



**Emergency Network of Los Angeles
Board Meeting Minutes
November 14th, 2013, 9 – 11 am
Faithful Central Bible Church**

Attendance

Voting Members

Mary Stewart (LSS-SW), Chuck Gillies (Salvation Army), Jason Yancey (Operation HOPE), Jim Zoetewey (World Renew), Brandy Welch (American Red Cross), Jackie Russell (Faithful Central Bible Church), Gilbert Gonzales (Volunteer Los Angeles), Mike Studebaker (Southern Baptists)*

NonVoting Members

Stella Fogleman (LA Co. DPH)*, John Cvjetkovic (LA Co. DPSS)*

Staff, Guests, General Members

Priscilla Hung (Community Partners), Amanda Charles (Community Partners), Pia Banez (Community Partners), Cullen Armet (ENLA), Alix Stayton (ENLA)

Absent

Voting Members

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation, Catholic Charities, LA Regional Food Bank, Noah's Wish

NonVoting Members

City of Los Angeles Animal Services Department, City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department, LA County Office of Emergency Management

I. Call to Order, Introductions, and Meeting Goals

II. Regular ENLA Business

a. Reporting on two current grants

- i. Cullen reported on ENLA's continued involvement in the LACCDR project, with Cullen attending the Resilience Coalition meetings and Alix attending the Preparedness Coalition meetings. The SAHANA mapping tool was recently rolled out as well, and the contractors attended some of the trainings. Alix and Cullen also started the data collection phase of the new "Access and Functional Needs"

Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, Collaboration

Emergency Network of Los Angeles – the Los Angeles County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)

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grant project. They are putting together focus groups of various community stakeholders who service special needs populations, and bring them together to discuss a “registry” of organizations. The board expressed interest in seeing the invite list, so Cullen said he would send it out so they could suggest participants.

b. UCLA Extension Internship Program

- i. Cullen proposed the idea of partnering with the UCLA Homeland Security and Emergency Management Extension program in order to bring in students to work for ENLA during their internship. The idea would be to put together different projects that the interns could work on and receive intern credit for. UCLA would also place us on their “intern” list. Cullen proposed having the program manager and a professor attend a board meeting in January. The board agreed to move forward on advancing this partnership.

III. Treasurer Position

- a. Discuss the role of the Treasurer
- b. Discuss possibility of hiring a bookkeeper to work under the supervision of the Treasurer

IV. Frame messaging for membership value proposition

- a. Hear how the board currently pitches ENLA – LA County VOAD; network, collaborative; nonprofit, community-based, faith-based, government; long-term recovery; represent fabric of Los Angeles; ambassadors for emerging response and relief; make use of resources in the US; coordinating body; common needs and gaps
- b. Decide on common talking points that current and prospective members would find compelling
 - i. To potential nonprofit members – Value of Membership (1. Learn, get info 2. Build your own organization’s’ resilience 3. Connect to the larger community/be part of a coalition 4. Respond in an actual disaster, play a role, everyone is needed). Debunk myths – make sure to describe what we do, as other orgs have some ideas of things we don’t actually do; low cost, no commitment of staff or resources
 - ii. To government partners and agencies – full explanation that you would give a nonprofit, not assuming they know anything about ENLA or VOAD
 - iii. Next steps – direct them to the website; show them the member list;
 - iv. Materials to use – Join the Network flyer; membership list; ENLA Member Preparedness Goals
 - v. The dues conversation – dues are nominal, should not be a barrier to participation. We don’t want to leave participation so open because it’s hard to plan for a certain dues income year over year. We want to make sure that

organizations are getting the membership benefits we said they would, so they will continue to renew.

- c. Look at member sections of ENLA's website to discuss possible changes
 - i. It's hard to find the member benefits when you have to read through all the types of members, etc. The member benefits themselves are not very clear
 - ii. The ask to join is at the bottom of the page. There is another tab at the top of the website that says Join, and that page contains the form and lists benefits, so maybe we need to combine.
 - iii. The Join page only contains a form to fill out to be contacted, rather than the actual application form. This can be off-putting; maybe just need a link to the application that they can print and fill out.
 - iv. There should be a way for site visitors to ask for a speaker to come out and present
 - v. The calendar needs to be kept updated, so that people know we're active
 - vi. When you click on the member area, there needs to be a password retrieval mechanism; there should be a list of what you would see if you were a member. There is currently a member contact list which does not contain what member organizations do during a disaster.

V. Upcoming Meetings

- a. Any preparation for the November general meeting – there was a planning call to coordinate the suggested panel on utilities in disaster (SoCal Gas, LA DWP and Edison).
- b. There will be another planning call next week to talk to Jeff Dronkers about his Member Spotlight talk, providing the framing/guiding questions.
- c. Jim's talk about Sandy deployment will include lessons learned and what it's like to be deployed.
- d. What should the networking activity be? Use a sheet that captures their name and org, and what their org does in disaster. Then have them point out an organization with a complementary function. Gilbert is not going to do the networking piece, so Cullen will take it on.
- e. ENLA is dark in December for meetings. Cullen would like to have a planning call in December to get board feedback for the 2014 meeting schedule/themes/speakers and training/exercise calendar. Schedule the call at the same date/time as the regular board meeting, for an hour.

VI. Congratulations Alix! Celebration