

**Washington State
Animal Response Team
(WASART)**

**Minutes of October 17, 2007
General Membership Meeting**

• **History of WASART**

The first General Membership meeting was called to order at 6:46 p.m. by President, Gretchen McCallum. She introduced the members of WASART's Board of Directors and gave a brief synopsis of WASART's history beginning with the first meeting this past February. She also invited each member of the Board of Directors to introduce herself and describe briefly how she became involved with WASART.

Gretchen explained that the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and its effect on the animals of the region, and the flooding in Washington State in October and November, 2006 with several horses being drowned, prompted the formation of WASART. She felt that Washington State needed to get ready and be prepared to help Washington's animals in disasters. She is also a member of EFFRA (Enumclaw Forested Foothills Recreation Association) and that's where she became re-acquainted with Greta, our Vice-President.

We have a website now and we are working on finalizing a training curriculum for interested volunteers. When our training is complete and we are activated by 911 in a disaster, our trained volunteers will be deployed. We only go out into the field when 911 has called and activated us. This is due to insurance reasons.

Gretchen has been in many groups that are either rescue or disaster preparation groups and no one had thought of how best to meet the animals' needs in emergencies.

• **WASART's Website**

Our home page can be found at www.WashingtonSART.org. It is still under construction but there is a lot of information on the site that will be of interest to prospective volunteers as well as an e-mail address for contact. That e-mail address is: animalresponseteam@gmail.com.

• **Committees**

After much discussion, it was decided that WASART needed to involve more members in WASART's activities and so several committees were suggested, to be filled at a later date when more folks are available and willing to sit on those committees.

The committees thought most appropriate to meet WASART's goals were:

- Community Outreach;
- Membership/Recruiting;
- Grants and Fundraising;
- Training;
- Communications;
- Equipment;
- Information/Newsletter

These committees are not cast in stone and might be revised in the future. Others may be added depending on the needs of our organization.

• **Orientation and Training Dates**

After discussion, it was decided that we would have our Orientation Meeting for prospective members in January, 2008 followed by training in February, 2008. Exact dates, instructors, and locations of instruction would be decided at a later time, as would the finalization of the training curriculum.

• **WASART NEWS.**

Because of time constraints, it was decided that WASART's newsletter would be published quarterly although it may become a monthly newsletter at some time in the future. The first issue is already up on the website and covers the period from March 1, 2007 through September 30, 2007. The next Newsletter is due out in January. If you have any input for that edition, the deadline is December 10. Please e-mail Gretchen at animalresponseteam@gmail.com with any copy you'd like included.

• **Vice President, Greta Cook**

She told us about her past history and interest in disaster preparedness stemming back from her years spent living in California as well as her years being employed by WSU as a Livestock Program Coordinator specializing in disaster preparedness. Greta also informed us that September is National Disaster Preparedness month and suggested WASART should plan on doing something special

next year to draw more attention to our activities and goals.

- **Secretary, Lanette Knapp**

Lanette introduced herself and advised the meeting of her involvement with 4-H and her association with Greta through 4-H.

- **Treasurer, Mary Ann Bentley**

The organization is solvent. Mary Ann also discussed the issue of using Quickbooks on-line which would cost approximately \$25.00 per month. A 20% discount was available for non-profits. Reservations were expressed by the President about the organization's financial information being on-line. It was decided not to pursue this avenue for the bookkeeping of the organization and instead to purchase or have donated a copy of the software by Quickbooks specifically designed for nonprofit accounting.

Mary Ann is planning on attending an EARS (Emergency Animal Rescue Service) workshop in Spokane on November 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This workshop is being taught by United Animal Nations and being hosted by our colleagues in Spokane, HEART (Humane Emergency Animal Response Team). The workshop will train volunteers to shelter and comfort displaced animals after a natural or human-caused disaster until they can be reunited with their caregivers or placed in new homes.

- **New Members**

Sharon Bartlett and Kristen Schwab were welcomed and each spoke of their backgrounds and involvement with various animal issues.

- **KCSARA and WASART**

Kathleen Decker, the Search & Rescue Co-coordinator of the King County Search & Rescue Association, is supportive of WASART joining KCSARA. However, after discussion, it was decided that WASART was not yet in a position to approach KCSARA to be considered for membership and this issue was tabled for a later date.

- **501(c)(3) Status**

Gretchen has sent the Amended Articles of Incorporation to the Washington Secretary of State, Corporations Division. When they are returned to

her with a "filed" stamp on them, she will file our application for tax-exempt status with the IRS.

- **Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) Course**

Gretchen spoke about the Map Your Neighborhood course she had recently taken. This course trained participants to be trainers of the course which prepares neighborhoods to deal with disasters until help can reach them. She believes that this course will also be very useful for WASART volunteers and meets one of the WASART goals, i.e., public education and disaster preparedness. The program is structured to meet a city/suburban neighborhood lifestyle, but it could be modified for the rural environment as well. More information on course content and/or upcoming dates can be obtained by phoning 206-296-3830 or viewing the website at <http://emd.wa.gov/myn/index.shtml>.

- **HAM Radio Course**

Gretchen, Greta, Mary Ann, and Lanette (as well as Lanette and Gretchen's husbands) have enrolled in this seven week course commencing on Tuesday, October 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in the fire hall located at 31709 Kent- Black Diamond Road. The cost is \$20 for the textbook and then \$13 at the end of the course for a written exam. It was decided to take this course so that WASART members would be prepared if/when a disaster occurred and landlines and cell phone lines went down, were overloaded, or unavailable. If information on future course is required, please contact the instructor, Scott Currie of the Maple Valley Amateur Radio Club, at ns7c@comcast.net.

- **Livestock Identification Clinic Review**

Greta spoke about the micro chipping and freeze marking clinic that WASART organized and held on September 30, 2007 at Reber Ranch in Kent. Over 20 horses were either micro-chipped, freeze-marked, or vaccinated. Although the weather did not cooperate, we were pleased with the participation shown by the vendors and folks obtaining identification and other services for their horses. Because of the interest shown in the Clinic by people unable to attend on September 30th, it was decided to host another Identification Clinic in March, 2008 in time for the show season. The exact date and location of the Clinic, as well as which vendors and other practitioners would be invited to attend, will be decided at a later date.

- **Sound Shake 08.**

This regional earthquake exercise will be held in Seattle and Bellevue on March 5, 2008. WASART has been invited to participate in the drill although the details of WASART's participation have not yet been decided. It was suggested that we either do a Table Top scenario or a large animal sheltering demonstration at the Enumclaw Expo Center or Tacoma Dome.

Greta, Gretchen and Mary Ann attended Sound Shake 08 workshops on September 27th and Greta was a presenter at one of the workshops. More information on this earthquake exercise can be found at www.metrokc.gov/prepare/SoundShake08.aspx.

- **Partners in Preparedness Conference**

This national conference is being held in Tacoma on April 1-2, 2008. It will be held at the Great Tacoma Convention and Trade Center and researchers, scholars and practitioners in emergency management from around the nation will be in attendance. The theme for the Conference is "It's a different world: Looking to the future." More information on the Conference can be obtained at 206-222-1923. Greta will be a presenter at the Conference on behalf of WASART.

- **Region 6 Sheltering Group**

This governmental and nonprofit group meets monthly to discuss issues surrounding the typing of shelters for humans and animals within Region 6 in Washington. As a member of this group, Greta has been able to bring large animal evacuation and sheltering issues to the group's attention.

- **City Partnerships.**

Greta reported that the Cities of Kent, Buckley and Black Diamond are all eager to work with WASART in meeting the mandates of the Federal PETS Act of October, 2006 that requires all States and Counties within the U.S. to include the evacuation and sheltering of household pets and service animals in their emergency preparedness plan. Prior to this Act, drafted in response to the public outcry following Katrina, only humans were required to be evacuated and sheltered. Greta is hoping that these cities are all heading toward the animal sheltering aspect of disaster preparedness. Self sufficiency is a big push.

- **Emergency Preparedness Fair.**

Gretchen has asked for volunteers to be at our booth at the LDS Church near 4 Corners in Kent on Saturday, October 20th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Fair is being sponsored by the LDS Church in cooperation with the Maple Valley Emergency Management Office. This is another chance for us to get the word out about WASART and what we're trying to accomplish.

- **Senator Pam Roach**

Gretchen informed us that Senator Pam Roach had also planned an Emergency Preparedness Fair for October 20th in Enumclaw. However, the Senator decided to cancel her event when she found out that the Maple Valley Emergency Preparedness Fair was being held on the same date. Gretchen wrote to Senator Roach's assistant informing him of WASART's activities and suggesting that WASART would like to be involved in any such events that the Senator might plan in the future.

- **Dates to keep an eye on ~**

November 14th - 6:30 p.m. at Key Bank – General Membership meeting

December 10th - Newsletter Deadline – for copy to be in January's issue

December 12th – 6:30 p.m. at Key Bank – General Membership meeting

Key Bank's address is: 1212 Cole Street, Enumclaw, WA 98022. A map and directions are on the WASART website at www.washingtontsart.org.

Respectfully submitted
Lanette Knapp, Secretary