

Rotary District 6510 Disaster Response Committee Minutes

May 14, 2024

Members present on the call: Chair PDG Joe Miller, Debbie Miller, PDG Jeff Thornton, Jill Pietrusinski, Allan Kidd, DGE Robin Dean, Aur Beck

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

PDG Joe Miller shared we have completed the inventory on trailer 1. That means we will be reimbursed by DAUSA for any items if utilized.

PDG Wayne Gerlock reported he has been working on 4 different disasters around the USA. The reports are the batteries in the AED last about 3 years and Joe said they are checked regularly.

We have received 3 checks for the OK disaster, and they are trying to ship trailer loads of water and Love County is over stocked, but Murray County can use some. We will be supporting this need from the donations.

Wayne is working with Arnold Rummage (IL Director for the Baptist disaster group) in Iowa as they are both on the executive board of the SIR COAD (Southern IL Regional Counties active in a disaster). The 5 counties align with the extension office. Williamson, Jackson, Perry, Randolph and Union. The bylaws are now approved. Iowa isn't interested in immediate assistance from DAUSA as they have adequate help now so prefer, they wait a bit. Iowa wasn't prepared for outside resources and is supported by MO and IL responders. Some were concerned SPARC (Shawnee Preparedness and Response Coalition) was not part of this COAD, but they are more focused on healthcare specific needs and feel they should stay in that niche independently. Joe and Wayne suspect this COAD will expand and ideally to all 28 counties aligned with District 6510.

DAUSA has 28 trailers now in multiple locations in the USA and more on order.

The Zone 30/31 Disaster Committee is developing a manual that districts can utilize to stand up a disaster response team with the steps to take.

At the same time, DAUSA has identified they aren't following their bylaws so are in the process of updating those bylaws. Wayne is reviewing and offering suggestions prior to submission. They are modeling their structure similarly to how Zones 30/31 are structured. Larry Agee is the DAUSA director, and Wayne has requested a call with the chairman of the board as to reduce duplication of roles and structure in the same area. The naming convention between the two are not aligned so Wayne is recommending the same terminology and naming structure for both entities.

Wayne thinks we should offer the use of our Disaster trailer #1 to the Baptist disaster team to support their response efforts. He's concerned we have 2 trailers and recently had 3 tornadoes in Southern IL but are not being utilized even though we are part of the COAD and have an MOU. A tornado touched down in the Shawnee forest but in an undeveloped area so it wasn't really reported.

Wayne is explaining the rules of the not-for-profit cash flow needs and how important it is to not co mingle donations.

Wayne has a copy of D6490 bylaws who are using a community foundation vs a district foundation for collecting donations, but there is a relationship with past district governors and the community foundation.

Wayne noted the Governor of KY was in Mayfield, KY recently and showing videos of homes being rebuilt and they had boxes marked "house in a box" and was surprised as that was a desired project we offered, and Mayfield refused that support at the time.

Wayne said there is a Crisis organization in Chicago where we are listed along with DAUSA as a response resource.

Wayne reported the donation system in DAC was inoperable but is now active as of today with a need to set up a few settings. The monthly donation option isn't currently available until the end of May. We will also be able to refund via cc in June. There is a discrepancy in fees currently with the DAC online payment system. Wayne reports the updated system should reconcile these issues.

Joe thinks we should consider an MOU with the SIRCOAD for clarification and Wayne agrees. There is an outdated Southern IL COAD listed in the ILVOAD from when Ed Hoke was more active in disasters in Southern IL. Wayne requested they remove that outdated listing as it isn't active.

Wayne feels we will be better organized in the next 2 months and then suggests to DGE Robin we have an assertive promotion to the clubs to support our committee. The Rotary Foundation Disaster Fund has no available funding and now TRF is coordinating specific disaster funds as disasters occurs. Some Districts have Donor Advised Funds for this purpose. Wayne feels we need to be more pro-active to be ready in a disaster with additional organizational structure for this committee.

Wayne would like to see more focus in Randolph County where our Rotary clubs have been struggling a little and we are having difficulty reaching the EMAs in the county so would appreciate support from the local clubs, if possible, to help build those relationships with Rotary and the SIRCOAD for a mutually beneficial relationship.

Wayne says there is a COAD in the metro east he would like to know more about. Jill found "Endeavors" an organization in St. Clair Co focused on severe weather and flooding <https://endeavors.org/st-clair-county-disaster/>

Aur requests we add a portable air compressor in each trailer in case the tires get low. The committee supports this. Aur also wondered if the committee would be interested in utilizing his "old truck" to be attached to the trailers for utilization as needed. Wayne will discuss this further with Aur as to not violate any 501©3 rules. Technically, Rotary Districts are not supposed to own "assets" but that is an older rule, and some technology equipment is owned. As of now the water filtration is owned by the District.

Allan Kidd wondered if we need more MOUs in the northeastern part of the district and is willing to champion. As of now, we have Lawrence, Wabash counties with an MOU and Wayne Co has one pending signature. Allan will check with White Co as well and Robin will check who the appropriate POC would be there.

Please note there is a new Zoom link for future meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month and we are now using one of the district licenses. Login information is

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83672355292?pwd=Ao07dfmnXwSWt430qaC6XKk9pK6bOb.1>

Meeting ID: 836 7235 5292

Passcode: 254315

Jill wondered if we could utilize Zoom for future ICS courses. Joe said the interest has been low. Wayne will see if we can partner with the COAD for more participation.

Wayne would like to revisit a partnership with local schools this fall for an exercise.

Next meeting is June 11, 2024, at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

PDG Jill Pietrusinski