

Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)
Steering Committee Meeting Summary – 12 January, 2016

The meeting was brought to order at 10:04 AM by Deanie Lowe, Co-Chairman.

Steering Committee members present:

Brandon, Andrea	Brandon, Gerald	Bruno, Frank
Clements, Jim	Greenberg, Warren	Howell, Charlie
Law, Audriana	Lewandowski, Frank	Lowe, Deanie
Selvaggi, Karen	Troxler, David	

- The first item on the agenda was a report by Frank Lewandowski regarding the Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) practice session in DeLand on 21 November, 2015.
 - Successfully trained representatives from DeLand, New Smyrna Beach, and Bunnell as well as one person from another state.
 - The VRC concept is now spreading out geographically beyond the state of Florida.
 - The VRC software which is being developed by some members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is close to completion.
 - Mr. Lewandowski has written to the state president of the LDS asking for money to finish developing and distributing this software.
 - “Volunteer Florida” will share it with their members.

- Mrs. Lowe asked Frank Bruno, Co-Chairman, about a guest speaker for the COAD General Meeting on 20 January, 2016. Mr. Bruno may share plans for the future of COAD at that time.

- Next on the agenda was a report from Audriana Law on the new software which is being purchased by the United Way and which will be used by our COAD.
 - This is a new volunteer management system to support Volusia County residents.

- It would allow for pre-screening and early training of possible volunteers who would be helping our COAD when a disaster situation exists.
 - Funding has already been approved.
 - It was obtained for Three Thousand dollars (\$3,000) from a grant.
 - They are waiting on procedural types of things with the county.
 - The contract is between the county and the vendor for the first year.
 - Then it will be taken over by the United Way.
 - No dates have been given and there is no timeline.
- Mrs. Lowe next asked Pat White to review various training sessions that will soon be available.
- One company has a library of table-top exercises including Map Your Neighborhood (MYN), hurricanes, tornados, pandemics, earthquakes, solar storms, floods, and wild fires.
 - Another company is called “Just In Time Disaster Training Library”.
 - Since all of these seminars are free and prepared to help people to get ready for all types of disasters, it was agreed that we should choose a few to do as a group.
- The next item on the agenda involved decisions regarding the next disaster type Expo. After much discussion, it was decided to have it at the Lowe’s in DeLand on 21 May, 2016. Jerry Brandon will contact the manager and Mrs. White will follow up to complete the arrangements.
- There was further discussion regarding additional conferences to be held during the week of 3 February, 2016 to include the following:
- VOAD - Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster
 - FEPA - Florida Emergency Preparedness Association
 - FLASH - Florida Alliance of Safe Homes

- Charlie Howell and Mrs. White noted many other possible seminars and conferences. They mentioned that there were so many available, that the best way to inform our members would probably be to send out the links for people to check out on their own. Mrs. White will put together this list and send it out in an email.

- Mrs. Lowe asked Karen Selvaggi to report on her ideas for increasing membership and funding for our COAD. They include the following:
 - Develop a plan, perhaps as a separate committee.
 - Starting with the March General Meeting,
 - Make it a “special meeting”.
 - Bill it as a “New Introductory Meeting” and as a “New COAD”.
 - Re-state the Vision.
 - Keep in mind the “current climate” and what people are really thinking about with regard to disaster preparation and recovery.
 - Perhaps use a different, more visible venue.
 - The guest speaker for this meeting would explain not only our COAD’s goals, but also our plans for preparing our communities in case an event occurs.
 - Before this meeting, we would “gear up” for it by:
 - Actually inviting specific people using a mailing list.
 - Mail invitations using street addresses when possible.
 - If the street address is wrong, or is refused by the recipient, we can request other addresses from the post office.
 - When funding is available use the above approach.
 - Until then, use emails and social media.
 - Advertise ourselves:
 - Flyers
 - Newspapers
 - Social media

- Mrs. Lowe reviewed strategies we have used previously and said that the hardest thing seems to be to keep people interested in coming back, probably because there has not been an event recently.
- Mrs. White suggested that perhaps we need a Facebook page in addition to our website and Twitter account.
- Mrs. Selvaggi feels that if we present it the right way, people will understand that we are protecting them and respond accordingly.
- Mr. Bruno said that Jim Pillow suggested that our Expo be at a Walgreen's.

- Ms. Law said a Publix could also be good. Mr. Bruno went on to say that it would be good to re-roll out COAD as new and improved:
 - Re-invite potential business partners.
 - Each of sixteen (16) municipalities as well as the school system need to have a representative involved.
 - We also need to include;
 - Chambers of Commerce
 - Universities
 - Churches
 - “One Voice for Volusia”
 - We need to raise our visibility
 - Our potential membership targets should be some kind of liaison between our COAD and:
 - All of the cities in Volusia County
 - The school system
 - The fire fighters' organization
- Our primary goals should be:
 - Targeting membership
 - To re-identify ourselves

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon.