

Rotary District 6510 Disaster Response Committee Minutes

February 13, 2024

Members present on the call: Chair PDG Joe Miller, PDG Wayne Gerlock, Jill Pietrusinski, Jeff Thornton, Lynn Lenker, Chris Clark

Chair Joe Miller called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM CT

Joe reported we are in the process of signing MOUs in Alexander Co, Shawnee College, Pulaski Co and New Athens. We currently have 11 MOUs signed (or in progress) and that means we are entered into their disaster plan for a volunteer resource center and a donations coordinator.

Joe and Wayne went to the COAD meeting, and they are working on organizing 5 counties in Southern IL (Franklin, Jackson, Perry, Randolph and Williamson). It's headed by the EMA in Williamson Co. The Univ of IL extension group is working with them.

Wayne reported we are looking for help at PETS to man the table to include a 50/50 to raise funds as seed money for disaster immediate needs. Wayne shared the LOLPETS schedule is not released yet. Joe will be giving a brief presentation at PETS orientation on Saturday and will invite them to the table at PETS. We will have a brief opportunity in the district breakout to address the participants.

Wayne shared our disaster grant for Ukraine was not funded so will not go through.

There is a possible exercise April 8 that is part of a statewide exercise and we are hoping to have a VRC component if possible. Jeff asked if we can schedule something in the fall possibly to do this exercise.

Chris Clark is the VP of Shawnee College and were wondering if we can engage the students in an exercise. Chris said they did one last year and there is a possibility we can be a part of it. The schedule isn't set yet. They follow the NIMS system. Lynn mentioned that would be helpful for us to continue to define where Rotary "fits" in the event of a disaster. Wayne shared there are additional resources coming soon from DNARAG Zone 30/31 subcommittee with guidelines and job descriptions.

Wayne shared DNARAG and Disaster Aid USA are not always aligned. Jill asked about long term recovery for trauma experienced in the event of a disaster to include mental health resources and psychological/sociological partners. Wayne shared we are connected with crisis cleanup (crisiscleanup.com) who provides a map of all disasters to help coordinate resources needed.

Wayne shared DAC is updating the disaster resources and they are including a way for donations to be collected.

Next Zoom meeting: March 12 at 7:30 PM CT

Respectfully Submitted, PDG Jill Pietrusinski