

LEPC Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2018
12:00 pm Walters State Community College – Foundation Room

The meeting was called to order by LEPC Vice Chairman Nathan Antrican. The invocation was led by Captain Chuck Letterman. The pledge of allegiance was led by Lt. Billy Gulley.

For old business, Mr. Antrican reminded the LEPC to like the LEPC Facebook page.

For new business, Mr. Antrican announced the nomination for Vice Chair – Monica “Chrissy” Hicks. All were in favor and the nomination was approved. Mr. Antrican then thanked Dr. Powell for his service as the LEPC Chairman. Beginning January 2019, Mr. Antrican will be the LEPC Chairman and Mrs. Hicks will be the LEPC Vice Chairperson.

Mrs. Hicks then thanked the LEPC for the nomination and expressed her excitement at the coming 2019 year.

Mr. Antrican introduced Paul Brown of the TN Baptist Disaster Relief to discuss the donations transported to Hurricane Florence victims. The Nolachucky Baptist Disaster Relief is a local association – the state level is the TN Baptist Disaster Relief which is part of the Southern Baptist Convention.

They provide feeding units which can make 10,000 meals a day, laundry units, shower units, and ministry teams, including 3 counselors.

Donations that go to Nolachucky are stored at God’s Warehouse in Morristown. Both businesses and individuals can provide donations. Nolachucky gets with other organizations on field and ask what is the need. Needs may be different in each scenario, and if God’s Warehouse has those supplies they will take them. 6 trucks are out in response to Florence.

The most striking part is the damage from wind and flooding. Many people have lost everything and so items like pillows, clothes, water, food, and supplies to help people meet basic needs are needed. The local association has one truck they can send; there are additional trucks throughout the state.

Supplies go out about as fast as they arrive and the need for more donations is always there.

Warsaw is where local donations went – mostly pillows, sheets, blankets, water, and Gatorade.

One important task of the local warehouses once they receive supplies is making sure that people who are in need get the supplies; they try to prevent people from taking supplies and then going and selling it for profit.

For Hurricane Michael, they provided a feeding unit, generator, chaplains, a chainsaw crew, and a damage assessment crew.

Mr. Antrican thanked Paul Brown for all that Nolachucky does and introduced Chief Donnie Shuler Sevierville Fire Department and Swift Water Rescue Team. In 2004 Sevier County and Sevierville fire department had training and started Swift Water Rescue. Hurricane Florence was Shuler’s third deployment. Eight teams of 12 people each from across the state responded. Each team had: 2 boats motorized, 2 rafts, an overhead team (supervisors who functioned as the liaison with teams on ground and state of SC), communications team to establish their own communication system.

105 total went to assist with Hurricane Florence. They deployed on September 12; Florence hit on September 14. Deploying early allows for safer travel and lets team get where they need to go.

Their mission: assist local emergency responders in water rescue, assign water team to fire department to go out for rescue calls. Some teams were stationed in the central area and as calls came in they went out where they were needed. Teams assisted in searching areas that required boat access, searching areas that local agencies couldn’t get to, doing welfare checks on people who didn’t evacuate, providing supplies for people whose homes were fine but the roads were flooded, and damage assessment.

Many people did not have flood insurance – worst of flooding was in rural and poorer areas.

Rescue teams would go out and bang on roofs of flooded houses and if they hear anyone inside they will cut open the roof and rescue them.

Deployment is voluntary; two-thirds of the department volunteers for deployment. Each team in on a monthly rotation; Captain Shuler was on call when Florence hit.

After a few questions, Mr. Antrican thanked Captain Shuler for coming, reminded everyone to send announcements and updates to Lindsey Horn, and the meeting was adjourned.

The Morristown LEPC would like to thank Olive Garden for providing lunch!

Our next scheduled meeting is January 8, 2019
Invite a friend!