

TN VOAD
Bi-Monthly Meeting
1/6/2023

Call to order

Roll Call: Kate Amaral, David Sledge-Civil Air Patrol/American Legion, Gary Ward, Robert Craig, Heather Menke-Catholic Charities, Eric Nankervis-FEMA, Nelly Melendez-Metro VOAD/Hands On Nashville, Lesli Remaly-United Churches of Christ, Jeff Lysyczyn-Lutheran Disaster Services, Rhonda Haight-ACSDR GA-Cumberland Conference, Don Sowers-TN Tech and Volunteer Tennessee, Aaron Stetson-Hope Force International, Wes Jones-TN Baptist, April Tatlonghari-Inspiritus, Kevin Peach-St. Vincent DePaul, Marie Pluchino-SVDP, Donna

Secretary's Report and Presentation of the Minutes: Online

Treasurer's Report: \$3,148.27 balance

Presentation of the Program: Nicolas Gowe-Equal Justice Works, for the state of Tennessee. Legal assistance for survivors of the storms in West Tennessee. Will provide legal awareness for survivors and community partners.

Committee Reports (*all TN VOAD committees*)

Communications still researching databases

Workshops: reminder of March 18 Sheltering Workshop

Unfinished Business from previous meetings

Membership Update Reports

Hope Force International: continuing to partner with Appalachian Service Project with two homes in Waverly. Mission team to Nepal. Rebuild project in Western Kentucky. Tornado recovery work in Oklahoma as well.

Hands on Nashville: expanded number of trainings for disaster volunteer leaders. The trainings included panel discussions about disaster volunteer best practices.

FEMA Region 4: January 19, 2023-4:00-9:30 Eastern—symposium on disaster survivor housing. New headquarter leadership will be identified. FEMA youth preparedness council registration opens January 23rd. Voluntary Agency Coordination E-490 2/27-3/2. Will follow up with email about dates and trainings.

Society of St. Vincent DePaul: First distributions took place in December. Funding is available for up to 100 homes for a house in a box (household goods) valued up to \$3,000. Funder will consider funding for flood survivors of the August 2021. Data to present that case is needed

American Legion: conducted the call down to all members to check status during the recent winter storm.

Civil Air Patrol: Mission with Puerto Rico for supplies. Also working with Volunteer Tennessee for the Inauguration.

Lutheran Disaster Response: participating in Cheatham and Weakley Counties on Allocations Committees. Mission team from the Synod going to Waverly to serve.

United Churches of Christ: Hosting renewal guided time away for disaster and ministry leadership. There is a guided retreat and virtual webinar as well. Additionally, there are LTRG admin grants available up to \$5,000, and construction grants of \$7,000-\$20,000.

Volunteer Tennessee: LTRGs may also make requests for AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) teams through the website at <https://americorps.gov/partner/how-it-works/ameri-corps-nccc>.

2023 TEMA Basic Academy - Below are the dates TEMA has these courses scheduled for next year at the SEOC. They still have a few slots remaining.

Week 1 - L101 – January 23-27

Week 2 - L102 & L103 – March 20-24

Week 3 - L146 & L105 – May 22-26

<https://www.tn.gov/tema/emergency-community/training/training-calendar.html>

An AmeriCorps NCCC group of 10 to 12 members volunteer for two-week+ deployments to do recovery work. Each team is also allocated funds for food and laundry. All NCCC members are background-checked and fully insured. But Volunteer Tennessee and AmeriCorps ask that they please be provided secure housing. Tennessee Serves website is an opportunity for state-wide reach for volunteer needs. Any volunteer organization is free to set up an account and post volunteer opportunities on the Volunteer Tennessee – “Tennessee Serves” website. Sign-up at <https://voltnhq.galaxydigital.com/agency/signup/>

Tennessee Baptist: Still working in Florida following Hurricane Ian. Assisting in Lexington Tennessee with water issues and showers. 74 loads of materials sent to KY for rebuilding and water issues.

Tennessee Western Kentucky United Methodist Church: Continues to serve through Allocations and Case Management in Western Kentucky and in 7 counties in Tennessee. Facilitating Construction Management with funding from UMCOR, ARC, and SBPUSA.

Member Organizations:

Regional VOADs

Metro VOAD: Held first Steering Committee meeting for the year today. The new chair is Tina Doniger. Vice Chair elections will be held next week.

TEMA: Donna, new IA representative reported on the coordination between TEMA and TN VOAD during the recent winter storm Elliott.

Team Rubicon: Standing down efforts in Florida. Hired a construction manager in Western Kentucky. Working in Eastern Kentucky next week in celebration of TR birthday. Holding trainings throughout the region. Conducted projects in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Gary Ward: A new Federal Act to allow disaster survivors to access retirement funds without penalty.

Catholic Charities: working on a mental health campaign for the Nashville bombing.

New Business: None

Adjournment: David Sledge Motion. Gary Ward Second.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Robert Craig, Secretary