

Date: May 20, 2025

Subject: Delaware VOAD – Quarterly Meeting 05/20/2025

Virtual – TEAMS 2:00 PM

Attendance

Brandon Olenik – Kent County EMA
Brian Pollick – DEMA
Rodney Cooper – ITDRC
Suzanne Novack – ITDRC
John Peterson – DSHS
Chad Robinson – Food Bank DE
Toby French – Team Rubicon
Latoya Harris
Rich Walton – UMCOR
Red Cross

Tara Wilbur – DEMA
Heather Fox – Team Rubicon
Chris Hodgden – NCC EMA
Mike Edwards – NCC EMA
Theresa Young – Red Cross
Jen Walls – DEMA
BJ Cahill – Team Rubicon
Tony Lee – Lions Club
Sharon Jefferson-Hawkins -

The meeting opened with a discussion on the recent storm that impacted Galestown, Maryland, which sits near the Delaware line. There were approximately 6 homes that were affected in the community, and Team Rubicon and the American Red Cross are helping those impacted.

The meeting dates for the rest of the year were presented with no objection. September 22nd at the Kent County EOC and December 8th in DEMA.

Discussion was shared at the Mid-Atlantic VOAD conference. Pastor Rich Walton and Toby French shared their experiences and the valuable networking opportunity the conference presents. The sessions were well attended, and the speakers presented on a range of topics. Next year's dates were announced, but will be confirmed. The conference hosted 6 college students, including some from Texas A&M, Arizona State, and the University of Delaware. Rich Walton met with a U of D student, Sydney Dyck, who will be assisting the DEVOAD with putting a monthly newsletter together for the group. There were approximately 72 attendees at the conference.

Rich Walton lost connection temporarily to the meeting.

Brandon Olenik discussed the recent membership renewals that went out in March and that approximately 8 have been returned. The Treasurer was not on the meeting and could not provide those that sent it back. If you have not sent it back, please do so soon. Reminders will be sent in the future. Brandon Olenik provided an update about an upcoming workshop in each of the 3 counties that will highlight non-profits and how they can work with EM's during a sheltering emergency.

Rich Walton rejoined the meeting.

Tara Wilbur provided updates about upcoming training opportunities at DEMA, including upcoming WebEOC and Intro to EOC 101 training over the next 3 months.

Sharon Jefferson-Hawkins mentioned that the ARC will be holding two upcoming seasonal briefings. Dates and locations are to be determined.

Chad Robinson reported that the Food Bank – DE continues to see high distribution levels, possibly driven by the high cost of food and the cost of living. They are attending a legislative day on 5/20/25.

Toby outlined the restructuring of Team Rubicon. Delaware falls on the Red Team. BJ Cahill and Toby French will remain as contacts for Team Rubicon.

Suzanne Novack, the state coordinator for Virginia with ITDRC, shared updates on their involvement in disaster response efforts in KY, MO, and MI. She expressed a desire to collaborate with Delaware and will connect with Tara Wilbur in the future.

The meeting concluded after approximately 1 hour.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Olenik
DEVOAD