



**Maryland Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (MD VOAD)
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
Friday, 12 September 2003**

This meeting of MD VOAD was held at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in Reisterstown, MD.

CHAIRPERSON'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Jane Yount, the current chair of MD VOAD welcomed everyone and stated that NVOAD appointed its first Executive Director, Ms. Ande Miller.

Steve Welzant of MEMA spoke next and gave an update regarding a strong hurricane named Isabel that was churning in the eastern Atlantic Ocean and was projected to track towards the eastern United States. A high pressure ridge present in the central Atlantic may help steer Isabel toward the Mid-Atlantic States. It is currently a category 5 hurricane on the Saffir-Simpson Scale with maximum sustained winds of 160 mph.

MD VOAD WEBSITE UPDATE

The MD VOAD Web Page costs \$20 a quarter to maintain and its current webmaster is Bill McDowell, a local college student. There was some discussion raised about adding a search function to the website. There should be a link from the NVOAD website to the MD VOAD website, although the NVOAD website does not contain links to any other state VOAD website. The MD VOAD website should have a Contact Us page. The website should also have previous meeting minutes posted, along with updates regarding current disaster efforts and training events. If the minutes have not been approved, state on the document that it is an unapproved document or draft. Links to MD VOAD organizations will be added soon.

The current MD VOAD web page can be found at www.mdvoad.com. Any attempts to visit the old MD VOAD page will now result in the user being automatically sent to the new page.

DELMARVA ISSUES

Cecil County VOAD (CCVOAD) is currently going through process to become officially affiliated with MD VOAD. The three main steps are: submit an application for affiliation, adopt bylaws, and elect officers. Although they have not yet submitted an application, at their last meeting they adopted bylaws and will elect officers at their next meeting with the help of a nominating committee. CC VOAD approved a set of bylaws at their last meeting. Brian Atias of the Cecil County Health Department is planning to take an emergency preparedness education and awareness campaign on the road and speak to people at private businesses and

organizations. Mr. Atias was instrumental in putting together an emergency preparedness booklet to be distributed in the County.

In the past, there have been efforts to organize a VOAD on the Delmarva Peninsula; however, NVOAD stated that they would not charter a tri-state VOAD. Delaware made a few attempts to start up a VOAD in 1996 and 1996, but efforts were not sustained.

Cindy Howell, who is the Volunteer Services Manager for Worchester County, is currently working on expanding the network of volunteers located on the Eastern Shore.

The group agrees that it is important to pursue and maintain an effort to make MD VOAD a statewide volunteer resource network.

MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH

All MD VOAD members are encouraged to stay current with their membership dues and complete the member survey distributed earlier. Financial and budget particulars should be presented to MD VOAD at the quarterly meetings. An attempt should be made to garner additional interest in MD VOAD with Maryland's Volunteer Centers. Liz Gibson, Steve Welzant, and Kevin Burr volunteered to form a committee to contact other voluntary agencies that may be interested in joining MD VOAD.

There is a desire to get MD VOAD in the news more often, when member organizations are highlighted. Members of MD VOAD are putting together a template for a recruiting brochure, which should be ready by the end of September. MD VOAD needs to have better contact and coordination with the Salvation Army and try and bring them back into the group.

ESF 8, MENTAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

Members of ESF 8 spoke briefly on efforts regarding the isolation and/or quarantine of infected persons. Key steps include: isolating those who are sick, quarantine those who have been exposed to the elements, and implementing a system to track patients.

NVOAD DISASTER DONATION POLICY

One objective is for MD VOAD to type out a mission for MEMA and determine the best policies and procedures for dealing with cash donations. We need a systematic approach for a money distribution policy. One member mentioned that Charles County raised \$500,000 for disaster prevention and they did not have initial management of donations. When asking for cash donations, something must be added to the letter such as, "donations will be allocated to this and other disasters within MD."

OTHER BUSINESS

Note: Every year at the MD VOAD Annual Meeting, members of MD VOAD must select a new chairperson to serve for the coming year. A Nominating Committee was formed at the last MD VOAD meeting and includes Steve Welzant, Ollie Davidson (Humane Society), and

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George Blevins (MD Baptist Convention). Mr. Welzant is currently discussing potential nominees with members of the Nominating Committee. MD VOAD members are welcomed to nominate anyone they feel would make a good chair for the coming year. Please bring your ideas to the annual meeting as to who would be a good leader for our group. MD VOAD will offer assistance to those willing to serve as chair for 2004.

**THE MD VOAD ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE ON FRIDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2003
FROM 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM AT ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES IN
COLUMBIA, MD.**