**Delaware Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (DEVOAD)**

**January 25, 2022**

**Minutes**

**The meeting was called to order at 4:33 PM by Chairman Toby French via ZOOM. The officers were all in attendance: Toby French (Chairman), Marty Brett (Vice-Chair), Ron Templeman (Treasurer) and Chad Robinson (Secretary). The following members and guests participated in the meeting: Aaron Carey – Operation Barbeque Relief, Ed Olkowski – Brethren Disaster Ministries, Jerry Foltz – United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries, Derek Daugherty – Relief Research Jehovah’s Witnesses, Hector Ball – FEMA VAL Region 3, Sharonda Everett – United Way of Delaware, Jason Tyler – Relief Research Jehovah’s Witnesses, Rich Walton – United Methodist Committee on Relief, Nicole Carey – DEMA, Brittany Mosley – DEMA, Larry Sullivan – Commodore Center, St. George’s, Major Tim Sheehan – Salvation Army, Bruce Morgenstern – Maryland VOAD, Amy Eden – FEMA VAL Region 3, Muriel Gillespie – DHSS Disaster Coordinator – RespondDE, Ed Palsgrove – Baptist Convention Maryland/Delaware, Christa Baird – DEMA, Lorri Wall – DHSS DPH Disaster Planner, April Dembeck – National VOAD, Vladimir Tamashiro-Loma – Team Rubicon, Julia Pedrosa – FEMA VAL Region 3, Willie Patrick – City of Wilmington Emergency Manager, Erin Norris – DEMA**

**Susan Ferris – Volunteer Delaware and State Office of Volunteerism and Tamika Brooks Collick – 11th Street Bridge Community Long Term Recovery Group.**

**Chairman French welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for calling in to this quarterly meeting, our first of 2022.**

**Chairman French gave a Chairman’s update. He recognized two members of the DEVOAD who received 2021 Governor’s Award for Volunteerism. Congratulations to Marty Brett and Ellen Udovich. Toby gave information on the Maryland VOAD Conference on March 14-15, 2022. They have invited the DEVOAD to participate and the conference will be virtual. The National VOAD Conference is coming up on May 2-5, 2022. It will be hosted in Baltimore this year and MD VOAD will be playing an important role. DEMA has experienced a few staffing changes. Josh Kelly left DEMA in December to take a role at the University of Delaware. A person will be appointed to his position soon. DEMA has filled their Individual Assistance position with Brittany Mosley and will become our new liaison with DEMA. We recently received a donation of plywood through NVOAD from FEMA.**

**Treasurer Templeman gave the Treasurer’s Report with a beginning balance of $9,027.03 and ending balance for the Quarter of 8,952.03. Expenses were $149.50 for lunch at our November meeting, $103.08 for our ZOOM license, $25 for incorporation and $35 for National VOAD dues. We received income of $100 for 2022 dues from Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM), a $50 donation and $7,500 in grant money for 11th Street Bridge Long Term Recovery Group. We will hold those funds until the 11th Street Bridge LTRG is registered, has an account and we can transfer it to them. The current total balance is $16,364.46.**

**Chairman French indicated that as this is the Annual Meeting we must do an election of officers. The slate of proposed officers is Toby French of Team Rubicon for Chair, Marty Brett of Amateur Radio Relay League for Vice Chair, Chad Robinson of Food Bank of Delaware for Secretary, Sharonda Everett of United Way for Treasurer and Celeste Peart of DEBEST for Member at Large. Chairman French asked for any other nominations. There were none. A motion was made by Major Sheehan and seconded by Marty Brett. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Chairman French outlined a proposed By-Laws change to Article V, Section A regarding Affiliate Organizations. He is proposing adding the following language in that section following Partner Organizations:**

***Affiliate Organizations*** 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.

**A motion was made by Ed Olkowski and seconded by Rich Walton. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Erin Norris gave an update from DEMA. The Natural Hazards Section is working on three open disasters DR4566 – Hurricane Isiaias for Public Assistance, COVID and Hurricane Ida. There will be a training in February for damage assessment for how that is done. Muriel Gillespie reminded everyone of the COVID testing site at Delaware City DMV that will close this week. There are currently 31 families housed due to Hurricane Ida by the State. Muriel and her team are working with them daily to find housing. Christa from DEMA spoke about the State preparedness. DEMA is currently reorganizing their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) teams. There will be lots of trainings coming up.**

**Hector Ball from FEMA gave a report. He has recently been assigned to Delaware to give support to DEMA. They are working to find resources for 11th Street Bridge community to assist in the recovery. They are working on a flyer and website to share more information about the ESBLTRG. Julia Pedrosa of FEMA Region 3 updated on activities of Region 3, they continue to respond across the region.**

**Chairman French gave an update since April Dembeck from National VOAD had to drop off. He reminded everyone about the upcoming National Conference.**

**Willie Patrick, spoke about the emergency response with the City of Wilmington. They have been actively responding to the Hurricane Ida event. Since September 2nd, lots of folks have been involved in trying to get many families back into their homes. He expressed appreciation for the force multiplier that the DEVOAD and Team Rubicon have been to help 11th Street Bridge Community.**

**Bruce Morgenstern gave an update from the Maryland VOAD for Rev. Phil Huber. They are finally wrapping up the Prince George’s County flooding from early 2020. They are working to clean up disasters in Somerset and Dorchester counties. Maryland has the largest number of Afghan refugees who are being resettled in Baltimore and suburbs of DC. MDVOAD is helping in that resettlement through collecting of in kind donations.**

**Marty Brett gave an update on the Hurricane Ida Flooding Response. He thanked Willie Patrick for all his efforts and assistance in helping get things done. September 2, 2022 was the date of the event and the Brandywine Creek crested about 2.7 feet over major flood stage. This resulted in almost 300 homes being impacted at this report. Marty shared multiple pictures from the event and highlighted the variety of homes that were impacted. Five houses of worship were affected. New Hope Baptist Church was assisted by Team Rubicon and they took out 21,000 cubic feet of debris from the basement there. The response has been strong from many organizations. Currently there are 24 muck outs, 35 mold remediation and 9 debris removal jobs left in Crisis Cleanup. There were 144 volunteers that helped on six major workdays, contributing over 500 hours of time.**

**Tamika Brooks Collick, the Chair of the Eleventh Street Bridge Community Long Term Recovery Group (ESBCLTRG) gave a report on their progress. She thanked everyone for their assistance. They have been working on the incorporation documents, as well as bylaws and non-profit status information. They have been working with Rev. Phil Huber on establishment and how to receive financial resources, etc.**

***Partner Updates***

**Chairman French gave an update on new member: Brethren Disaster Ministries. Ed Olkowski from the group discussed the history of the group, what they do, resources they have and their interest in being involved with DEVOAD.**

**Celeste Peart from DEBEST gave a report on their involvement in working to improve the mental health situation in Delaware. They work with RespondDE. Muriel Gillespie reported on RespondDE. She noted that a website was set up for individuals that want to help at hospitals. It can be found on the COVID site. They can use any additional volunteers if anyone is interested.**

**Toby French noted some updates for DEVOAD members:**

* **Will meet again next quarter.**
* **In the meantime, don’t forget disasters can strike at any time and we need to always be ready.**
* **Don’t forget upcoming Maryland VOAD and National VOAD conferences if you are interested.**
* **We all need to make sure we follow up on visibility and outreach opportunities, as well as following up on all inquiries of potential members.**
* **We need to populate the new website to make sure that is fully updated. Thanks Marty for your work on that to date.**
* **Let’s continue to support the Eleventh Street Bridge Community Long Term Recovery Group (ESBCLTRG)**

**Toby noted for everyone to pencil in the next quarterly meeting for Tuesday, April 25, 2022. There will be more information to come. He thanked everyone for their hard work.**

**There being no other business to come before the DEVOAD, Chairman Toby French adjourned the meeting at 6:17 PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Chad Robinson, Secretary**