

Rotary District 6510 Disaster Response Committee Minutes

August 8, 2023

Members present on the call: Chair PDG Joe Miller, Debbie Miller, PDG Wayne Gerlock, Mark Bearth, PDG Jeff Thornton, Jill Pietrusinski, Aur Beck, Lynne Lenker, Charlie Pitts

Chair Joe Miller called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Joe reported on the water filtration test at New Athens on the Kaskaskia River. A few MOUs should result, and photos and videos were obtained. Jeff reported the New Athens attendees were pleased with our test and our program. There are a couple of issues that will need to be repaired, but overall, it was a successful test and testing the VRC (Volunteer Reception Center) went well. 11 people filled out volunteer forms in the simulation. Approximately 25 people came to the VRC. Wayne and Jeff will follow up with the MOUs. Lynne asked what the plan is for the repairs to the fitting that was cracked. Joe would like to replace that piece with a metal piece vs a plastic piece. Jill asked about our team's needs for quality control and preventative maintenance schedule as we plan and test, so it doesn't fall onto only a few people's shoulders. A more detailed "how to operate" instruction manual may be needed in the event we have to operate without someone who has been part of the testing.

Wayne recommends we purchase some additional Sawyer water filters, and the pricing has been reduced as the owner of that company is now a member of Rotary.

Wednesday Oct 18th from 0800-1630 Weathering the Storm will occur in Marion. It is a good opportunity to connect with those we will work with in a disaster.

Wayne reported there hasn't been much new with Disaster Aid since the FL response. They are finally getting the Northwest part of the US covered and have a couple of trailers set up now. There is an issue with the Canadian part of the Zone.

Disaster Aid USA is joining VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster). We have been asked to put VOAD signage on the front of the trailer. The signs are ready. The new QR codes have been created to send the QR code to our website page vs our Facebook page. Those will be updated on the

trailer at the same time as the VOAD labels.

Wayne will be leading a breakout at the Zones 30/31 Institute on Disaster Aid USA and partnerships in Memphis. They have requested our trailer. Wayne will work with Lance Singleton, Operations Chair, on logistics.

Registration and information on the Zone Institute Sept 21-24 in Memphis can be found at <https://rizoness30-31.org/institute/2023-memphis/>

Joe said they will be attending Institute and have secured a hotel

Wayne would like to change the title of our Webpage to Disaster Response rather than District 6510 Charities and then build out the page so other districts can access general forms we can have uploaded onto our page. Wayne has updated our forms to be more generic and not District specific. He will work with Jill on updating the website to build out the page a little more to have access to a "page within a page" if at all possible.

Wayne mentioned working with District 6580 in standing up their disaster committee. District 6490 is also working with Wayne to start a committee and they have a Zoom meeting scheduled.

DAC has done an update and the DR tab isn't working correctly. Wayne will need to modify the "skills" tab since it's only showing one column and the explanation column isn't showing.

Wayne mentioned the Ukraine grant is not showing and we can follow online with the new TRF Grant system. Wayne called and they had no record of the email sent so he will be re-entering it into the online system. We are funding 5 pieces of equipment for D2332 with 3 different Ukrainian clubs. A tractor, SUV/emergency vehicle, fire truck, excavator, and a truck. A total of \$99,825 was approved for this grant. RI said they are low on funding, but new money is coming in every day. Jill asked about getting good photos and wondered if it is available on the online system. Jill also mentioned we should share the responsibility of soliciting donations to the Rotary Foundation Disaster Fund as we have been beneficiaries. That donation doesn't count towards PHF or annual funds and will be important to promote accurately. Wayne said his POC in the Ukraine has been very responsive.

Next Zoom meeting: Sept 12 at 7:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted, PDG Jill Pietrusinski