

Rotary District 6510 Disaster Response Committee Minutes

October 8, 2024

Members present on the call: Chair PDG Joe Miller, Aur Beck, Jill Pietrusinski, DG Robin Dean, Wayne Gerlock, Dan Flynn (6060), Tim Sipes, Jeff Thornton, Dan Becque, Chris Clark

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

Joe Miller reported we received the new leads for the AED, and they are installed in the trailer. That should last 3 years. They have been inspected.

We have received an invitation from IEMA Region 8 (near East St. Louis) to have a presentation at their regional meeting. Jeff Thornton will do that presentation November 7 in Fairview Heights, IL 0900-1200. Jill said she would be available to join Jeff if interested. He shared we will show them the map of our MOUs and our VRC as well as what we can do for neighboring counties. The VRC is a very important component as we help them keep track of the volunteer hours. That is a component of receiving funding in a disaster. That is a value added to the emergency managers that Rotary can support the VRC needs in a disaster and that is a requirement in all their planning documents.

Wayne reported that will also be valuable in the SI COAD. Each IL County is required to have a long-term recovery committee to meet the state requirements.

Wayne reported the Rotary Zones 30/31 Disaster response manual is released and is the model for the global Rotary Disaster response network. Many of our district forms were incorporated. This can be placed in our files in DAC and should be on the Zone Website. There will be identified "regions" to clarify regional disaster response coordinators. Each Zone will have a coordinator and each district should also have a disaster coordinator.

Dan said in addition to a volunteer manager, emergency managers really could use a donation manager. There is the distribution need for the disaster, but a distribution need of the unused items after the event. He feels Rotary is a natural fit for that need especially in a global distribution resource.

Wayne reported on the Hurricane Helene response that water supplies are needed in NC. Jill spoke with RI Director Patrick Eakes to see if they have needs of possibly using our water trailer if available, or personal filtration systems that can be provided. Wayne contacted Sawyer water to evaluate the purchase of filters. That contact was actually in NC when Helene hit and lives in CA. Sawyer is donating 20,000 personal filtration systems. 12,000 have been shipped and the plant is currently closed in Tampa due to the pending hurricane Milton. Wayne asked Jill to contact Patrick to purchase 5 gal containers and we will provide reimbursement. Jill will investigate a shipping location so we can order and ship. Sawyer will fly the filtration systems to Asheville. We need secure a distribution center who can assist. Jill will follow up on that. Aur also has a point of contact that is at a distribution. We need to get a bit more information. Jill will also check on Amazon.

Jeff and Wayne suggest we do a call for funding. Jill offered to do a pmail and Facebook post to call for funding to support the water buckets.

We do need to reserve some funding for the Mennonite roofing project in Johnston City, so additional donations would be important.

Next meeting is November 12, 2024, at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

PDG Jill Pietrusinski