

# MINUTES

## Oklahoma VOAD

### MEETING

Thursday, February 14, 2008

10:30 A.M. at the Salvation Army, Tulsa

- 1) Meeting called to Order by OKVOAD Vice Chair, Sam Porter, at 10:33AM
- 2) Opening Prayer by Stanley Buckmaster
- 3) Introductions
- 4) Approval of Minutes from prior meeting
  - a) Motion by Stanley Buckmaster to accept the minutes as submitted, Second by Major John Birks. Motion carried.
- 5) Treasurers Report – Mary Gaudreau
  - a) Non-designated funds currently have balance of \$4420.12
  - b) Designated funds currently have balance of \$2699.62
  - c) Total amount of funds is \$7119.74
  - d) Breakdown of designated funds: designated for Sweetwater – \$2549.62, Wildfires – all spent (\$30K), Clash of the Choirs – currently have \$150.00 private donations, expected to have \$25,000 from NVOAD.
  - e) Motion by Janelle Mulanax to accept Treasurer's report as submitted. Second by Bill Mast. Motion carried.
- 6) Nominating Committee Report - Alton Gardner
  - a) All the current officers were asked and agreed to continue in their present office: Chair, Steve Moran; Vice Chair, Stanley Buckmaster; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Sam Porter; Treasurer, Mary Gaudreau; Secretary, Janelle Mulanax; Executive Secretary, Linda Soos-Davis
  - b) Opened floor to discussion and/or nominations. No discussion. No nominations from the floor. Motion to re-elect officers to additional term made by Alton Gardner. Second by John Birks. Motion carries.
- 7) Clash of the Choirs
  - a) Update on funds - \$25,000

- b) Sam Porter reports that the funds were sent to NVOAD due to their 501(c)(3) status, and OKVOAD will be receiving the funds from them shortly.
- c) Blake Shelton held concerts in Ada, OK, previously. There is now discussion about having the upcoming concert at the OKC Zoo, and OKVOAD member agencies would help run the concert. OKVOAD is helping to educate the Shelton entourage regarding Project Rebuild. The independent lumberman's association has backed out as part of the project. Blake Shelton really wants to help Oklahomans, and this is a role OKVOAD can help fill.

#### 8) Ice Storm Update

- a) Individual Assistance Request Denied – Gov Henry made two runs at FEMA and both were denied.
- b) Update on Activities from OKVOAD Members
  - i) The Salvation Army – Tara Ricketson
    - (1) To date in Tulsa County, The Salvation Army has spent \$52,865. In addition, TSA has spent \$13,000 of funds donated by Wal-Mart.
    - (2) Rogers County – TSA has issued \$5,520 in assistance.
    - (3) Craig County – TSA has issued \$750 in assistance.
  - ii) Adventist Community Services – Stanley Buckmaster
    - (1) Their local churches are helping with debris removal.
    - (2) Stanley reports he personally hauled 28 loads of debris.
  - iii) Oklahoma Menonite Disaster Service – Bill Mast
    - (1) Teams worked with the Southern Baptist in OKC. They also worked in Tulsa with Chief Beyer on 35 properties.
    - (2) A crew from Iowa came in on Monday and helped clean up 35 properties.
    - (3) Bill wanted to thank the United Methodists for providing lodging and dinner, Red Cross for breakfast, and Salvation Army for lunch.
    - (4) Still getting calls (four this week) for people that now want some help.
    - (5) Need to be careful about duplicates on lists and those that have now gotten help from family/friends.
    - (6) Names in Tulsa are by zip code, and Tulsa Fire Department provides a release form to sign. Chief Dennis Beyer can give you names by the zip code listed.
  - iv) Tulsa Fire Department – Chief Dennis Beyer, 918-596-1254
    - (1) Thanked all the VOAD agencies for helping with this effort.
    - (2) The City of Tulsa still needs help with cleaning up the yards. This is light work, not big limb removal.
    - (3) Has some money that has been donated to the cause. Haven't spent it yet.
    - (4) Worked on 390 properties, still have 130+ to go.

- (5) Need crews of four people with at least one chainsaw. Would like to get back on this next week or the week after. Asked for some more help.
- (6) Jessica Hill – 2-1-1 – Who is doing this work?
  - (a) Dennis Beyer - At first, this was firefighters. Now, it is volunteers and crews from HOW Foundation. Residents can get on the list by calling Mayors Action Line.
  - (b) Jessica – 2-1-1 has not been giving out Mayors Action Line for people to call. Should they? Dennis – NO. They have all they can handle.
  - (c) Jessica Hill – Southern Baptists cannot take more people. What number should we have people call? 2-1-1 will meet after VOAD meeting with The Salvation Army.
- v) Southern Baptist - Sam Porter
  - (1) Their crews have done 2800 “2s and 3s”. They have processed more than 1,000 volunteers in six weeks.
  - (2) In OKC, United Way dealt with Boy Scouts who took 150 “3s” all over OKC on February 2, to help with limb removal.
  - (3) Sam would suggest doing this in Tulsa. Dennis Beyer – actually did that the first two weeks after the storm. What they found is these groups were not as productive as the smaller four to five man crews. The smaller crews are much more effective. Sam – this long afterwards, still may be able to do another appeal for volunteers.
- vi) Conway of Hope - Steve Irwin, Springfield, Missouri
  - (a) Talking with folks and on conference calls during this event.
- vii) Red Cross – Lydia Dross, Tulsa Area Chapter
  - (1) Katrina assistance ending March 31. Janelle Mulanax clarified that the Red Cross Means To Recovery is going into Phase II recovery with focus of financial assistance shifting solely to the Gulf Coast region. Katrina Aid Today does end on March 31, however other Katrina assistance is still available through many consortium partner agencies.
  - (2) Miami, OK flood recovery – going well. The Long-Term Recovery is going well; there are only 30 of 50 cases left open. The LTRC hired case managers and a supervisor and did damage assessment. Tisha Abell chairing committee. Still need labor and building repairs. FEMA mobile homes have been placed.
- viii) Red Cross – Gwen Johnson, Central Oklahoma Chapter
  - (1) Developing idea of community shelters and continuing with that idea. The Red Cross’ opinion of everyone in the COX center is that it is not a great location due to proximity to homeless population. They did like the idea of community shelter, and are exploring other locations and the ability to get folks there.
  - (2) Sam Porter – issues with the concept include transportation and location.

- (3) Gwen Johnson – pros are that it is good for special needs and pets
- ix) 2-1-1 – Jessica Hill
  - (1) The Tulsa call center took 12,839 calls
  - (2) Shelter was the most frequent inquiry during the first week. By weeks 2-3, food replacement was the biggest request.
  - (3) Two specialists from Houston came to Tulsa to help with the call volume. Life Senior Services also sent people to help, and 2-1-1 doubled its call specialists. It was a very stressful event for specialists.
  - (4) Will e-mail after-action report to the masses
  - (5) One of the best disaster responses as far as partnerships and collaborations
- x) Mental Health – Thom Thompson, ODMHSAS
  - (1) Difficult to find MH volunteers for many reasons:
    - (a) Power issues in their own homes
    - (b) Shelters in OKC difficult because shelters are not as “sexy” as going door-to-door. Doesn’t sound as much fun.
    - (c) Medical Reserve Corps sent out calls and got pretty low response.
    - (d) OK Counseling Assoc. call out only got a few people
    - (e) Christmas time
    - (f) Not a “high-trauma” disaster
  - (2) Jim Lyall – little disappointed that there was not an on-site mental health team at the one-stop. We knew this would be a need. People often come there and are very emotional.
  - (3) Janelle Mulanax – thanks for the mental health handouts that came out day 7-8. Very helpful.
  - (4) Lydia Dross – Red Cross offers Psychological First Aid. One stop had people show up and they were referred to agencies.
  - (5) Jim Lyall – COPES did make themselves available.
  - (6) Thom Thompson – leaned on a couple Mental Health Agencies to commit to having some folks there. ODMH is going to have another large Psych First Aid and P-FLASH training in OKC this summer. Emphasis on local teams and building local teams.
  - (7) Jim Lyall – 2-1-1 – really got a lot of compliments on the type of response that specialists were giving to caller. Exhibiting patience and encouraging the caller on maintaining healthy outlook during disaster was great to see. Would suggest Mental Health training for all. Thom – MH training for all 2-1-1s across the state would be great.
- xi) United Methodists – Karen Distefano
  - (1) Not as many volunteers as they would like, but they had core groups in Tulsa and OKC.
  - (2) Have been approached for more case management training. It is set for February 18-19 in Oklahoma City.
  - (3) Teams came in from TX and LA to help out in OKC area.

- (4) Appreciate Baptist and Menonites for working together to make this effort a success.
  - (5) Introduced Richard Norman who will be taking Karen's place as she is resigning to pursue more education.
  - xii) Janelle Mulanax– random updates
    - (1) Medical Reserve Corps staff health services for all the Tulsa shelters for the first 48-72 hours. Then, the Health Department supplemented that need in all the shelters.
    - (2) Emergency Response Massage International has 25+ trained people in Oklahoma who are willing to respond in times of disaster. They have all had CISM training, and would like to be more active in supporting volunteers and first responders during disaster. They came to Tulsa to work on some of the EMSA folks.
  - xiii) Sam Porter – OK Baptist
    - (1) Everyone is welcome to come play with us.
    - (2) Still many folks that have not been touched. Working at getting teams to continue helping these folks.
- 9) CODA – Central Oklahoma Disaster Alliance
- a) Review of CODA MOU and the OKVOAD role in CODA. Janelle Mulanax went over the history of the CAN Steering Committee evolving into CODA and the place for OKVOAD within that group. A letter to CODA from the OKVOAD Executive Committee was handed out to the OKVOAD members (see attached).
  - b) Discussion
    - i) Gwen Johnson asked for clarification on upholding the November OKVOAD vote to "...support the creation of CODA and appoint a representative to serve on the CODA Steering Committee." As stated in the letter, OKVOAD will uphold that vote. However, beyond that ex officio status, OKVOAD will no be an official organizational member or signatory on the MOU.
    - ii) Alton Gardner pointed out that Stanley Buckmaster was left off as a signatory on the letter. Janelle Mulanax apologized for the oversight and will add him.
- 10)NVOAD – National Conference
- a) Peabody Hotel in Little Rock, AR - May 6-8
  - b) Determination of Scholarships – Alton Gardner made a motion that the limit for scholarships to NVOAD be set at \$500 for officers not to exceed a total of \$2500. If the officer does not need the funding, it can be passed to another OKVOAD member. Second by Stanley Buckmaster. Opened for discussion; there was no discussion. Motion carries
- 11)Light our Way - Mary Gaudreau
- a) Mary serves as Vice Chair of NVOAD Emotional and Spiritual Care committee, and Chair of the Spiritual Care Subcommittee.

- b) History, after Sept 11, the NVOAD established the Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee – two subcommittees formed from that committee. The Early Psychological Subcommittee developed points of consensus; the Spiritual Care Subcommittee is still working on points of consensus with some sticking points. There are issues with interfaith dynamics around the table. Something that came out of this was the Light Our Way books...5,000 copies went out in two weeks. 35,000 have been printed since, and they are free.
- c) Kevin Massey, Lutheran Disaster Response, is the actual author. Basic concepts and types of spiritual care are used and discussed. Section 3 talks about differences with mental health and emotional community. Long-Term Recovery is also addressed.
- d) Contact local VOAD office, and they can have boxes of 70 shipped to you.
- e) OKVOAD has some in the Food Bank in OKC.

## 12)Old Business

## 13)New Business

- a) Steve Irwin, Convoy of Hope, NVOAD member
  - i) Based out of Springfield MO
  - ii) He is the Domestic Agency Liaison
  - iii) Working in 50 different countries, feeding projects, etc. Kenya has churches being burned and disaster organizations being tormented. These are the types of places that Convoy of Hope is focusing.
  - iv) Convoy of Hope began in 1994 by brothers who lost their parents and were cared for by others. It began in CA and moved to MO. Independent, not associated with any congregation.
  - v) Convoy's first disaster was in 1998 with Hurricane Mitch in TX. Opened warehouse in 2000. 2001 in NYC. 2004 Hurricanes.
  - vi) This last year they realized that focus was mostly international and haven't been in their "footprint" so to speak. They want to contact and be involved with those states where they can reach.
  - vii) They are working to strengthen their partnership and NVOAD is changing their typing. This is all part of Convoy's mission in enabling their agency to connect with state VOAD's and connecting with partners here in Oklahoma.
  - viii) Sam Porter – ran into Convoy in Pensacola during bulk distribution items. It was a 4 ½ acre feeding compound that had 25 semis at one time.
    - (1) They were great to work with
    - (2) Likes that Convoy works directly with State EM and State VOADS
    - (3) Gave a quick call to Convoy during Ice Storm on possibility of getting food boxes. Didn't need to utilize that, but it was all a great connection and partnership to have.

Adjourned to awaiting lunch at 11:57AM.