



**General Meeting (Evacuee Services) Minutes**  
**Friday, September 17, 2017 • 10:30am – Noon**  
 Teleconference: (267) 930-4000, PIN: 937-015-948

**Roll Call**

**NYVOAD Board & Staff**

Peter B. Gudaitis, M.Div.	Chair
Nathan Boor	Vice Chair
Carol Wood	Secretary
Gail Farnham	Member at Large
Rich Hajeris	Member at Large
Zack Hodgson	Member at Large
Jan Tyson	Member at Large
Nicholas Croce	Staff

**Members**

<b>American Radio Relay League</b>	David Galletly Judy Coleman, Dario Diaz, Rich Hajeris, Diane C. Mueller, Susan Pope, Eli Russ, Melanie Pandich
<b>American Red Cross</b>	
<b>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints</b>	Elder Marc Clay
<b>Church World Service</b>	Susanne Gilmore
<b>Civil Air Patrol</b>	Maj. Rich Levitt
<b>Convoy of Hope</b>	Jason Anderson
<b>Disaster Chaplaincy Services</b>	Rabbi Poticha
<b>Feeding America Network in NYS</b>	
City Harvest	Josh Morden, David Young, Jenny Waxberg
Food Bank for NYC	Tami Wilson
Island Harvest	Migdalia Otero
Foodlink	Nathan Boor
<b>New York Disaster Interfaith Services</b>	Peter Gudaitis
<b>NSPCA/Pet Safe Coalition</b>	Liz Fox
<b>Presbyterian Disaster Assistance</b>	Gail Farnham
<b>Reach Out America</b>	Larry Williamson
<b>The Salvation Army</b>	Zack Hodgson, Captain Wanda and Raul Rivera, Richard Vernon
<b>Southern Baptist Convention of New York</b>	Mark Banks, Jeremiah Brinkman
<b>Team Rubicon</b>	Lawrence Ksiez

## Roll Call, continued

### Local COADs & VOADs

<b>Albany County DRRC</b>	David Galletly
<b>Long Island VOAD</b>	Jackie Ratner
<b>LESReady!</b>	Ceci Pineda
<b>New York City VOAD</b>	Peter Cavadini, William Fairhurst, Richard Vernon
<b>Staten Island LTRO</b>	Rev. Karen Jackson
<b>Southern Tier / Finger Lakes VOAD</b>	Carol Wood
<b>Western New York VOAD</b>	Mark Banks, Jan Tyson

### Government Partners

#### Federal and State Government

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	Iris Epsenhart
New York State DHSES	Jamie Marcella
Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)	Jessica Vasquez

#### County Government

City of Tonawanda OEM	Mark Banks
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### Others

<b>Feeding America Network</b>	Ashley Jefferson
<b>Hospice of the North County</b>	Tracey Tavano
<b>ITDRC</b>	Adam Berson
<b>National VOAD</b>	Amelia Mendizabal, Justin Wilder
<b>New York Cares</b>	Jaime Denniston-Merced
<b>S2AY Rural Health Network</b>	Hillary Anderson
<b>SUNY Canton</b>	Dr. Michael O'Connor

- **Chair's Update (Peter B. Gudaitis, M.Div.)**

- Goals
  - Growing membership, adding value
  - Expansion/establishment of VOADs and COADs in every county
- Situation reports & VOAD Voices
  - Sitreps, including evacuee sitreps, posted to [NYVOAD website](#).
  - VOAD Voices newsletter on a regular basis, featuring work of members.
- 2017 Membership Directory
  - To be issued shortly, with distribution to emergency managers. Excellent response rate for updates – thanks!
- Activation Matrix
  - Framework for activation across members and up to National VOAD members.
  - Project begun under Leighton Jones in 2010 with updates to integrate current Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) activation protocols and local VOADs/COADs.
- Website & social media
  - Website and social media now functional. Please like and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Bylaws
  - Organizational bylaws are out of compliance. Nicholas Croce has been working on revisions. New bylaws will be put to a vote at April 2018 meeting.
- Annual Meeting, April 2018
  - Working with DHSES on annual meeting, state funding approved.
  - April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – save the date.
  - Local VOAD/COAD chairs to meet April 10<sup>th</sup>, general meeting and conference program on April 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - NYVOAD unable to sponsor attendance. DHSES support may become possible, on a limited basis, to local VOAD/COAD chairs.
  - Boardmember elections.

- **New Boardmember Introductions (Nicholas Croce)**

- Please see boardmember bios at: <https://nyvoad.communityos.org/cms/leadership>

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

- **NYVOAD**
  - Several thousand evacuees around the state, majority in NYC, with large populations in Long Island and Rochester.
  - About 600 per day flying from PR to NY.
  - No signed host-state agreement between PR and NY.
  - Producing evacuee sitreps
    - <https://nyvoad.communityos.org/cms/node/112>

- **Government Partners**

- **FEMA**

- Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) program activated. TSA hotels are paid for by FEMA; no up-front payment is required. Over 900k qualify for TSA. Those who travel to the continental U.S. on their own cannot be reimbursed by FEMA. More details at: [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov)
    - Host-State Agreement between Florida and Puerto Rico. PR Governor requested host-state agreement between NY and PR.
    - Transportation support not yet available. At this point, will only be between San Juan and Orlando, FL. Transportation assistance is not part of TSA but a separate type of support.
    - Service providers should encourage evacuees to keep their contact information current with FEMA.
    - Disaster-related home inspections: someone over 18 must be present. FEMA is allowing a third-party, like a friend or family, to be present in stead of applicant.
    - FEMA Helpline: (800) 621-3362

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

- Governor has established a hotline staffed by Department of Health: (888) 364-4901. Offers referrals including education, employment, housing, and health.
    - Rochester is the second-largest population of evacuees outside of Metro NYC. [Ibero-American Action League](#) is coordinating services in Rochester.
    - Will coordinate with 211s.

- **Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)**

- 100 individuals from New York deployed to disasters. Current recovery operations include tarping and debris removal.
    - Recipients of CNCS grants are working on what response mode for evacuees in the continental U.S. looks like.
      - Senior Corps may be a good resource, RSVP in Rochester

- **Members**

- **American Red Cross (ARC)**

- Supporting Hurricane Emergency Services Center (HESC) in Spanish Harlem with mental health, health services, comfort kits, clothes.
    - Working on pop-up style events in Syracuse and Rochester.

- **Disaster Chaplaincy Services (DCS)**

- Deploying chaplains to HESC, will stay for duration of operations.

- **Foodlink, Feeding America Network**

- Ibero is taking lead for service coordination in Rochester. Foodlink provided food and drink at recent Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) in Rochester.
  - The MARC offered bilingual services and included an intake process.
- New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS)
  - Conducting exit interviews and unmet needs assessments at HESC.
  - Over 1,500 households have sought services at HESC.
  - Distributing gift cards, opening marketplace with household goods and clothing at HESC. NYDIS has distributed over \$30,000 in Metro Cards, food, and clothing assistance. Seeking partners to support marketplace.
  - Concern that people are arriving in cold weather conditions without appropriate clothing or other goods.
  - Strategizing around host congregation program to help people resettle.
  - Majority of evacuees at the HESC say they do not intend to return to Puerto Rico / US Virgin Islands.
- The Salvation Army, Greater New York Division (TSA-GNY)
  - Staffing a table at HESC and has distributed \$30k in value of vouchers to thrift stores.

Supporting the NYDIS marketplace. Planning to provide gift cards to shoe stores.
- **Local VOADs and COADs**
  - Long Island VOAD
    - One of LIVOAD's member's clients encountered an issue with registering for TSA hoteling. Evacuee was asked to pay up front, in violation of the TSA program.
    - Working to identify agency-evacuee touchpoints.
  - New York City VOAD
    - NYCVOAD member agencies are providing services at the Hurricane Evacuee Service Center (HESC) in Spanish Harlem, Manhattan.
    - Producing weekly reports.
    - Developing strategy if no specific case management funding becomes available. Semi-voluntary casework program?
- **Next Steps & Next Meeting Date**
  - Doodle poll to choose next meeting date in December:
    - <https://doodle.com/poll/w3m2wqcbx2tvi7ha>