

Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disaster
General Membership Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2014

The COAD General Membership meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. on May 28, 2014, at the office of Florida Department of Health, Volusia County, with Co-Chair Deanie Lowe presiding and co-chair Frank Bruno helping to welcome attendees.

David Heald, Response & Recovery Team Leader, reported that the team met on May 14 at the Red Cross office. New member Tom Kyle spoke on how to handle long- and short-term volunteers. David reminded members that ICS 100 and 700 training is being offered at the Health Department, with Vince Soto teaching. It was noted that our directory of volunteers and resources that COAD is developing is missing some categories: clerical, spiritual, CISD, water purification, porta potties and emergency lighting being among them. David, Rob Boulware, Ray Parkhurst and Charlie Howell will meet to combine their separate lists. The County's EOC is planning a Hurricane Exercise for May 21 & 22, and COAD will be taking an active part in it. It was suggested that we place more effort on trying to involve businesses and volunteers from the west side of the County, and that we investigate seeking a 501(c)(3) status.

Since Preparedness Team Leader Jerry Brandon was unable to attend this meeting, Deanie gave his report. The team met on May 6 at the EOC. Logan Bernstein and Jeff Miller reported on having presented the Map Your Neighborhood program to residents at Holly Forrest mobile home park. Though there were major problems with the audio/visual equipment, their presentation was well received by about 15 attendees. Discussion resulted in recommendations that not all segments of the accompanying DVD be used at future presentations, only topics 1, 2 and 4, with the remainder of the video being covered with just talking points prepared in advance. Doug Huffs and Charlie Howell will keep track on a spread sheet, of presentations reported to them.

Ray Parkhurst reported that he, Deanie and Pat White took part as observers and evaluators at a table top exercise in Pierson, to assist with training for their Hispanic Community Disaster Response Group. He was highly complimentary of the enthusiastic participation demonstrated by the group.

Melanie Black of the Department of Health introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Rod Mateo, Halifax Health Surgeon. Dr. Mateo shared his experience of being deployed as a member of the Volusia County Medical Reserve Corps to the Philippines with Project HOPE, for aid after a devastating hurricane. With slides and vivid descriptions, he told about the poor living and medical treatment conditions he encountered. Dr. Mateo also emphasized the importance that having gone through Incident Command Training can be, when dealing with disaster response and recovery.

Ms. Lowe followed Dr. Mateo's talk with encouragement that COAD members sign up for ICS 100 and 700 training. She also asked that anyone interested in serving as a PR/Marketing person for COAD, to please give her a call.

Under announcements, Pat White advised that she would be helping with a Wind Mitigation seminar at the Port Orange Library on May 31, inviting anyone interested to attend. Ray Parkhurst announced that a Sheltering Exercise would be held at the Red Cross office from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. on June 7, teaching the steps involved in opening and managing an emergency shelter.

After reminders of upcoming COAD meetings were given, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by Deanie Lowe
For Secretary Andrea Brandon, who was unable to attend