



General Meeting (Evacuee Services)
Tuesday, December 5th, 2017 • 11:30am – 12:30pm

Minutes

Attendance

NYVOAD Board and Staff

Rev. Joseph Auslander	Member at Large
Nicholas Croce	Staff
Gail Farnham	Member at Large
Rich Hajeris	Member at Large
Carol Wood	Secretary

Members

American Radio Relay League	David Galletly
American Red Cross	Rich Hajeris
New York Disaster Interfaith Services	Peter Cavadini
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	Gail Farnham, Rev. Leslie Foltz-Morrison
Reach Out America	Larry Williamson
The Salvation Army	Michael Schwartz
Southern Baptist Disaster Relief	Mark Banks

Local COADs & VOADs

Albany County DRRC	David Galletly
New York City VOAD	Peter Cavadini, William Fairhurst
Southern Tier / Finger Lakes VOAD	Carol Wood
Ulster County DRRC	Greg Howard
Western New York VOAD	Mark Banks

Government Partners

Federal and State Government

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Iris Epsenhart
New York State DHSES	Jamie Marcella

County Government

City of Tonawanda OEM	Mark Banks
-----------------------	------------

Puerto Rico, U.S.V.I & Southern States Evacuee Reports

Government Partners

FEMA

- TSA: Evacuees should call hotel first to confirm that space is available. Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) pays the hotel directly for room and tax *only*. Hotels may request a credit card for incidentals
 - Responding to question from Foltz-Morrison: Hotels can reject those who do not have a credit card for incidentals.
 - Responding to question from Fairhurst: Hotels may charge additional fees to evacuees, e.g. pet fees.
- Updating information: Please encourage evacuees to update their information with FEMA, including address changes.

New York Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES)

- Host-State Agreement: there is no host-state agreement between New York and Puerto Rico at this time.

Members

American Red Cross

New York City

- To date ARC/GNY has had 5352 contacts (5282 from Puerto Rico and 69 from USVI)
- Since the opening of the City's Service Center, we have provided health, mental health, spiritual care and casework services.
- To date we've opened 230 CAS cases (309 individuals) and provided 151 CACs and 95 Vision Vouchers for assistance with Health needs.

Rochester

- 11/9/17 was the first MARC in Rochester. and had about 20 different agencies attending, was expected to see about 250 people and actually saw about 1,000 people come through the door for assistance. This event had very high media presence. Red Cross had 12 volunteers and 2 paid staff and served 250 people at our table.
- 11/16/17 had about 10 different agencies attending, had between 200 and 250 people show up for services. Red Cross saw 19 families at our station. Exact count of people was not tracked by Volunteer responsible for the count. New process for tracking was implemented after this was discovered.
- 11/30/17 had about 12 agencies attending, saw about 150 people come into the MARC for services. Red Cross saw 107 people at our station.
- Planned operation days on 12/7 and 12/14/17.

Other Locations

- ARC is involved in conversations to establish MARCs in Syracuse and Utica.

Reach Out America

- Reach Out America is seeking opportunities to collaborate on clothing distribution in New York City. Larry Williamson, President, is traveling to New York City this week.

The Salvation Army

- Michael Schwartz of Empire State Division gave updates for the Empire State and also the Greater New York Division on behalf of Zack Hodgson.
- The Salvation Army is working at the MARC in Spanish Harlem with partner agencies to provide evacuee services.