

**CENTRAL TEXAS VOAD
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 8, 2013**

A meeting of the Central Texas VOAD was held August 8, 2013 at the offices of the United Way at 2000 MLK Blvd., Austin, Texas.

Present were: Chris Bugbee, One Star Foundation; Anna Tangredi, Texas Dept of Emergency Management; Ron Janke and Anita Strychalski, Shoreline Church; Anne Brennan, ADRN; Mary Hedengren, LDS Church; Stacy Ehrlich, Society of St. Vincent DePaul; Jose Domingues and Toni Silver with the American Red Cross; George Barnette with Blanco County Volunteers; Betty Learned, HAND; Natasha Rosofsky, United Way 211 Greater Austin; Cathy Norman; Church of Scientology Disaster Response; J.P. Loh, Tzu Chi Foundation; and Joe Canfield, Travis County ARES.

Chris Bugbee presided as Vice Chair in the absence of David Stone, and the elected Vice Chair, on request from the executive committee. He gave a brief overview of the One Star Foundation and its role in disaster.

Introductions of those present were made.

Discussion topic: What do members want to get out of their relationship with the CTX VOAD?

The executive committee wants to make sure that we are discussing issues at the general meeting where members are present, as opposed to being discussed mainly at the executive committee and reported out. We also want to know what members would like to see at meetings.

Anna Tangredi said that she would like to see presentations by organizations so we can all see what the various organizations do.

Jose suggested that we could use some sort of conference call facility so that members who can't be present can perhaps call in. Possibly something like Skype could be used.

Anna commented it is important for the partners to meet one another prior to disaster.

Natasha would like to see more people at the meeting.

There should be data about what we do accessible in a central location.

Anna Tangredi offered to present a "disaster 101" course on the basics of disaster.

It was suggested that there might be some way to do a drill on how 211 works, what organizations provide, providing data to 211. There was discussion about how

organizations prefer to receive alerts for anything, including drills, and that how to notify everyone is a problem. (Some want calls, some texts, some email alerts etc.)

Anna Tangredi- updates on disaster around the State:

West is in the rebuilding phase. Christian Aide Ministries (the Mennonites) are assisting them to re-build. There is a possibility that the Tsu Chi Foundation may be able to help re-build one of the schools that was destroyed. There are some issues with accessing money that has been collected for assistance and issues with the LTRC not having total participation from the key players in the community.

There is also activity ongoing in Granbury where different agencies are active, and in Eagle Pass, where a joint assistance center was activated.

Committee Reports:

Membership:

There was discussion about the Code of Conduct. NVOAD also has a Spiritual Care Consensus document and it appears that the State of Texas will adopt this document to guide emotional/spiritual care. There was general discussion about the need to protect the victims of disaster when they are in vulnerable situations, how to educate people on this issue and how to lay down rules and guidelines.

Education:

The Texas VOAD Conference/Citizen Corps Conference will be October 21-23 in Galveston. A Call for presenters went out and there is a need for presenters.

Preparing Texas.org has classes that you can apply for. There is a disaster recovery course being held in September. Anna Tangredi teaches a donations management course and David Stone and George Barnette have been tapped to assist with this. They hope to have a class in the future about volunteer management.

There were other announcements about learning opportunities.

Communications.

Chris Bugby with OneStar Foundation has volunteered to pay for the website, maintain it, and manage the social media presence. In exchange they will promote their own programs there as well.

Long Term Recovery:

The Red Cross Exercise presentation has been postponed until the next meeting, as they have an ongoing Volunteer Resource Center drill today.

Betty is no longer participating in the Spicewood Long Term Recovery but she is following them and they are meeting about once a month, and are still looking for money. Those who needed assistance and made contact have received help with rebuilding homes and formal case management is over. There are still issues, such as environmental impacts from erosion, someone having a septic tank issue, people who lost jobs or the method or tools of work that haven't had these problems handled.

In Bastrop, 68 homes have been done and there are 15 more that will be done. After these 15 are complete, Habitat for Humanity will take over on home rebuilding. The Bastrop Long Term Recovery will go dormant and the Bastrop Long Term Recovery Volunteer Coordination job ends this month. The Mennonites came back to this community for a third year which is unprecedented.

ARES:

Joe Canfield gave a presentation on ARES and what this group does. ARES stands for Amateur Radio Emergency Service. This is a national organization that provides radio service when other communication fails. ARES people learn ICS because they have to work with this wherever they go. They also now use GPS in various ways. Areas is a service that serves agencies more than individuals. For example, they can set up at a POD and relay information. They also work with search and rescue groups and provide communication between base and search teams.

Joe gave a description of what ARES did during the recent Urban Shield exercise.

In the old days they used Morse Code a lot and still do to some degree.

They now have the capability of sending documents, various digital messages, and pictures.

In Austin, the ARES volunteers have adopted a bright orange shirt as a "uniform" so radio operators can be identified, and they are looking to adopt a state-wide uniform.

Their basic overall function is communications back-up.

Announcements:

Anna will if possible deliver her disaster 101 at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be October 10, from 10 am to noon at the United Way

Cathy Norman
Secretary

