



**Maryland Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (MDVOAD)
Quarterly Meeting
Friday, 10 June 2005**

MEETING MINUTES

This quarterly meeting of MDVOAD was held at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency located in Reisterstown, MD.

ATTENDEES

Kitty Juneau – Adventist Community Services (ACS)
Kevin Burr – American Red Cross – Central Maryland Chapter (ARC)
Cathy LaFleur – American Red Cross - Central Maryland Chapter (ARC)
Linda Frazier – American Red Cross – National Capital Region (ARC)
Steve O’Brien - American Red Cross – National Capital Region (ARC)
Barbara Fay – Anne Arundel County Emergency Management Agency
James Matz – Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management
Debbie Staigerwald – Baltimore County Volunteers/Citizens Corps
Michelle Kehl – Baltimore County Citizens Corps/ Maryland Interfaith Recovery Team (MIRT)
Patty Sandoval – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Joe Swetnam – Fidos for Freedom
Robin Frazier – Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV)
Ollie Davidson – Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
Pam Minter – Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)
Joanne Knapp – Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD)
Yvette Bowman – Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR)
Steve Welzant – Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
Wayne Flickinger – Maryland Food Bank
Catherine Dorsey – MIRT
Lon Kinley – The Salvation Army
Mickey Gomez – Volunteer Center Serving Howard County
Jack Lynch – Volunteer Frederick, Frederick County Citizens Corps

CHAIRPERSON’S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Mickey Gomez, the MDVOAD Chair, thanked everyone for attending this quarterly meeting of MDVOAD. Mickey provided some opening remarks and then asked everyone to introduce themselves.

BUDGET UPDATE

Mickey stated that MDVOAD currently has approximately \$16,700 in its account. To support its members in attending the upcoming 13th Annual NVOAD Conference, MDVOAD is providing travel and lodging expenses for one member and is contributing to pay half of the expenses for another member. More information on the NVOAD Conference is given later in the minutes.

Membership dues are expected to be received from 6 to 7 members in the near future. Please keep up with your membership dues. If you have any questions regarding your membership status, or if you are interested in becoming a member of MDVOAD, please contact Scott Knox at sbsknox90@comcast.net.

MDVOAD WEBSITE UPDATE

Steve Welzant stated that the new MDVOAD website is now being used to disseminate meeting information, such as agendas and directions to meeting locations. All meeting minutes will be posted to the website shortly following the quarterly meetings. Again, please note that the new website has a slightly different address than the old site (<http://www.mdvoad.org>). Steve asked that all MDVOAD members continue to send him any suggestions for improvement.

NVOAD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 13th NVOAD Annual Conference will be held in Denver, CO from 6/21 to 6/24 2005 and MDVOAD will be well represented. Ollie Davidson (HSUS), Jane Yount (Church of the Brethren), Pam Simonson (Volunteer Center Serving Howard County), Lon Kinley (Salvation Army), and Steve Welzant (MEMA) will be there to represent Maryland. It is expected that there will be much discussion on volunteer and donations management, especially regarding lessons learned following the hurricane activity in Florida last year. A report and conference synopsis will be presented at the next quarterly MDVOAD Meeting.

Mickey recently responded to an information request from NVOAD. NVOAD was seeking updated information pertaining to MDVOAD's current logo, number of members, and current activities. It is thought that NVOAD is preparing a summary of all state and regional VOADs for the National Conference.

For NVOAD Conference information, go to: <http://www.nvoad.org/annualconf1.php>.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS/OFFICE OF DOMESTIC PREPAREDNESS (ODP) PROJECT: TRAINING GRANT INITIATIVE FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Kevin Burr presented information to the MDVOAD meeting attendees on a new ARC and ODP training grant initiative for terrorism preparedness training. ODP awarded ARC a grant to design and develop a pilot training program that will be designed for non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and voluntary organizations. The purpose of the training will be to increase awareness of Weapons of Mass Destruction/Terrorism incidents. For more information, please contact Kevin at (410) 624-2042 or kburr@arc-cmc.org.

MEMA'S ANNUAL DIRECTORS CONFERENCE

MEMA held its annual Directors Conference in late May in Ocean City, MD. The Annual Conference is designed to bring together many of Maryland's local emergency management directors, and their staffs, as well, as many other state department and agency representatives and non-governmental organizations, to discuss emergency preparedness and response initiatives in the State of Maryland.

Several MDVOAD members were present for the Conference and delivered presentations to the attendees. Mickey Gomez delivered two separate presentations: one that provided an overall description of MDVOAD and its purpose, and one that highlighted the ongoing effort towards training individuals to support volunteer mobilization centers (VMCs). Steve Welzant delivered a brief presentation on donations management and Kevin Burr provided meeting attendees with a synopsis of recent ARC initiatives and an overview of current ARC disaster services.

REPORT ON FLORIDA VOAD MEETING

Steve Welzant gave a briefing on his recent trip to the Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference, which included attending a general meeting of Florida VOAD (FLVOAD). There were approximately 70 people in attendance at the FLVOAD Meeting. Steve provided MDVOAD meeting attendees with copies of information that was handed out at the FLVOAD meeting including: the FLVOAD meeting agenda, a FLVOAD

membership application, previous FLVOAD meeting minutes, and a summary of local VOAD (Brevard County) recovery activities.

One of the most important ideas discussed at the FLVOAD meeting surrounded the organization and activities of the numerous long-term recovery groups. All of the long-term recovery groups that are currently addressing unmet needs are local in nature (based out of local VOADs or local Citizens Corps) and thereby only focused on one, or in a few cases, two or more counties. Steve stated that he will push for similar, locally-based, LTR groups to be set up in Maryland when there is a need to re-establish a long-term recovery mechanism to address unmet needs in Maryland. Having an organized and functioning long-term recovery groups at the local level before disaster strikes would be ideal.

FLVOAD also voted to allow local Citizen Corps Councils to act as a local VOAD since both would be comprised of many of the same members. MDVOAD attendees were receptive to this concept as long as a long-term subcommittee from that local Citizen Corps is created to focus on local unmet needs.

URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE (UASI) UPDATE

Mickey reminded everyone that MDVOAD's commitment to the National Capital Region UASI Grant for FY 2003 is complete. This involvement has provided a significant amount of funding to MDVOAD.

Mickey and several of her local volunteer center partners are pursuing Baltimore Area UASI funding for the upcoming fiscal year. They are interested in securing funding to expand and improve their Volunteer Mobilization Center (VMC) training and awareness program. Stay tuned for further developments.

DCVOAD recently held a revitalization meeting after a period of dormancy. Their next meeting is scheduled for 30 September 2005. Contact Michelle Pennick at DC Emergency Management for information.

SHEPPARD PRATT TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

MDVOAD has recommended a few of its members to serve as trainers for the upcoming training sessions focusing on the psychological consequences of disasters. The next offering of this course is currently under development and MDVOAD expects to soon hear back from Sheppard-Pratt regarding more details on this free training.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Three subcommittees or workgroups are under either presently meeting or are under development in MDVOAD:

- Membership and Outreach Subcommittee – Build and maintain membership in MDVOAD, as well as, develop marketing strategies to increase awareness. We need someone to chair this subcommittee. As an initial effort, Mickey has contacted several local offices of organizations that are members of NVOAD, to try and encourage them to become involved in MDVOAD.
- Donations and Volunteer Management Subcommittee (ESF 15) – This currently established subcommittee has been convening with the aim of improving donations and volunteer management planning and response. Several members have invested their time to participate in this subcommittee: Steve Antini, Steve Welzant, Kitty Juneau, Mickey Gomez, Ollie Davidson, Joan Lawrence, Wayne Flickinger, Debbie Staigerwald, and Lisa Orr (as well as some non-VOAD members [i.e. Comptroller Office and Department of General Services]). This subcommittee last met on 4 March 2005. GOSV, MEMA, and MDVOAD leadership will be meeting on 14 June 2005 to further discuss ESF 15 issues.
- Long-Term Recovery Subcommittee – MDVOAD has unofficially adopted the Maryland Interfaith Recovery Team (MIRT) as its long-term subcommittee. Linda Schlicht, the current MIRT Chair and/or members of her staff have been regular attendees at MDVOAD quarterly meetings. They have been providing regular updates on the progress being made to address unmet needs from Tropical Storm Isabel victims. A huge note of gratitude is due to Linda, Catherine Dorsey, Michelle Kehl, and the rest of the

MIRT team for the revitalization of MIRT and the progress that they have made over the past few months. Here are some details regarding MIRT's latest activities:

- Articles and By-laws filed, Federal Employers ID # obtained, preparing paperwork for 501c3 status. New checking account to be opened soon.
- A new contractor has been hired to help complete assessments, cost \$275/house.
- New partnerships formed with the Anne Arundel Co. Food & Resource Bank, the MD Clergy Response Team, the Presbyterian Church Disaster Response Team, and working on creating a partnership with the Central MD Ecumenical Council & Funding.
- Meeting soon with Maryland Department on Housing and Community Development for new \$100,000 grant for low-income victims. Also received \$1,600 from Essex Volunteer Center.
- Next meeting will be a conference call on July 13th at 11 AM. Please email Linda Schlicht by July 5th if you would like to participate in this call.

Please consider volunteering for one or more of these subcommittees. It is a great opportunity to enhance MDVOAD's role in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

AGENCY REPORTS

American Red Cross (ARC) – Approximately 10-15 thousand scouts and scouts' families are convening at Timonium Fairgrounds on 22 October 2005 for a Boy Scouts of America (BSA) disaster preparedness expo. State and local agencies will be involved; the BSA is coordinating the event.

Adventist Community Services (ACS) – They are currently assembling a training package for donations management that they can take on the road and deliver to various groups.

Anne Arundel County Emergency Management – They recently had good turnout at the recent Disabilities Conference that was held in Anne Arundel County.

Baltimore City Office of Emergency Management – They are currently devising strategy for using the FY 04 Citizen Corps funding which was recently released.

Baltimore County Volunteers – They recently convened their Citizens Corps and have a new website that can aid in matching needs to available volunteers.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) – The CAP has recently upgraded their digital imaging system that they use during aerial damage assessment operations. They are currently encouraging their squadrons to work more closely with the local jurisdictions.

Department of Human Resources (DHR) – DHR is continuing to support LTR operations. Hilton Maynard will soon be retiring and Robert Suit will be assuming Hilton's position. DHR is helping some Isabel victims with temporary storage costs while their homes undergo repairs.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – There are reportedly 85 FEMA travel-trailers/mobile homes that are still deployed in Maryland. They are currently working through some difficult lease termination issues. FEMA is interested in knowing if there are any State programs that will provide temporary housing while homes are being elevated.

Fidos for Freedom – They have 120 volunteers that take dogs into various health care facilities to lift spirits and boost morale. They continue to train dogs for use as service dogs, hearing dogs, and therapy dogs. Please check out their website at <http://www.fidosforfreedom.org>. They continue to be very involved at the local/community level.

Frederick Volunteers – They are continuing their efforts to register more medical professional volunteers.

Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GOSV) – GOSV is continuing with the development of a State public safety/emergency preparedness initiative. The initiative will kick off in conjunction with National Preparedness Month (September) and will concentrate on enhancing citizen education, including educating people on planning efforts for Citizens Corps, as well as, ESF 15 issues. GOSV may be able to partner with Maryland Public Television (MPT) who is interested in helping get the word out about this effort.

Volunteer Maryland will be hosting a three-day seminar that includes topics such as volunteer management. Contact Volunteer Maryland at (410) 514-7270 for more information.

Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) – They are continuing to encourage local government officials and local animal care facilities to complete a survey that addresses issues pertaining to vulnerabilities, capabilities, readiness, and other items related to animal sheltering, vets, etc. They have begun planning for the 2006 HSUS National Conference; they are looking for a host.

Maryland Department on Disabilities (MDOD) – Now that the 7 regional disabilities conferences have been completed, MDOD will continue its efforts through more focused regional meetings.

Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) – MEMA recently had a visit from Governor Ehrlich to officially christen the Maryland Joint Operations Center (M-JOC). The M-JOC operates 24 hours a day – 7 days a week and consists of MEMA staff and Maryland National Guard personnel sitting side-by-side to make any and all appropriate notifications in the event of a large incident or emergency. The main purpose of the M-JOC is to provide better, faster service to all of Maryland's local jurisdictions. MEMA will also be expanding the concept of regionalization within Maryland by hiring Regional Coordinators to act as point persons for the local EMA directors in various portions of the State. MEMA will begin recruiting for the new positions once the next fiscal year starts (July 1).

Maryland Food Bank – They continue to be very busy, working with the Center for Poverty Solutions.

Maryland Interfaith Recovery Team (MIRT) – See Long-Term Recovery Committee update.

Salvation Army – They recently held their National Training Session in Orlando, FL in May 2005. They have also become more involved in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) activities.

Volunteer Center Serving Howard County (VCHC) – The VCHC has created a new resource, a personal assessment survey that will provide info on an individual's likelihood to show up for volunteer service during or immediately following a large emergency. They are also planning additional training session on Volunteer Mobilization Centers (VMCs). Contact VCHC for more information at (410) 715-3172.

York County is hosting a Disaster Volunteer Training session on 30 June 2005; registration is required by 20 June 2005. Call the United Way of York County to register at (717) 771-3815.

There will also be a National Conference on Volunteering and Service in Washington DC from 4-6 August 2005, please go to <http://www.volunteeringandservice.org> for more information. Fay Mauro and Mickey will be teaming up to deliver one of the workshops at this Conference.

THE NEXT MD VOAD QUARTERLY MEETING WILL BE ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2005 FROM 10 AM TO 2 PM.

LOCATION: AMERICAN RED CROSS OF CENTRAL MARYLAND HEADQUARTERS (BALTIMORE CITY).