

Central Texas VOAD Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2013
United Way for Greater Austin
2000 E. MLK Jr., Blvd., Austin, TX

The Central Texas VOAD convened at 9:30 AM. Please see attached sign-in sheet for a list of those present.

Action 1: The December 13, 2012, meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Betty Learned, a second by Joe Canfield, and unanimous vote.

Action 2: Toni Silver motioned to set up a Twitter account for the Central Texas VOAD. Betty Learned seconded the motion and body unanimously voted in favor if it.

President David Stone welcomed attendees, who then introduced themselves. Approval of the minutes followed.

Toni Silver, chair of the Communications Committee, reported that several people from multiple agencies responded to her that they couldn't make the meeting but wanted to participate in future meetings, including the Salvation Army.

Regarding the wildfires in Spicewood and Bastrop, Betty Learned reported that a few houses remained to be complete in Spicewood but case management activities had ended and recovery efforts were nearing an end. David Stone reported that Bastrop was still in the process of rebuilding, and the Bastrop County Long Term Recovery Team's president, Christine Files, was transitioning out of her role. For both communities, erosion control and reforestation are ongoing activities.

David Stone announced that the chairperson position for the Membership Committee is vacant. He would like to see the committee readdress membership needs and representation. The Executive Committee will supply a membership packet online and update information. Stone outlined several challenges associated with membership:

- Updating organizations' information
- Re-energizing and re-engaging inactive members
- Reaching out to organizations in rural areas of the Central Texas VOAD region, including holding meetings in other counties, by conference call, or in the evenings (summer was suggested as a good season for evening meetings)

Comments about committee structure included that people often gravitate towards projects a start and end date and an alternate or assistant to the chairperson be appointed to relieve the chair during absences and keep the committee work progressing.

Central Texas VOAD Meeting
May 9, 2013
United Way, 2000 MLK Blvd

A meeting of the Central Texas VOAD was held at 10am Thursday May 9, 2013, at the United Way at 2000 MLK Blvd, Austin, Texas.

Present were: Toni Silver, Bill Dorman, Josh Jackson, Jose Dominguez, and Perla Santillar with American Red Cross, Reno Gomez with Travis County Health and Human Services, Bill Degnan and Cheryl Lassiter with Volunteer Emergency Response Unit, Natasha Rosofsky with United Way Capital Area 211, Mr. Loh with the Tzu Chi Foundation, Michelle Acevedo and David Stone with Texsar, Alva Edwards with Texas Baptist Men, Chris Bugbee with One Star Foundation, George Barnett with Blanco County Volunteers, Better Learned with HAND, and Cathy Norman with Churches of Scientology Disaster Response.

David Stone gave a welcome and introduced a guest, Chris Latham, who was attending the meeting as an expert on using twitter in disaster.

Minutes:

The approval of the minutes of the previous meeting will be delayed until the next meeting so there is a chance for more people to read them.

Membership application:

David, acting as chair of the membership committee, proposed Shoreline Church be accepted as a member with Partner agency status. They are a 501 (c) (3) and active throughout the area in responding to disaster and qualify as Partners. Cathy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Partner members present.

Election of Officers:

The slate of officers presented by the nominating committee for the coming year was as follows:

President: David Stone, (Texsar)
Vice President: Bob Andrews, (Texas Baptist Men)
Secretary: Cathy Norman (Churches of Scientology Disaster Response)
Chairman, Communications Committee: Toni Silver, American Red Cross
Vice Chair: George Barnette (Blanco County Volunteers)
Chairman, Education Committee: Anna Tangredi (State VAL)
Chairman, Long Term Recovery Committee: Betty Learned (HAND)
Chairman, Membership Committee: Anita Strychalski (Shoreline Church)
Vice Chair: Alva Edwards (Texas Baptist Men)

Other nominations and volunteers were requested from the floor. The only other nomination/volunteer was Cheryl Lassiter, Volunteer Disaster Response Unit, who had previously held the Education Chair and expressed an interest in doing this again. It was clarified that she was not volunteering to be Vice Chair but rather Chair.

As the position of Chair of Education Committee was contested, a vote by ballot of the Partner members was taken. Anna Tangredi was unanimously voted as Education Chair.

The remainder of the slate of officers were accepted by unanimous voice vote of the partner members present.

Chair David Stone emphasized that the Committee Chairs would ideally be heading up actual committees, and invited all concerned to consider becoming active in any committee they wished.

Using Twitter in an emergency:

Chris Latham did a presentation on the use of Twitter in an emergency.

There was consensus that if we decided to use Twitter in an emergency situation, it would be best if we set some social media policy and if those using twitter on behalf of Central Texas VOAD would need some social media training.

David suggested that perhaps a meeting could be set up under the banner of the communications committee to talk about details. Chris Latham offered to help.

Update on West:

The Red Cross gave a brief report of their activity in West in responding to the explosion there. 14 people died in this disaster and over 200 were seen in local hospitals. By midnight of the day of the disaster, they were on scene. A joint assistance center was convened. Over 30 organizations participated and hundreds of people were seen. Red Cross is now wrapping up casework. FEMA has now opened a center there. Many VOAD agencies are or have been on scene there. Toni was instrumental in getting out data and this was much appreciated.

Long Term Recovery Exercise:

Red Cross has been leading, in coordination with CTX VOAD, a “long term recovery exercise.” Today’s discussion was about donations management. There was discussion of issues that have come up in various disasters concerning donations management. Ideas include and questions were presented. How can we prepare in advance for the massive amounts of donated goods? We can find out how the various donations management people handle “leftover” donations and coordinate in advance the message and handling for this. There could be a donation management resource book created out of these discussions. We can bring on board to the VOAD those groups that work in this area

such as Goodwill. We can research in advance such resources as the rag merchants who can cart used clothing away and put it to use.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Thursday June 13, 2013, 10 am, at United Way.

The meeting was adjourned.

Cathy Norman
Secretary, Central Texas VOAD

**CENTRAL TEXAS VOAD
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 13, 2013**

A meeting of the Central Texas VOAD was held June 13, 2013 at the offices of the United Way at 2000 MLK Blvd., Austin, Texas.

Present were: Anita Strychalski and Anastasia Lee with Shoreline Church, Kevin Christianson with the LDS Church, Amelia Erickson with the Society of St. Vincent DePaul, Heather Michel Riddle with the Volunteer Center Round Rock, Josh Jackson, Bill Dorman, and Toni Silver with the American Red Cross, Daniel Geraci with ADRN, George Barnette with Blanco County Volunteers, Emmett Eary with United Methodist/UMCOR, Bill Brock with Shepard of the Hill Presbyterian Church and ADRN, Betty Learned with HAND, Natasha Rosofsky with United Way 211 Greater Austin, Michelle Acevedo with TEXSAR, Cathy Norman with Church of Scientology Disaster Response, Linda Haynie with Austin CERT, William Degnan and Cheryl Lassiter with VMERU, and Chris Bugbee with the One Star Foundation.

Toni Silver conducted the meeting. She gave a welcome, and introductions were made.

The minutes from Feb 14 and May 9 were accepted as written by those present.

Committee reports:

Communication:

We don't have a web site and need money to create and maintain one. Cheryl Lassiter and ADRN both offered to assist with funding this. It was mentioned that the Information School at the University of Texas or the community college could be a resource – one student as part of their thesis put together a website for a non-profit. Austin Freenet, a non profit that helps community groups set up web sites, is also a resource.

On the subject of Twitter, George Barnett looked into Twitter as used in disaster. He presented his data and there was discussion. Key points raised and ideas mentioned:

We can become a source of information or a relay point for information in disaster but this is very labor intensive and someone with time would have to be doing it.

Chris Bugbee could possibly provide an intern for this function. Since money is needed for the website, Chris could develop a proposal for a website that would include social media, and would bring this back to the communications committee.

We should contact Ed Shaeffer from CAPCOG and have him talk to us about communication and the communication mechanisms they are using.

We need to be clear about whether the goal is to communicate with each other, or the public or both.

It would be important on the website and on social media not to create a bottleneck at the point of the technical person for the site. RSS (Real Simple Syndication) is a resource.

We could build on the type of data that Toni is sending out, and post some of this to Facebook, tweet some information, and link or coordinate them.

At the TDEM Conference in San Antonio recently there was a presentation on social media, and we could contact those presenters and get them to talk to us.

Membership:

The local LDS Church, represented by Kevin Christianson, has applied as a Partner member. The LDS Church is a member of NVOAD. Locally in Central Texas, the LDS Church can put 20,000 “feet on the street” and want to become more active. A motion was made, seconded and passed by those Partner members present that the LDS Church be accepted as a Partner member.

We have prepared a Code of Conduct that is a mirror of the TX VOAD Code of Conduct which was in turn based on an NVOAD document. All members of the Central Texas VOAD are being asked to sign this as part of their membership. We are asking everyone to take this back to their agencies as needed, and to sign and turn in this form. Forms should be returned to the Membership officer, Anita Strychalski, Anita.Strychalski@shoreline.net.

Education:

Anna Tangredi was not able to be present but sent a written report which included an update on West, and information on upcoming education opportunities. The education opportunities included:

Sign up at www.preparingtexas.org for a donations class Anna will be teaching in Austin in September.

The Citizen Corps and Texas VOAD Conference will be held October 21-23 in Galveston. More info to come.

The quarterly Texas VOAD meeting was announced for June 24 in Waco.

Bill Dorman gave an update on the Capital Area Shelter Hub Plan. We are part of a statewide shelter hub plan. This is a partnership between government, schools, and the Red Cross. The plan involves Travis, Williamson, and Hays counties and 18 school districts. In large scale evacuations, we need over 1000 people to help. During Rita, there were over 40 shelters opened. We need shelter workers and shelter managers. In order to do handle the additional shelter workers needed, we open volunteer centers to train and qualify shelter workers. People are needed to help in these volunteer centers. Volunteers would join the Red Cross. On line self scheduling software allows people to schedule themselves for shelter and shift. At the volunteer center people will get passwords, badges, and will be shown how to use the system. Red Cross plans to have a big exercise about opening a volunteer center.

Shelter workers will listed for the volunteer center to open, show up, and train.

Shelter managers will take ICS 100, (can be done on line,) print out the cert, and bring it to the class for shelter managers, which will be an approximately 6 hours and will be the training for the Red Cross, government, and school representatives acting as shelter managers. This will start in July. Shelter managers can have but don't have to have 2 trainings – shelter fundamentals (3-3 ½ hours) and shelter manager training (6 ½ hours.)

Long Term Recovery

Betty reports that case management is done in Spicewood. In Bastrop they are still working to restore the environment.

Josh gave a presentation about the American Red Cross Long Term Recovery Exercise. The discussion for today was about managing spontaneous volunteers. Here are some of the comments and issues raised:

You can put on a web site and send out press releases that say “stay where you are, don't deploy, send cash” but people will still show up, and so the problem is what to do with them when they do.

In West, American Youth Works helped deal with spontaneous volunteers. Team Rubicon set up the VRC and its systems and American Youth Works manned it. The Team Rubicon/American Youth Works will respond when requested by the local government.

Key questions are, how do you set up personnel and software for a VRC, and then what agencies can accept volunteers and put them to work.

There is software that exists where a group can say what volunteers they need and volunteers can connect. 211 provides the vehicle for this, but not a person who can

actively connect volunteers and groups. Do let 211 know if your organization can accept volunteers. 211 will collect data about what agencies need and connects the volunteers names with needs but the agency will have to contact them.

It is important for all of us to understand what groups do and this is an important part of what the VOAD facilitates.

It would be good to have a tool kit that includes press releases that let volunteers know it is not time to come and they should stay away, stay out. For the recent North Texas tornadoes, the State provided a script that basically said “please don’t come.” Media could be the best way to get out this message.

Linda Haynie suggested that CAPCOG would be involved in determining needs and perhaps Linda could propose a suggested process or message.

The San Antonio VOAD has a volunteer operation center they set up, which is a sort of “volunteer operation center in a box.” This function was assigned to the VOAD by their local emergency management. This is set up away from any shelter or disaster site. The volunteers check in and go through a process, which includes background check, etc. Volunteers are matched up with needs per volunteer requests from organizations. Volunteers are badged for one person one event one location.

In Austin, the Red Cross is set up to do a VRC only for the hurricane events but might be brought into play for other events if it comes up.

Josh suggested that dealing with volunteers could be set up as a committee. Possible members might include 211, One Star, Anna, Red Cross. There is free volunteer management software called “meet the need.”

New Business

The next Austin CERT class begins September 3. Contact Linda Haynie: linda.haynie@austintexas.gov

We have talked before about meeting in other parts of our are (such as Bastrop or Hays Counties.) We should schedule this discussion for a future meeting.

We will also need to address at some point getting people trained so we can man a chair at the EOC. This has to be coordinated with the EOC.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Cathy Norman Sullivan, Secretary

**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

Wray Hooper reported on the role his organization provided emergency assistance at the Trail of Lights and other activities during the winter season.

Linda Haynie with the City of Austin Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management reported the activities of the UrbanShield disaster response exercise on 12/1-12/2/12 and showed a DVD about the event. She reported that for the first time hospitals participated in the Haz Mat drill. In Round Rock there was active shooter situation; drug cartel/hostage/fire situation in Hays County; and a chemical explosion at the Expo Center in Austin. A news clip discussing the haz mat drill is available at www.austincert.org. A total of 520 volunteers for 5,250 volunteer hours participated. Lessons learned included:

- Finding, coordinating, and training up to 1,000 volunteers was a challenge. Austin Disaster Relief Network (ADRN) and ACC contributed significantly to volunteer recruitment.
- The event highlighted the capacity and professionalism of VOADs to first responders, such as law enforcement.
- Active responders learned that they could not be understood through their haz mat suits.
- About 50 people “died” in the Expo Center drill because responders couldn’t get to them (even after 10 hours).
- Capacity of emergency response could be expanded through preparedness training and training local response teams to supplement the efforts of emergency response professionals.

Dallas will be conducting an exercise next year.

Red Cross representatives (Josh Jackson and Bill Dorman) reported about the N. Austin Apartment Fire on 12/20/12. Red Cross was initially activated at 2:30 AM. Sixty people were initially displaced. Because of winds from the cold front, 68 units were razed displacing several hundred people. Northwest Fellowship Church provided shelter for people and animals. ADRN also contributed significantly to relief efforts. The Red Cross assisted about 200 people and 72 cases. The event lasted 76 hours, with 150 churches sponsoring families to meet their basic and other needs. Badges helped identify families to receive aid such as store discounts, items at warehouses, etc. Toni Silver announced who responded from the Central Texas VOAD and community organizations to provide help.

Red Cross used Twitter to post actions of the apartment management, including management’s return of deposits and last month’s rent to fire survivors.

A discussion of the Central Texas VOAD response protocol and use of Twitter to facilitate immediate communications followed. Current call-to-action response procedure follows a top-down hierarchy, beginning with the president. Challenges to responsiveness include holiday season occurrences, gaps in resource list, and use of e-mail. The body discussed using Twitter and CallFire as alternatives to email messaging for actions requiring immediate response. The body agreed that Twitter could facilitate increased responsiveness to calls to action/needs by

members and voted unanimously to set up an account. David Stone would be responsible for establishing the account, and the Central Texas VOAD Executive Committee would be the keepers of the associated user name and password.

Discussion of membership dues was requested to be added to the next agenda.

ADRN's Daniel Geraci stated that the organization has a call center with an information line for donors and service providers and a hotline for victims and survivors.

Red Cross' Bill Dorman reported about the Long-Term Recovery Committee (LTRC) exercise. The purpose of the exercise is to explore the founding principles of the VOAD in long-term recovery. He suggested that discussion of specific issues (e.g., topics re: donated goods handling, tactics, communication, call downs, etc.) follow each Central Texas VOAD meeting. Red Cross could facilitate and provide reports about the meetings. Josh Jackson could head the steering committee, with first topic to be the call-to-action response structure. A framework for exercise is to be developed by the next Central Texas VOAD meeting.

A question about the availability of an after-action report about the November 2012 disaster assistance center exercise was asked. Dorman explained that a guideline for setting up a disaster assistance center was available.

David Stone announced that notes from the Executive Committee about its strategic vision would be distributed. The task of the next Executive Committee may include the update of the bylaws for consistency with national and state VOADs.

Committee officer elections are to take place at the April 11 meeting. Each office has a one-year term, with a two-term maximum. David Stone requested that interest in a nomination or considerations for nominees be emailed to the Nominations Committee; considerations for nominations of representatives from other organizations outside of Travis County were encouraged. Wray Hooper expressed interest in serving on the Communications Committee.

The meeting concluded with discussion about website hosting and online donations and volunteer management during a disaster. Aidmatrix was mentioned. Members were invited to bring information to the full body.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

CTX VOAD MEETING
October 10, 2013

The regular meeting of the Central Texas VOAD was held on October 10, 2013, at the Austin offices of United Way.

Attending were: Nathan Kinsma with ACE, Joe Canfield and Roger Wines with ARES, Toni Silver, Kay Kieke and Nora Dreeple with American Red Cross, Kara Prior with Capital Area Food Bank, Sara Ramirez with Catholic Charities of Central Texas, Cathy Norman with Church of Scientology, Kevin Christiansen with LDS Church, Betty Learned with HAND, Joe Hillis with Information Technology Disaster Resource, Chris Bugbee with One Star Foundation, Donald Wrayitoo with React, Anita Strychalski and Ron Janke with Shoreline Church, Kimberly Lyle with Texas Association of Regional Councils and Texas Citizen, Dennis Barnes with Texas Baptist Men/Region 21, Megan Helton with American Youthworks, Anna Tangredi with TDEM, Michelle Acevedo and David Stone with TEXSAR, Heather Michel Riddle with the Round Rock Volunteer Center, Jiann Ping Loh with Tzu Chi Foundation, Emmett Eary with UNCOR, Nikki Krueger and Natasha Rosofsky with United Way – 211, and Bill Degnan with VMER.

David Stone chaired the meeting and gave a welcome. Introductions were made of those present.

The minutes of the meeting of August 8, 2013 were accepted.

Presentation:

Anna Tangredi of the Texas Department of Emergency Management gave a very informative presentation, “Disaster 101 – an Overview of Disaster Response and Recovery in Texas.” Anna covered information about her own position with the Texas Division of Emergency Management and her role in disaster, general information about the phases of disaster, an overview about the processes leading up to disaster declarations and governmental assistance and types of assistance available, and tips for dealing with disaster.

Committee Reports:

Education:

Chair Anna Tangredi gave the presentation on Disaster 101. She also announced the 4th Annual Texas Unites Conference.

Membership:

Chair Anita Strychalski reminded people to please sign the VOAD Code of Conduct on behalf of their organization.

Communications:

Chair Toni Silver asked everyone to please make sure that your information on the sign in list is legible because this gets your e-mail into the address book.

Anita announced that Shoreline Church is willing to fund a social media presence for Central Texas VOAD, including Facebook page and twitter account. The twitter account name is @centexvoad.

Chris Bugbee at Onestar foundation has received approval to fund and take on the management of the Central Texas VOAD website.

LTRC:

Betty gave brief information on Spicewood long term recovery, which is wrapping up.

Announcements:

The next meeting is 10 am, December 12, 2013 at United Way.

Cathy Norman
Secretary

CTX VOAD MEETING
December 12, 2013

The regular meeting of the Central Texas VOAD was held on December 12, 2013, at 10 am at the Austin offices of United Way.

Attending were: Bill Dorman, Toni Silver, Josh Jackson, and Katie Braymer with American Red Cross, Daniel Geraci and Paige Webb with ADRN, Kate Johnston with Bastrop Long Term Recovery, George Barnette with Blanco County Volunteers, Cathy Norman with Churches of Scientology Disaster Response, Kevin Christenses with LDS Church, Betty Learned with HAND, Chris Bugbee with One Star Foundation, Alan Ford with Presbyterian Church USA, Anita Strychalski and Ron Janke with Shoreline Church, Kimberly Lile with Texas Association of Regional Councils, Bob Andrews with Teas Baptist Men, David Stone and Michelle Acevedo with TEXSAR, Leonor Vargas with The Austin Project, Shantelle Dunn with Travis County OEM, Mark Shipman with TDEM, Manuel Jimenez with Travis County Constable PCT 4, Tom Herrea – Perkins Valle Resident, Janis Butler with BCLTRT, and Mike Marcellus and John Ogletton with First Church.

David Stone chaired the meeting and gave a welcome. Introductions were made of those present.

The minutes of the meeting of October 10 were not ready, and will be presented for approval along with the December minutes in February.

Presentation: Update on Central Texas Flood Response and Recovery.

Various agencies and individuals involved in the Central Texas Flooding that occurred over Halloween gave information on the disaster and the response.

A forming Long Term Recovery Committee has been meeting every Monday at 1pm at Shoreline Church South. It would be good to have a more central location.

Mark Shipman from TDEM reports that there were 608 homes that had major damage or were destroyed, and another 179 that had minor damage (which means they had less than 18 inches of water.) 54 % had insurance. 208 of the 608 major/destroyed were uninsured, and figures are not available on those that were under insured. He explained something of where we are at in the process of getting possible government assistance.

ADRN reported that 468 people (families) had requested help from ADRN and asked to be sponsored. Of those, 288 were not insured and the majority were renters. 86 homes are not on the buy out list and not insured, and so will need to be re-built. ADRN is looking to hire a construction manager to aide in rebuilding efforts. ADRN has a case management system in place to identify and fulfill needs. ADRN reported further details in their progress and said they are still accepting new cases.

Travis County reported that the OEM is back to normal working hours. The building that housed the Family Assistance Center that was operational for a time has not become the Volunteer Resource Center. 311 is the place to call for information.

Betty Hand, VOAD LTR Committee Chair, reported that she has been working to evolve an actual long term recovery committee for this disaster. She wants to reach out to neighborhood meetings.

ADRN has stepped forward and Daniel Geraci has expressed a willingness to be part of an LTRC and to fill a leadership role, preferably in a temporary or mentoring capacity.

Members of the Bastrop LTRC are also willing to assist in this way so that we can benefit from their experience.

Pastor Mike Marcellus brought up different issues that he and the folks affected by the floods are facing. He gave a long list of issues these include difficulties with volunteer interest waning, issues with permitting and the need for expert help, people continuing to live in homes that are destroyed, and more.

Leonor Vargas with the school district reports 400 students impacted by the floods. The district is engaged in efforts to reach out to those affected. She would like to be involved in the case management aspects of the LTRC.

On the issue of leadership, ADRN has agreed to assist to lead the LTRC in a mentor role and Pastor Mike Marcellus has agreed that he would be willing to take on a leadership role if mentored. Pastor Mike is willing and able to help communicate to the neighborhood to bring the community on board. Bastrop is providing people to help also, and AISD is a community partner in the effort.

Announcements:

Nominating Committee:

Volunteers are needed to serve on this year's nominating committee. The nominating committee is responsible for putting together a slate of officers to serve in the coming year. The proposed slate must be sent out to the membership by the second week in March, and the elections are in April. Katie Braymer volunteered to serve on the nominating committee. Other volunteers are needed.

Red Cross Disaster Assessment Training:

As a result of the Central Texas flooding events, the Red Cross has realized that there is a shortage of volunteers that can be deployed to do disaster assessments in the 2 or 3 days after a disaster hits. They are reaching out to other agencies for help in getting volunteers or groups of volunteers to do the Red Cross training in disaster assessment.

The Red Cross will come to your location and do this training. There will be an exercise on damage assessment on March 1 and so the trainings should be done before this.

Cathy Norman
Secretary