who are for-profit corporations that have offices in the mid-Atlantic Region and are interested in participating in disaster preparedness and response in Delaware through donations of in-kind equipment, financial aid, and volunteers. Affiliates have voice, but not vote, at DEVOAD meetings. There are no dues but there is an expectation of support during disaster response.

All DEVOAD Members, Partners and Affiliates agree to provide service and support to all disaster victims in need without regard to age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, or sexual orientation. Organizations that are interested in joining DEVOAD, should contact Ian (Toby) French, State Chair - DEVOAD, (302) 257-0966, or at [delawarevoad@gmail.com](mailto:delawarevoad@gmail.com)

## Interested in Donating to DEVOAD?

Cash donations offer voluntary agencies the most flexibility in obtaining the most-needed resources. Many charities specialize in providing relief in disaster areas, yet they face significant financial barriers to getting their staff, equipment, and supplies into impacted areas. Our members are fully vetted by state authorities, experienced, and dedicated professionals who will get the most out of your donation.

Your donation helps put experienced disaster responders on the ground and gives them the tools they need to help survivors recover. Organizations typically prefer cash donations because they allow organizations to:

- Purchase food, water, medicine, and equipment from secure and familiar supply chains
- Buy materials locally. This can help rebuild the local economy
- Conserve resources. Money is always necessary and cheap to send, but the cost to ship material supplies can be expensive.
- Remember, material supplies such as used clothing, miscellaneous household items, and mixed or perishable food require helping agencies to redirect volunteer labor away from providing direct one-on-one assistance to sort, package, transport, warehouse, and distribute items that may not meet the needs of disaster survivors.

DEVOAD is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to DEVOAD are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. The DEVOAD tax identification number is 59-3821789

To learn more about donating to the DEVOAD, please visit our [donations webpage](#) or directly through [Paypal](#). If you prefer to use a check, it can be sent to:

Delaware VOAD INC.  
c/o Sharonda Everett, Treasurer  
7208 Wyeth Place  
Newark, DE 19702

### DEVOAD Officers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Member Organization</u>
Ian (Toby) French	Chair	Team Rubicon
Marty Brett	Vice Chair	ARRL
Chad Robinson	Secretary	Food Bank of DE
Sharonda Everett	Treasurer	United Way of DE
Celeste Peart	Member At-Large	DE Best

### DEVOAD Members

#### Member Organizations

American Red Cross (ARS)  
 Baptist Convention of MD/DE  
 Operation BBQ Relief (OBR)  
 Adventist Disaster Services (ADS)  
 Church of Latter Day Saints  
 DE Medical Reserve Corps  
 Food Bank of DE  
 Zakat Foundation  
 Charity Crossing  
 United Methodist Comm on Relief (UMCOR)  
 Lutheran Disaster Response  
 Salvation Army  
 United Way of DE (UWDE)  
 American Radio Relay League (ARRL)  
 Missionary Disaster Response  
 Team Rubicon  
 Commodore Center  
 Lions Clubs of DE  
 Brethren Disaster Ministries

#### Affiliation Member Companies

Nanticoke Global Strategies LLC

### DEVOAD Partner Governmental Organizations

Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region III  
 Delaware Emergency Management Agency  
 Delaware Department of Health and Social Services