



# DOVE Chirp

Escapees DOVES BOF Newsletter

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## 194 DOVE Volunteers

After considerable effort, we are approaching an endpoint in the project to coordinate the DOVE database to the Volunteer Connection database. Thanks to Don and Julie Klein for all their efforts bringing this together. We have identified 194 DOVES who are registered in Volunteer Connection.

## EMBARC is ALIVE!

The replacement for SABA online training is now up and running. You can reach the new website at:

[embarc-learning.sabacloud.com](http://embarc-learning.sabacloud.com)

(Or use the link on the DOVE webpage under Training)

Your existing SABA login should work, and your class records should be present. If they are not, please contact your chapter to solve the problem.

I find the user interface easier to use, and I like the fact that as I browse the course list for Disaster Training, classes that I have completed are marked "Completed". Signing up for a class is much easier in my opinion.

In order to take a class, you may need to create a new exception in your browser to allow pop-ups for this website, as you may have done with the old SABA. In Chrome, find the advanced settings for Pop-ups and add an exception for this website:

[https://\[\\*\].embarc-learning.sabacloud.com](https://[*].embarc-learning.sabacloud.com)

This allows the actual class window to appear after you launch the class.

*"Disasters come and go, often with no warning, and yet our day-to-day work must continue. It's the day-to-day work that largely determines whether a response will be successful."*

*-Richard Reed*

*VP, Disaster Cycle Services*



Richard Reed

## Check your Red Cross Email!

For those of you who have **Red Cross** email accounts, remember to check it regularly. It is recommended that you do so at least once a month. Red Cross email accounts that have not been accessed in 120 days are generally deactivated and require supervisory people to reactivate them.

### Finalizing the MOU

Thanks to all who offered comments on the draft MOU. We expect to have the final Memorandum in place before the end of July. We are negotiating a couple points based on your feedback:

1. Changing the mileage reimbursement from \$0.14/mile to "actual cost up to the amount of a single airfare."
2. Eliminating the 250 mile limit, in favor of a reasonable decision by the deploying authority.

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## More on Fire Safety

We were at a Holiday Rambler rally at Elkhart County Fairgrounds in Goshen the week of May 3rd. On our way here, we stopped at an RV park and cruised the park to admire other rigs. We saw a new class A blocked off with cones and warning tape. It was draped with tarps but you could see charred walls under them. A third of the coach looked like a charcoal briquette. I presumed another one of those refrigerator fires was to blame. However, at this rally, they provide a propane-sniffing service to identify leaks. I was shocked that after the first day, they reported that 1 in 5 coaches checked had propane leaks. The number has increased since but I do not have the exact statistic. Some of the coaches with problems had residential refrigerators - the propane had not been capped off correctly. On one coach, the residential refrigerator installer had failed to cap the propane - you could smell gas from 15 feet away.



*Joni Logan*

## Committee on Abling

The Committee on Abling, led by Jay and Jane Jennings, continues to make progress toward a more inclusive Red Cross. The committee has selected two areas to focus on to support DOVES with disabilities. They are:

### Abling Committee Priorities

1. Evaluating closed captioning for Red Cross training.
2. Review the Health Status form and how it is used, and offer recommendations to support volunteers with disabilities

It always seems appropriate for folks to practice what they are preaching, and this group exemplifies that in spades. To immerse themselves in the first topic, they engaged a close caption service to support their monthly meeting in June. Members with computers online could follow the conference call in text. They found the captioning very workable and useful. A third party provides the service at \$75/hour. The committee is exploring ways to have this funded by donations or a grant.

*Anita Laffey*

## Reflections on Deployment

On June 16th, I was deployed as a shelter supervisor to Houston to support the Texas Floods. I arrived at the same time as Tropical Storm Bill. After confusing instruction on how and when to go to headquarters, I settled into a hotel room for the night. The next morning, I was awakened at 6:15 to respond to a need for sheltering for 45 evacuees who were standing outside the unopened shelter location. That shelter never opened (the threat was not that severe) so I was sent to an existing shelter in Angleton with 2 other new volunteers. We arrived and found the shelter in great shape. Three volunteers were covering 24 hours, including one traveling 10 miles to pick up food twice a day. By agreement, I assumed the position of shelter manager. Support from HQ was virtually non-existent for the first few days, but soon we had all the support we needed. After 6 days, we closed the shelter.

This was my first immersion in a DRO since Sandy. The re-engineering changes were present, but hard to recognize based on past operations. Statewide, Divisional and Regional leadership were combined in one HQ, and it was not obvious who had responsibility for what. Staffing was regional, Mass Care Sheltering was statewide. Fortunately, for the arriving volunteer this is not an issue, since you report to your group and go to work. It only



## Reflections on Deployment (Continued from page 2)

became obvious when I transferred to Dallas and engaged with a different staffing department, but was still working for a statewide group in Houston.

I discovered that Disaster Staff Cards are now called Mission Cards, and they are provided by the chapter, not Staff Services. If you need a reload on your mission card, you fill out a form online with the details and send it off. No more interaction with somebody at the DRO to explain your expenses. You had best have an email connection while deployed (smartphone) to interact with this.

This is also the first DR that I have travelled to without my laptop. Instead, I brought an Android tablet, which worked, but not without some adjusting. For example, HQ sent me a report in a zipped file, which took me a few minutes to open and use. I have since added MS Office to my tablet software.

The project I was sent to Dallas for got postponed soon after I arrived, and Dallas was shifting from a Divisional to a Regional operation focused on recovery. Consequently, they ran out of jobs I could do after 9 days, so I came home.

*Mahlon Stacy*

## Are you an Active Volunteer?

While reconciling the DOVE database with Volunteer Connection it was revealed that there are about 40 DOVEs who have no apparent connection with Red Cross. That's OK, since DOVEs is an Escapées BOF, not a Red Cross organization. But, as we strengthen our relationship with Red Cross, it has become important to identify all the DOVEs who are active with Red Cross to include them in a national group share that is being set up. We don't want to leave any of our members out of the Red Cross loop, so we will be calling those members who don't seem to have an active connection. If you're an active volunteer, we'll want your VC number, what chapter/region you are affiliated with, etc. Please take a few minutes when our team calls you to fill us in.



**Jodie and Tom, Active Volunteers**

*Mahlon Stacy*

## Class Highlight

*Serving People with Functional and Access Needs in a Shelter (FANS)* is a Red Cross online class which is required for all shelter workers. While it's been out since 2010, it only came to my attention recently, since my shelter training happened in 2005. I suggest that all DOVEs take this class, because regardless of where you serve in the Red Cross (or in life) you will encounter people with disabilities. This class provides an excellent view of the types of disabilities encountered including physical, sensory, mental illness and intellectual. The ramifications of each of these distinct challenges present a variety of situations and solutions in general population shelters. For me, it broke up some of the preconceived notions I had about disabled people.

For each disability discussed, people with that functional challenge are interviewed to describe how their disability affects them and how they would like to be treated. They go on to share what they think shelter workers should know to interact effectively with them. Common to all of them was a request for patience, to treat each of them as individuals, to ask them for their needs, and to assume that they are independent.

*Anybody reading this newsletter? If so, let me know: mahlonstacy@gmail.com*



## Get Involved

DOVE's is not an entity well known to all of Red Cross. Thus, as members we need to spread the word whenever we have the opportunity.

This summer, my husband and I will be spending several months in West Alexander, Pennsylvania which is in the lower portion of Southwestern Pennsylvania. We have decided we would like to be active with the Red Cross while in the area. Thus, we learned that the Headquarters for Southwestern Pennsylvania is in Pittsburgh (Allegheny County). Since we are not in Allegheny County, but in Washington County, we were anxious to learn what connections we could make in this area. We contacted Pittsburgh and explained our situation. They were happy to discuss things with us and to learn about DOVE's. In turn they put us in touch with the Disaster Coordinator for the Washington/Greene County unit of the Red Cross. She in turn was more than pleased to hear about our being in the area and asked if we are willing to do work in the office. We will begin working with the Washington/Greene County office and may even have the opportunity to teach a class.

Hopefully, by the time we leave Pennsylvania to return to Texas, the Red Cross in Southwestern Pennsylvania will have a better understanding and be able to promote membership in DOVE's to anyone who has a desire to help the Red Cross while living/traveling in an RV.

## News and Notes

**Deployment Coordination.** Your email box was stuffed with deployment opportunities in May and June, with announcements arriving every day for an extended period. Many thanks to Ginger Elsner, our deployment coordinator, for keeping us posted. And thanks as well to Don Klein for backing Ginger up when she got deployed.

We know that a number of DOVEs were deployed in this period, most by air. Texas is the first level 6 disaster since Sandy. Our intent was to keep you aware of the help needed through our emails, and that our communication gave you an opportunity to respond, even if not in your RV.

**Extraordinary Patience.** We've heard numerous reports from members that they can't seem to connect with anyone in their chapter to get things done. This could range from checking classes, to offering to volunteer, to trying find out if they were appointed to a DAT team. If you are experiencing this with your chapter, you are not alone. You may be required to reach beyond your normal frustration level to make a difference with your volunteering. It may not help, but try contacting our Chapter Liaison, Betty Lou Hicks, to see if she has any ideas. She is at [bettylouhicks@gmail.com](mailto:bettylouhicks@gmail.com). Even if we don't break through for you, we'll have more information to make responsible complaints to the organization.

**Free Decals.** New DOVE decals with our new logo were sent out to all members in June. If you did not receive one, it could be that your mail address is out of date in our database. Please contact [merchandise@dovebof.org](mailto:merchandise@dovebof.org).

## Classified Ads

### Double Pay with Time and a Half for Overtime

There is still an opportunity for a talented DOVE to become the **Second Newsletter Editor**. We are increasing the salary range for this job from zero (\$0.00) to double zero (\$00.00) and expanding the search to nationwide. Hundreds will read what you say, so take this opportunity to *volunteer* today!