

Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

General Membership Meeting – 16 March, 2016

The meeting was brought to order at 2:08 PM by Frank Bruno - Chair

Members and guests present:

Anderson, Tiara	Hoyt, Nancy	Samandari, Frank
Brandon, Jerry	Howell, Charlie	Selvaggi, Karen
Bruno, Frank	Lewandowski, Frank	Skalitzky, Ken
Clements, Jim	Linderman, Ralph	Troxler, David
Greenberg, Warren	Miller, Jeff	White, Pat
Harter, Bud	Parkhurst, Ray	Wilary, Loretta
Heald, David	Rosenbaum, David	

Mr. Frank Bruno opened the meeting at 2:08 PM with an Irish Blessing in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

Mr. Bruno reports that we are part on One Voice for Volusia, which spans all types of organizations. We have a new balance in the checking account of \$1083.03 as a result of Deannie Lowe's donation.

Mr. Jim Judge reported that the county will be phasing out ECN in favor of the state supported system as we move closer to summer. We will be coming into a slower weather season. Mr. Judge ran down a list of events for the next week: First Baptist Emergency Services in Longwood, a radio show on WSBB in New Smyrna Beach, training for civil unrest in Havana Florida. Right now he is knee deep in the county budget process. Mr. Judge noted that we survived the Daytona 500 and Bike Week. Volusia County will participate in the state hurricane test on May 17-19.

Mr. David Rosenbaum of Brevard VOAD spoke briefly about his organization.

Mr. Ken Skalitzky from the Florida VOAD and Volunteer Florida was our guest speaker. He reminded us that he was the facilitator for the Management of Spontaneous Volunteers session that was taught at the Volusia County EOC. Mr. Skalitzky noted that Volunteer Florida has a new Facebook page and their website is <http://www.volunteerflorida.org/> . Volunteer Florida is the ESF 15 seat at the state EOC. Jovita is the Volunteer Services Director. She can be reached at jovita@volunteerflorida.org .

Mr. Skalitzky gave us some insight to this year's statewide hurricane test. It will be about COOPs and will be centered on Camp Blanding. What do you do without a facility? How would you handle phone, payroll and grants?

Mr. Skalitzky spoke about various opportunities for us. We can sign up for announcements for DHS grants at <https://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/find-and-apply-grants> . The AmeriCorps grant grew this year. Effective July 1, Volunteer Florida will be taking over the CERT program from FDEM. They will be engaged in RFPs and Closeout Projects. Volunteer Florida will have a person dedicated to this venture.

We can send any comments that we may have about the CERT program to ken@olunteerflorida.org . Asset Mapping will help to connect existing assets in communities with the needs. We need to discover what needs are not met. Get MOUs with organizations in place before a disaster. Typical unmet needs are feeding, sheltering, legal issues, debris removal, home repair and insurance. Finding those resources during “blue skies” is important.

Make sure other organizations are engaged. Keep COAD engaged during disaster droughts by working within churches, businesses, expos, etc. Work with a housing authority for a clean-up day.

Mr. Jerry Brandon reminded us of the Disaster Expo is May 21st at Lowes in Orange City. He said we need to get the CERT process geared up and continue with Map Your Neighborhood.

Mr. Frank Lewandowski gave a report on the Volunteer Reception Center. It is now all digital. At the August meeting of Florida VOAD, they will be running a VRC.

Comments from the general membership:

Social media is good for updates and to get the word out.

211live.org is a good listing for food, clothing and shelter.

Part of AmeriCorps’ contract is to assist in disasters.

There are smartphone apps for pinpointing alerts.

We should promote the Code Red app.

Mr. Bruno closed the meeting at 3:23 PM.