

Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)
Steering Committee Meeting Summary – 11 November, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Deanie Lowe, co-chairman.

Steering committee members present:

Brandon, Andrea	Brandon, Jerry	Greenberg, Warren
Heald, David	James, Pat	Lowe, Deanie
Parkhurst, Ray	Roebing, Christina	Troxler, David
White, Pat		

- After general introductions of members present, Mrs. Lowe announced that our COAD has now completed the first of two (2) steps needed to become a 501 (c) (3).
 - When we complete all of the necessary filing procedures, we will then be able to ask for tax-deductible donations.
 - We need to do research to find out what types of grants are available for the kinds of things that we need.
 - Pat James, Christina Roebing, and Pat White will work on grants.
 - Mrs. Lowe suggested that we make up a “wish list” of items that we need to purchase.
 - Ray Parkhurst has begun working on a list like this which he included in what he described as a “start-up” budget. He suggested that it would be a combination of monies from grants and donations.
 - Mrs. White discussed at length a group called Citizen Corp which she described as an umbrella group.
- A lengthy discussion ensued regarding PODS (Points of Distribution).
- It was noted by Mrs. White and Mrs. Lowe that a lady by the name of Salinka has made good in-roads with the Spanish speaking communities on the west side of Volusia County, and that it may be good to have her come to speak to us about what the goals are and how she is managing to attain them.

- The next General Membership meeting on 19 November, 2014, will have two (2) guest speakers: Andre Smolinsky with Harvest Time International, and Kimberly Long with The Salvation Army. They will each speak for half (1/2) an hour.
- Mrs. Lowe gave a review of groups who have spoken to the General Membership, noting that each has been representative of state-wide organizations and that they are experienced with dealing with disasters. Continuing with this theme, the speaker at the January, 2015 meeting will be Gabe Tishler with the Catholic Conference.
- Mrs. Lowe and Mr. Parkhurst discussed training for COAD members using as an example the Tabletop Exercise on VRCs (Volunteer Reception Centers) which was previously done. It was decided that if the Red Cross plans training exercises, COAD needs to know, and we will reach out to the General Membership to invite them to attend them in the future. We will also consult TPAC, which is the county's Master Training Calendar.
- There was some discussion about how Flagler County manages emergency services and how they deal with volunteers.
- It was noted that we are in Region 5 when we are looking for on-line classes for independent study.
- The next major agenda item concerned CERT training.
 - David Heald asked where we can get CERT training if COAD sponsors it.
 - CERT is training people to take care of themselves for 24 hours until the First Responders can arrive.
- Mrs. Lowe asked Mr. Parkhurst to review the recent flood event. He noted that the county is in charge of damage assessment, not the Red Cross, and expressed concern about inter-active communication.
 - The county gives a course on damage assessment.
 - The Red Cross gives a one day training session on assessing the various situations.

- Mr. Parkhurst will give Mrs. Lowe an outline with the intent of asking the General Membership to volunteer to attend.
- Mrs. Lowe discussed the low attendance at the General Membership meetings. She asked each member present to use the membership list that was given to them at the last meeting and call to invite them to the meeting on 19 November, 2014. Ms. Lowe also asked that corrected feedback be given to Andrea Brandon, Secretary.
- The agenda for the General Membership meeting of 19 November, 2014 at the Health Department will include:
 - A vote on the COAD by-laws
 - Election of officers
 - Speakers from Harvest Time International and The Salvation Army each talking about how they and their organizations can co-ordinate with us during a disaster.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 AM.