

Delaware VOAD Situation Report – February 19, 2021

Summary

This has been a busy 1st Quarter so far, with the first Quarterly meeting for 2021, a Food Bank of Delaware distribution, a request from DEMA for support for a vaccination site in Newark, a FEMA donation connection, and the wrap-up of the After Action Review/Report (AAR) from TS Isaias.

OPERATIONS

Food Events. DEVOAD volunteers participated in the Food Bank of Delaware mass distribution drive-through events during the week of 25 January. Our hearty souls braved near-freezing weather to help pass out food to Delaware citizens suffering from food insecurity.

Vaccine Event Support. DEVOAD volunteers (DMRC, Team Rubicon) joined with Department of Public Health employees in supporting a mass vaccination event held at Georgetown DMV on Saturday, 23 January. Our volunteers fought their way through the thousands of waiting cars to gain access to the facility and take their stations. The event was a huge success, with thousands of people receiving their first shot of vaccine.

Shortly before this SitRep went out, DEMA contacted DEVOAD to inquire about potential support for a COVID vaccination effort to take place at an ENT clinic in Newark for outreach and vaccination of underserved and black neighborhoods in that area. So far, Zakat Foundation is stepping up with some volunteers, and Team Rubicon has indicated potential for long-term support.

Donations. On 19 February, Toby was contacted by a Donations Team Rep from FEMA informing him that FEMA had two pallets of 5-gal containers of hand sanitizer that had unexpectedly come available in the MD/DE area. Toby put the word out, and Charity Crossing immediately stepped up to take the sanitizer. Logistics were worked out for a delivery on the following day (Saturday). Needless to say, the FEMA Donations Team was amazed and grateful that DEVOAD had moved so fast to speak for this donation. Thank you to Jay and his team at Charity Crossing!

MEETINGS

Quarterly Meeting. The administrative highlight of the first quarter was our Quarterly Meeting held on 26 January. The meeting reviewed a number of important topics (TS Isaias AAR, new web site project, DEVOAD Guidebook, etc.), and saw two Board Members/Officers nominated: Ron Templeman for Treasurer, Marty Brett for Vice Chair). There was good participation and discussion. Toby French (Chair) sent out the Minutes from the meeting. Late Entry: Both Ron and Marty were voted in for their positions! Great news!

New Web Site. There were several project reviews during the period for the new DEVOAD web site project, led by Marty Brett, Project Lead. The Team (Marty, Ron, and Toby) has made good progress on the new web site under Marty's leadership and the tutelage of Justin Wilder of NVOAD. We even had some collaboration with the web site team at MD VOAD to exchange some data files and images.

NVOAD C&C Project. On 17 February, Toby and Marty participated in an NVOAD Regional Call for the Capability and Capacity Project. This call covered our Mid-Atlantic Region (DE, MD, VA, WV, DC), April Dembeck and Katherine Boatwright (Chief NVOAD Operations) presented an overview of the data received from the five VOADs. Numerous positive and productive topics were covered, and the idea was surfaced of having a periodic (quarterly?) Regional meeting for these kinds of important collaborations.

COLLABORATION

Toby French continues to collaborate with CCC4COVID (Cape Communities Collaboration for COVID) on their weekly calls, partly for discussion of whether that organization will choose to become a COAD (Community Organization Active in Disaster) in Delaware with some affiliation (TBD) to DEVOAD. CCC4COVID continues to do amazing work in their community, focusing on topics like food insecurity, free tax service to qualified residents, expanding broadband to remote areas, and even vaccinations for the underserved. The CCC4COVID leadership team briefed Joe Thomas (Sussex County EM) in early February on their organization, capabilities and focus areas.

Toby also continues to participate in MD VOAD quarterly meetings to benefit from the excellent synergy between the two VOADs.

DEVOAD leadership also participated in several NVOAD meetings during the last six weeks.

MISCELLANEOUS

TS Isaias AAR. During this period (11 Feb), Toby convened an After Action Review (AAR) for the DEVOAD Response effort for TS Isaias. This Zoom call was to review events and discuss what went well and where we might need improvement. Both of the key responding Members on TS Isaias (Team Rubicon and Baptist Conventions of MD/DE) participated and gave excellent descriptions of their response efforts. In addition, we had active and meaningful participation from NCC County Councilman Dave Carter. The comments from that call/Review will be folded into the DEVOAD TS Isaias After Action Report (AAR), then it will be distributed to Emergency Managers and a copy placed on the new web site. Several of the participants on the call (Jim Richmond of ARC, DEMA Reps, the FEMA participant, Councilman Carter) had high praise for both the DEVOAD Response and for the AAR process.

Membership Dues. Ron Templeman reports that nine (9) 2021 membership dues have been received so far this year. I think a couple more are “in process”. Thank you for those, as we anticipate another productive year of assistance to the citizens of Delaware!