



Voice OF V

The official voice of Region V



EDITORS: SHEILA HALL AND TERRY SWANSON

February 2007



LESLIE EISENBERG
IS THE REGION V
2006 DISTINGUISHED MEMBER/VOLUNTEER
OF THE YEAR

Congratulations Leslie!!!

Congratulations also to everyone nominated (in alphabetical order):

Rodney Brown
Joyce DeJong
Sheila Hall
Mark Haskins
Gabe Hensley
Jan Simons
Terry Swanson

Region V and DMORT itself are fortunate to have these people and the rest of you as team members!

Please join Region V at the 2007 NDMS Annual Conference in Nashville this spring, where Leslie will be accepting this Award.

For more information on Dr. Leslie Eisenberg, you may refer to the October 2006 edition of the "Voice of V."

NDMS JOINS THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Welcome Home, NDMS!

Effective on January 2007, NDMS officially moved from DHS/FEMA to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Welcome Home!

New NDMS Public and Team Member Websites

Visit the new NDMS Public website located at <http://ndms.hhs.gov> and watch for additional content on this site in the near future. The NDMS Team Member website will remain at <http://teams.fema.gov> until further notice.

Frequently Asked Questions about the DHHS Travel Card

1. Is it mandatory for all employees to submit a charge card application?
YES. It is a DHHS condition of employment and requirement by NDMS that all personnel apply for the US Bank Travel Card.
2. Can I use my personal charge card?
NO.
3. Where can I get the complete terms of the credit agreement disclosure between US BANK and myself?
The US Bank Card Holder Agreement is now posted on the NDMS website, NDMS-DHHS transition tab, or search "IBA."
4. What if my credit isn't good enough for my application to be approved?
According to DHHS, there will be a contingent plan for those who cannot obtain a government charge card. This plan is still being developed.
5. On the application, it asks for a supervisor's signature. Who should sign?
Please leave this blank. Supervisor signatures will be obtained from headquarters.
6. The fax cover sheet asks for my position. What should be written in that space?
The position should reflect the team member's title, listed in the NDMS database.
7. When do I receive my pin number to obtain cash advances?
You will not receive a pin number, as cash advances are not authorized.
8. Who should I contact if my name is spelled wrong on the card when received?

Contact elizabeth.reyes@hhs.gov or tammy.melerine@hhs.gov.

9. Can I pay my bill online?

Yes. Go to the US Bank website and create an account. This will enable you to access your account and view your statement online. The electronic payment feature will not be introduced until March 2007.

10. What do I do with my old Citibank card when it gets deactivated?

Citibank cards WERE deactivated on Dec 31, 2006. Please cut the card in half and destroy it.

11. I don't have a password for the NDMS website. Who do I contact?

Call John Wootten at 202-646-3283.

12. Notify your administrative officer upon receipt of the bankcard.

Licenses

Many professional licenses expired at the end of December 2006. Mail, fax, or email your updated license to your administrative officer.

Fingerprint and Security Clearance

If you have sent in your fingerprint cards and security packets, and you are awaiting notification of clearance, DHHS has announced that they will not be accepting these fingerprint cards or security packets. This process will need to be done again. A schedule will be sent out to the team, regarding when and where fingerprints, security packets, and identification photographs will be conducted. This process can also be completed at the 2007 NDMS Conference in Nashville.

TRAINING ISSUES

JAN SIMONS
Training Officer

We have been informed by NDMS that the National DMORT training session will be postponed until 2008 due to the transition to DHHS. The Region V officers have been concerned about this possibility since December 7 and we have been reviewing the alternatives for our 2007 DMORT Region V training. As soon as we have a confirmed date and location for this training, we will pass the information on to you. Although this transition has presented some challenges, we remain excited for our future. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

2007 NDMS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 2007 NDMS Annual Conference will be held at the **Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee on March 17-21, 2007**. More information will be forthcoming.

BURIAL OF THE UNKNOWN DEAD IN MISSISSIPPI

Submitted by O.J. Fawcett

I read the following letter in the “Readers’ Forum” in the November 2006 issue of Mortuary Management. Perhaps other members of our Region V Team (as well as other regions) who were deployed to Katrina East would like to know of the final disposition of the two unidentified victims of Katrina.

I have obtained permission to rewrite this letter from Mortuary Management as well as from Mr. Harvey.

In his email, Mr. Harvey commended the efforts of the DMORT Team. He also mentioned that he helped out the Bradford O’Keefe Funeral home for two weeks after Katrina doing embalming, removals, etc. He said that it was tough doing the work under only the light of one 60-watt bulb, as that was all they had when the generator ran the embalming machine. They even did some embalming by the old gravity method and no aspiration, as there was no water pressure.

On a hot summer afternoon in Gulfport, Mississippi, students of the Funeral Service Technology Program at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, along with myself, attended the burial of the final two unidentified victims of Hurricane Katrina in Harrison County Mississippi. According to County Coroner Gary Hargrove, no one had ever identified or claimed these two bodies. The service was very nice and was attended by approximately 150 people including the media and clergy. A sole bagpiper played “Amazing Grace” as the caskets were transported from the hearses to the biers. Clergy of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths provided prayers. The victims were interred at Evergreen Cemetery in Gulfport close to the graves of the three unidentified female victims of Hurricane Camille in 1969. The burial took place on August 29, 2006 - exactly one year after the hurricane came ashore on the Mississippi coast. Services were provided by Harrison County, Harrison County Coroner’s Office, Bradford O’Keefe Funeral Home, Gulf Coast Funeral Home, Hartwell Christian Mortuary, J. T. Hall Funeral Home, Lockett-Williams Mortuary, Marshall Funeral Home, and Riemann Funeral Home.

Bill Harvey, Director
Funeral Service Technology
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Perkinston, Mississippi

A LETTER FROM BILL CRAWSHAW

To: My DMORT V Family

From: William L. (Bill) Crawshaw (Mortuary Officer)
1524 Spruce Street
Murphysboro, Illinois 62966

After much thought and yes prayer, I asked the NDMS leadership to consider my request for placement on the NDMS 1 MST (Management Support Team). On October 3rd 2006, I was notified that I had officially been placed on the NDMS 1 MST. I will miss working with my DMORT Region V family; however, I will be able to retain the position of Mortuary Officer on the MST and will be able not only to support DMORT operations but those of DMAT and DVET in the future.

Looking back over the past ten or so years, I can truly say that Region V DMORT has some of the most talented and dedicated people in the DMORT system. The training and respect we received from our leadership and your willingness to do what was needed to complete the mission was always there. In times of hardship, the love, kindness, and support you also gave to your fellow team members was a beacon of light to other NDMS teams that each of you were proud to be a part of DMORT V.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for the kindness you have always given to my wife Ceil. We both made many new friends during the DMORT operations in 2005 and 2006. Ceil and I retired on January 1st, so I will now be available for any future NDMS operations. Our Motor Home will always be home to you if and when you ever need it. Ceil and I look forward to seeing each of you again.

God Bless,

Bill & Ceil

BILL AND CEIL, THE DMORT REGION V TEAM WILL MISS YOU!



EDITORS' NOTE:

The staff of the “Voice of V” needs your help in developing articles of interest and relevance to Region V. Please submit anything that you think would be appropriate to our editors at:

Sheila Hall: halls @infantwelfare.org

Terry Swanson: robertaswanson@msn.com

