

# DOVE Chirp

Disaster Operations Volunteer Escapees  
An Escapees RV Club BOF for Red Cross Volunteers



## Are You Available?

You are one of about 40,000 American Red Cross volunteers. In April, **less than 6% of all volunteers were listed as "Available"** in Volunteer Connection. Please check and update your availability status in Volunteer Connection today!

## Inspiration

Escapees sent an *Escapees News* email on April 7 highlighting your good work as a certified BOF of the club. I received these kind words from a SKP who wanted to acknowledge you:

*"Greetings; I remember talking to some lady after a 4 o'clock social at Escapees Headquarters in Livingston, TX, about this BoF group. She was trying to recruit people to join and had talked about the need for more people to help with disasters and how much the Red Cross would save by having a group of people who had their own place to stay vs the motel*

*bills.*

*I am so thankful that this BoF group is doing so well.*

*We were never in the position to take the training or join the group.*

*My husband and I lived in Los Alamos, New Mexico during the Cerro Granda Fire in 2000. The fire became International news by the time the entire county was evacuated. When we returned I remember how much a kind word, or offer of a cold bottle of water, and the meetings meant to me.*

*Thanks to all the Escapees who have joined this group."*

## Instructors, Elkhart, New Training **Dick and Rose Marie Hartman**

Training Coordinators

**TRAINING FLASH: Disaster training will move to EMBARC from SABA in May. Search for EMBARC on the Exchange for more information.**

All Red Cross Disaster Instructors were recently required to apply for recertification. We are happy to announce that all but three of our DOVE instructors have completed the necessary steps for recertification, and those three are

still working with their Chapters to complete this process. We welcome back Charlie and Alice Anderson and Dave and Jan Nichols. Two new DOVES, Doc and Karen Strait have agreed to be CPR/ FA/AED instructors for us. They also teach Disaster Services Technology classes and are certified Ham Radio operators. DOVES now have 35 instructors to teach the basic disaster classes, 8 are both

basic and advanced instructors and 7 who are qualified to teach CPR/FA/AED. We are proud that all of these have taken the time to be recertified and thank them for their dedication to the Red Cross and the DOVES.

We recently stopped in to the Elkhart Chapter office to offer our help and were warmly received. We were happy to see that Fran, Judy, Sue and Ben are still there. Instead of put-

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### Briefing

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ting us to work, they invited us to their Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Since, Elkhart is our secondary Chapter, we decided to go. We had a good dinner and after that some laughs as they presented some very "serious" awards such as the Golden Hammer Award to two men who do maintenance work for them and the Golden Stethoscope Award to the two nurses who take care of their volunteer health records for deployment. Then, they got down to the serious awards and gave

pins for years of service. There were quite a few for 5, 10, & 15 years. One for 40, 45, & 50 years. One for 60 years of volunteering with the Red Cross and she is still active with the Chapter. Can you imagine the changes she has seen over the years? Wouldn't it be fun to be able to sit down and talk with her?

You may be interested in checking out this website: [disasterready.org](http://disasterready.org) This is a disaster training collaboration between 20 non-governmental

organizations and the website has many classes available. Since this is not a Red Cross training, there are some steps you need to follow to get credit for any classes you take. They are:

1. Print or electronically save your Certificate.
2. Log your class time into Volunteer Connection.
3. Provide proof of Course completion to your Chapter/Region and ask them to add to your personal training section in Volunteer Connection.

## Committee on Abling

The Abling Committee of the DOVES, which is focused on the issue of volunteers' special needs, continues to "meet" by phone. We have adopted two focus areas for the coming year:

1) *Reviewing and advocating for the revision of the Health Status Screening Process and Forms so that individuals with access and functional needs can be reasonably accommodated to access deployment opportunities and perform service toward the mission of the Red Cross;*

and

2) *Advocating for closed captioning of all Red Cross visual resources, such as online classes, so individuals with hearing limitations can provide service toward the mission of the Red Cross.*

All members are encouraged to join the committee and provide input for this very important work. The Red Cross management is listening to us, so this is a fantastic opportunity to help all of us who have the skills and abilities to be great volunteers if we can find appropriate accommodations to remove barriers.

**Jane and Jay Jennings**  
Committee on Abling



## Mobile Volunteering

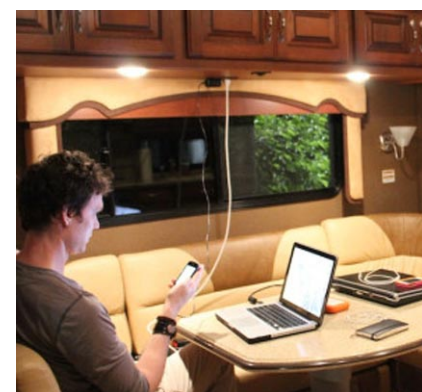
**You can volunteer for the Red Cross while you are traveling, without being deployed.** Mobile volunteering gives you an opportunity to help the mission of the Red Cross when you are parked with an internet connection. We have a project defined with the Texas Gulf Coast Region to provide you with opportunities. The next step is yours. Check

out the web page at:

<http://dovebof.org/MobileVolunteering/MobileVolunteering.html>

or on the DOVEBOF web menu under Red Cross Information.

**Mahlon Stacy**  
DOVE President



# DOVES and National Red Cross

**Mahlon Stacy**  
President

On April 13 I stopped at Red Cross Headquarters in Washington to meet with Mary Dewitt-Dia, our interface in Partners. We had lunch and got to know each other.

After lunch I met with Richard Reed, VP for Disaster Cycle Services for a few minutes. Mr. Reed expressed his appreciation for the DOVES, because although we are a small group, we are committed to the mission of the Red Cross. We discussed the future, in the context of the reasons for Red Cross re-engineering. He is of the

opinion that most of the significant changes that might affect us have already happened. He also stressed that the Home Fire Prevention campaign is a top priority for Red Cross now.

Later, Mary and I met for several hours discussing the changes to our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which needs to be renewed this year. We agreed on a list of changes to attachment C, which covers our deployment rules. We discussed the balance of the MOU in general terms and agreed upon the direction we will take.

We discussed issues with Volunteer Connection and how to have the chapters and regions better understand us and how we can make a difference. Volunteer Connection has made the connection between chapters and volunteers much more efficient, but is still an opaque tool with regard to DOVES. Mary now has a dedicated volunteer to work with Don Klein to reconcile differences between our roster and VC's identification of DOVES, a process that will take several months.

## New Deployment Coordinator

**Ginger Elsner**  
Deployment Coordinator

I have been in Red Cross for 30 plus years. Being deployed for all those years. The last 10 years I have been in Staff Services (fulfilling the need for trained Red Cross workers to national disaster areas as requested by disaster services) on deployments and at my chapter in Reno, NV. During

that time I kept an eye on disasters and getting our chapter members deployed. When Don casually mentioned needing someone to take over watching Volunteer Connection and sending out emails to our Dove members when an opportunity for deployment is requested, it sounded like it

was right up my alley. So after a tumultuous few months, Don and I finally managed to switch the responsibility to me. We still need a back up, so just putting it out there. Love being a Dove! See you soon.

Welcome to our world,  
Ginger!

## Fire Safety: What You Can Do

**Mahlon Stacy**  
President

We've all heard stories about RVs going up in flames. We drive housing that can be extremely flammable, and load it up with volatile LP and gallons of gasoline or diesel fuel. Some RVers have died in their motor homes because they couldn't figure out how to open the emergency exit.

I expect that as Red Cross volunteers, you are more careful than the average RVer with regard to fire. You know where your fire extinguishers are and what condition they are in. You are prepared to leave your RV in a hurry, through

an exit that may not include your door. You have a go-kit prepared with important docu-



ments should you need to leave in a hurry. But what about

your neighbors in the campground? Do you think they are as prepared as you?

Since the Red Cross is deeply invested this year in practicing fire safety and sharing that safety with others, DOVES can help in many ways:

First, make sure your own RV is as safe as possible. Check those fire extinguishers and smoke alarms, double check your go kit, and test all the emergency exits. Actually open them. Figure out how and where you will exit in an emer-

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gency. Make a plan.

Second, talk with your neighbors about RV safety. Ask them if they have smoke alarms, and have they tested them, or replaced the batteries. Do they know how to escape from their bedroom if a

fire breaks out? A pot luck or even better, a campfire, is a great place to do this.

Third, if you're staying in an RV park for an extended period, see if you can organize a safety check or meeting of all the residents to assure that

they are safe. Ask them about smoke alarms and escape routes. You might even see if the nearest Red Cross chapter or fire department can help with a fire safety presentation.

## Classified Ads

### HELP WANTED

#### Web Programmer

Programmer to create and manage DOVE website. Knowledge of HTML, PHP language helpful. Work from home in your RV with internet connection, serve on DOVE advisory board. Standard DOVE benefits, easy hours, great team to work with. Email [webmaster@dovebof.org](mailto:webmaster@dovebof.org)

#### Chapter Liaison

Ideal job for retired RC staff, help DOVES navigate the re-engineered Disaster Services volunteer system toward the goal of disaster deployment. Must be willing to adapt to and explain change. Qualifications might include NGO partnerships, Staff Services, Disaster Mental Health. Interpersonal skills a must, must be willing to never take "no" for an answer. Email [president@dovebof.org](mailto:president@dovebof.org)

### HELP WANTED

#### Like to write?

#### Like to share the DOVES story?

Someone who would like to take care of DOVE news and marketing is needed to prepare press releases, training announcements, brochures, and edit and assemble the DOVES Newsletter. Needs to keep ear to ground, eye to road, and nose for news. Work in your pajamas from passenger seat while going down the road. Internet connection a must. Great opportunity for Disaster PR person. Email [president@dovebof.org](mailto:president@dovebof.org)

#### Remote Volunteering

Work at home for the Red Cross. Lots of skills needed. See article on page 2 for more info.

### FOR SALE

#### DOVE PINS

Beautiful 1 inch diameter lapel pins with NEW DOVE Logo. Great to wear and share. Only \$5 each.

Contact: [merchandise@dovebof.org](mailto:merchandise@dovebof.org)

#### NEW EMERGENCY APP

Get the new [Emergency App](#) from Red Cross on your smart phone or tablet. Search for Red Cross in the App Store or Play Store.

**All DOVES** need to make sure their SABA accounts are linked to Volunteer Connection before the move to EMBARC occurs. If you copy the following link into your browser's address field it should download a file describing how to do this.

[dovebof.org/ARC-DOCS/SabaID.pdf](http://dovebof.org/ARC-DOCS/SabaID.pdf)

Do you have your DOVE accessories?



1. New 1 inch lapel pins with NEW logo for just \$5 each.

2. Dove (bird) pins \$1

3. 4 inch patches \$3

4. 2 inch buttons \$1

5. Decals \$2.50

Contact [merchandise@dovebof.org](mailto:merchandise@dovebof.org)