

Rotary District 6510 Disaster Response Committee Minutes

September 9, 2025

Members present on the call: Chair PDG Joe Miller, Debbie Miller, Jill Pietrusinski, Wayne Gerlock, Robin Dean, Jeff Thornton, David Antelo

Chair Joe Miller called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Joe reported the battery for the AED has been replaced and will be reinstalled in the first trailer.

David reported they have taken over the supplier directly due to export issues from Spain. He said that should expedite the repairs. There is a testing process after the hoses are replaced to check for leaks. He hopes to have a test next weekend, so we are close. There will be a replacement of one of the wheels for more stability. Joe hopes to be able to schedule another training day prior to the weather changing.

Saturday, Aur, Greg, Joe and a few others from Jackson-Williamson Co Sunset are participating in a disaster prep show in Carbondale. The Disaster Aid Trailer will be displayed as well as a table in the event center from 1-3. This is a general public event with multiple participants. Joe is unsure of the number of vendors. Wayne will check with Aur for more information and Jill will promote the event through Rotary.

We will have a table at District Conference and have a 50/50. Joe is asking for volunteers to help.

Wayne shared a lot of discussion in Disaster Aid USA re: insurance and a certificate of insurance should always be in the trailer. The agent said it's an inland marine policy and isn't needed, but upon further review discovered a commercial auto policy as a group for the 30 trailers may be more cost effective. Wayne reminded them if anyone driving wrecks the trailer, the trailer itself is covered by their auto policy, but the contents of the trailer is covered by the inland marine policy. He also reported a better understanding of the insurance covered for accident/injury for our volunteers. DAUSA carries the liability policy, and we just need to notify one of the 3 executives of DAUSA and that we have a disaster and the details. There is a secondary personal insurance for hospitalization from the individual and DAUSA is secondary unless they have no medical insurance then DAUSA becomes primary. We would have been at risk had we not secured the area affected by the tornado in Marion because of live wires down. There were incident command errors that were identified in the after-action report. The VRC was identified as one of the most successful portions of the disaster response. There will need to be updates to the state policy to close these gaps. There needs to be secondary "mini" VRC at the disaster site in case volunteers bypass the main VRC to ensure everyone is accounted for and the forms are at all locations.

Wayne said the southern IL area will never qualify for FEMA support as the population is inadequate. The SBA has been of some help.

Every homeowner in Marion had multiple people approach their home asking for personal information and were not well coordinated. The VOAD is trying to make this more secure and create a web link for victims to enter the data more securely. There will need to be some modifications at the VRC and disaster site to accommodate these changes. Insurance can deny coverage without proper registration and documentation. The long-term recovery committee is no longer active as the claims have ceased. There is still funding available from donations. The Mennonite team is still helping with siding and house repairs. The COAD is considering supporting additional temporary housing arrangements for those displaced.

Next meeting is October 14, 2025, at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

PDG Jill Pietrusinski