



**Maryland Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters
Annual Meeting Highlights
Friday, December 13, 2002**

The December 13, 2002 MD VOAD Annual Meeting was held at the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Emergency Operations Center in Reisterstown, MD.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Outgoing MD VOAD Chairman Bill Herche welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to Ruth Mascari of MEMA. She welcomed everyone to the EOC and extended MEMA's thanks to our voluntary agencies for our ongoing support of relief efforts in Maryland, including the 1992 Southern Maryland tornado. Ms. Mascari also gave a brief overview of EOC facilities and operations.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations Chairman Ollie Davidson, HSUS, announced a slate of officers for the memberships approval. The following proposed candidates were unanimously elected to one-year terms of office:

- ❑ Chairman: Jane Yount (Church of the Brethren)
- ❑ Vice-Chairman: Kitty Juneau (Adventist Community Services)
- ❑ Secretary/Treasurer: Scott Knox (MD VOAD, at large)

This group will be joined on the Executive Committee by our outgoing Chairman Bill Herche (an ex-officio member) and our representative/liaison from MEMA, Planner Steve Welzant.

MITIGATION ISSUES

MEMA Mitigation Planner Ginny McGann gave a brief status report on mitigation issues facing the state. Our Mitigation Plan needs to be updated to meet new Federal requirements. A new draft plan must be completed by November, 2004. Local jurisdictions will also need to update the mitigation components of their respective plans. Continued and/or new funding from the Federal government will be contingent on the approval of our updated Plan.

Liz Monahan-Gibson, the FEMA Region III Voluntary Agency Liaison, noted that there is a national push to further involved community and faith-based organizations in mitigation planning.

UPDATE OF ESF-15 DONATIONS MANAGEMENT

Frey Frey, a Planner at MEMA, has been designated as the Donations Management Coordinator for State government. He will work with MD VOAD and our member agencies on donations planning issues. MD VOAD has advised the State that Adventist Community Services is the voluntary agency in Maryland best suited to coordinate any inter-agency donations system or program in times of disaster. ACS has requested the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between Maryland and ACS. Action on that request is still pending. The State will also work with MD VOAD in formulating and publicizing a cash donations policy in times of disaster. (MD VOAD can help identify appropriate voluntary agencies for possible inclusion in any state-wide program.)

STATE PLANNING FOR REPATRIATION AT BWI

The State continues to refine its plans for Repatriation activities at BWI airport in support of emergency evacuation of U.S. citizens/personnel from overseas locations. At least excellent location near the international terminal has been identified as a primary point of service. Other issues (including making cash or ATM cards available to incoming personnel are still being resolved). While Red Cross and several other MD VOAD agencies (including CAP) have on-site roles at the airport, the primary MD VOAD agency mission would be to support the human service needs of evacuees settling in Maryland for any length of time.

AGENCY REPORTS AND UPDATES

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (UMCOR): Bill Herche

The Baltimore-Washington leadership for UMCOR is in transition. Bill Herche is no longer the State Coordinator. (A replacement is pending.) Bill remains the UMCOR liaison with MD VOAD.

CIVIL AIR PATROL: John Johnson

The Maryland Wing had developed an updated personnel roster, as well as improved image downlink capability. Imaging may be transmitted directly to the EOC. Some CAP personnel were also deployed during last week's storm.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE U.S. (Anne Culver/Ollie Davidson)

The HSUS has a new Planner, Rob Archibald. Rob will train and manage HSUS disaster response teams. The Society responded to both Lilly and Isidore during the past storm season. The HSUS is also training several CERT groups.

BAPTIST CONVENTION: George Blevins

The Southern Baptists provide food service (usually in cooperation with Red Cross) in times of disaster. Nationally, they have 25,000 trained volunteers. The DE/MD operation has 2 feeding units, one positioned in Baltimore County and one on the Eastern Shore. Each unit can serve 5,000 meals per day. Further training will occur in Jan. and Feb.

AMERICAN RED CROSS: Kevin Burr

The ARC has completed the statewide readiness report, identifying 1,500 trained volunteers in Maryland (DE/MD). Red Cross is also working with the State ADPAC group on animal issues in disaster, and with the State Department of Human Resources on the new Repatriation Plan.

ARC made a presentation on disaster evacuation to the Baltimore Metro Council (Executives of Baltimore City and the surrounding metro counties). The need for trained shelter managers was noted to support any significant evacuations from Washington, D.C. to the Baltimore metro area.

Red Cross will be training another National Civilian Conservation Corps (NCCC) cadre in February and March in key disaster functions. About 200 Corps members will be trained.

Nationally, Red Cross will be re-emphasizing its disaster mission. ARC will be divided into administrative "Regions" to assist in pushing both resources and decision-making closer to the field.

The Montgomery County ARC has become part of the National Capital Red Cross Chapter in D.C., but will maintain a reporting relationship with Baltimore (for DE/MD), as well.

HOWARD COUNTY VOLUNTEER CENTER: Mickey Rubenstein

The Center has been active with the local County Emergency Task Force and Fire Department in identifying persons to be trained in the new CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) training developed by FEMA.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM: P. Reese-Calhoun

Volunteer Centers statewide are working to identify personnel to assist with disaster volunteer management activities. They are also looking at a MD State "Volunteer Association" to provide better communication and coordination among the individual centers. (Once formed, such an Association could work with MD VOAD on mutual areas of concern.)

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: Jane Yount

Repair and rebuilding projects in Virginia and West Virginia from the May floods (and earlier flooding as well) are nearing completion. They also received a request through NVOAD for help in Columbus, S.C. Several state assessments are currently ongoing. Disaster Child Care was provided in Mississippi for the hurricane relief efforts. The Brethren also have a CAIR (Child AIR) team on call to assist with the child care needs following aviation disasters.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE: Gail Wowk

A committee is meeting monthly on issues surrounding volunteer health care professionals in disaster settings – physicians, nurses, and pharmacists. DHMH will be working with the State Licensing Board . I.D badges for trained licensed volunteers will be developed (working in conjunction with authorities such as MEMA and state/local law enforcement).

TERRORISM AND THE ROLE OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

Don "Doc" Lumpkin, the MEMA State Terrorism Program Manager, was able to briefly address the meeting. He stressed the similarity of roles and responses in the 3 major types of disaster: **natural** (hurricanes, floods, etc.), **technological** (hazmat, transportation, etc.), and **criminal** (terrorism). While our agencies roles are similar in each of these 3 types of disaster, the *environment* may be drastically different. It's the different environment, especially in the *criminal* disaster, that requires the need for further planning and preparedness activity on all of our parts.

In the upcoming year, the State will work to specifically include the voluntary agency community in terrorism planning and exercises. Additional information may be accessed through the website: www.marylandhomelandsecurity.us . This site includes a training page.

THE NEXT MD VOAD QUARTERLY MEETING WILL BE ON MARCH 14, 2003 FROM 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM. LOCATION TBD.

ATTENDANCE

PERSONS ATTENDING

Bill Herche (Chairman, MD VOAD)
David Percy

Kitty Juneau
Milton McKend

Barry Stimmer
Marie Schaub
Randall Dresser

Nancy Thomas

Kevin Burr

Jacqueline St. Clair, R.N.

George Blevins, Sr.

Donnell Josiah

John Johnson

Donald A. Hirst

Kevin Redmon

Edward M. Dunker

Jane Yount

Liz Monahan-Gibson

Philathia Reese-Calhoun

Anne Culver

Ollie Davidson

Rob Archibald

Gail Wowk

Steve Welzant

Ruth Mascari

Scott Knox

Sandy Lee

Mickey Rubenstein

ORGANIZATION

United Methodist Comm. on Relief
Washington, D.C. VOAD/ Lutheran
Disaster Response
Adventist Community Services (ACS)

ARC, Central MD Chapter

ARC, St. Mary's CoChapter

Baptist Convention of MD/DE

The BITH Group

MD Wing, Civil Air Patrol

Church of the Brethren

FEMA Region III

Governor's Office on Service and
Volunteerism

Humane Society of the U.S.

Maryland DHMH

MEMA

MEMA

MD VOAD

The Survivors Fund

Volunteer Center Serving Howard Co.