

Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

General Membership Meeting – 18 January 2017

The meeting was brought to order at 2:01 PM by Frank Bruno - Chair

Members and guests present:

Burkard, Pam	Greenberg, Warren	Parkhurst, Ray
Brandon, Jerry	Grochowshi, Christian	Tosh, Richard
Bruno, Frank	Heald, David	Treffer, David
Carlton, Isaiah	Howell, Charlie	Troxler, David
Clements, Jim	Jones, Raychelle	Ungaro, Carmon
Corcoran, Jan	Judge, Jim	Wealand, Bill
Davis, Taylor	Lewandowski, Frank	White, Pat
Erickson, Jenna	Lowe, Deanie	Wilary, Loretta
Fisher, Dr. Roe	Martin, Francine	Yochum, Mary
Guido, Jordan	Miller, Jeff	Yungelas, Betzi

Mr. Frank Bruno opened the meeting at 2:04 PM. Mr. Bruno called for introductions. Minutes of the previous General Membership meeting were distributed.

Mr. Jim Judge provided a synopsis of the 2016 Hurricane Season. This was the longest Hurricane season on record, beginning in January of 2016 with Alex. We got Bonnie in May and then Colin. Colin went north of us. Then we had Danielle, Earl, Fiona, Gaston, Hermine, Ian, Julia, Karl, Lisa, Matthew, Nicole and Otto.

At one point Hurricane Hermine was forecast to come right across Daytona Beach, but it went further north and came across Tallahassee. Tallahassee was not prepared.

Matthew was a Cat 4 in Cuba then went out to sea. But by Monday, October 3, Matthew was forecast be a Cat 5 and the cone would cover central Florida, but the center of the storm would still be out to sea. Off the Brevard coast, it dropped to a Cat 3 storm and was forecasted to move closer to land, scraping the east coast. We went into a local state of emergency on Wednesday. Evacuation orders went up Wednesday afternoon and shelters opened Thursday morning. By 11 AM on Thursday, Matthew, packing 130 miles an hour winds, appeared to be positioned for a direct hit to Volusia County. We had issues with people in shelters that were not prepared. People with special needs had not registered with us and some did not bring the medical supplies that they needed. People with pets showed up to the pet shelter without supplies for their pet. People also showed up at the shelter with no food for themselves.

Matthew did wobble to the right taking it farther out to sea than originally expected. With sustained winds of 90 miles an hour, Matthew moved up the east coast on Friday and by 5PM was pretty much

out of Volusia. During this time, we experienced a 6-foot storm surge. We did not dodge a bullet, we dodged a cannonball.

We had to evacuate one of the schools being used as shelters due to no power and lift stations backing up. There was damage in some of the schools. We had the homeless people to deal with. We picked them up with Votran and sheltered them at the fairgrounds.

Saturday morning, we got a good look at the results. Population without power – 42%. Most people had power restored within 4 days, that's a miracle. There were lots of debris. Before the storms we had about 15,000 hotel rooms. After the storm, we had about 1,000 available. Hundreds upon hundreds of power crews were here to get power restored. With debris cleanup, you let people do the cleanup and then you pick it up, because you want to get reimbursed from FEMA. Then you want to wait as long as you can for a second pass. Picking up debris is one of the most expensive part of storm recovery. Most people were very happy with the debris pickup. There were 10% that were not and they all had my phone number.

Ever since the storm we have been working on after action reports. A lot of things went well. We requested 4 recovery centers. We got one recovery center at the health department in Daytona. FEMA was overloaded with wildfires in other parts of the country, Hermine recovery and Georgia and South Carolina flooding due to Matthew. FEMA only had resources for 1 center. Ray and the Red Cross were wonderful with post sheltering. We overloaded the sleeping facilities at the EOC. We determined that we need night lights and ear plugs to improve the bunk room. We need more communications with our EM partners. The EOC worked very well. However, there was little or no Verizon coverage at the EOC and we had a lot of Verizon users. When the building was built, Verizon did not want to pay to put the necessary equipment in the building. We have since fixed that. We are looking at more and better training for EM partners and staff.

We are looking at improving internal communications in the EOC. We need more water and toilet paper at the shelters. Embry-Riddle and AmeriCorps did a phenomenal job right after the storm. Our Citizens Information Center worked very well. While it was staffed, they worked almost 14,000 phone calls. We are looking for a new software program for inside the EOC. We will be moving to a new product called WebEOC. All 67 counties and the state are moving to this software. It is free, but we do have to get the training for it. We need to educate our citizens about how to prepare and what to take to the shelters. The COAD did an incredible job.

There is a SkyWarn Training class coming up on February 9.

Mr. Bruno went around the room to have each person tell the group about their part in the recovery.

Ms. Pam Burkard talked about Project Hope. Project Hope is a counseling program. They will be going to the hardest hit areas and speaking with people to find out what their needs are. They will be doing referrals to other groups. Their part is crisis counseling and empowering people to get through the process.

Several participants weighed in with their portion of the recovery efforts and their services. Among them were the City of Port Orange, The United Churches of Christ, United Way, United Methodist, Lions Club, Spruce Creek Fly-In CERT, Red Cross, Embry-Riddle and VIND.

Mr. Carmon Ungaro recounted numerous stories of his team's recovery efforts indicating there are still many needs left in our community.

Pastor Dave Troxler explained the VIND activities and how VIND gets funding and volunteers.

Mr. Bruno called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Ms. Deanie Lowe moved the question and Dave Troxler seconded it. The motion carried.

Mr. Bruno closed the meeting at 3:58 PM.