



National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

*Promoting Cooperation, Communication, Coordination and Collaboration
During Disaster Preparedness, Response, Relief and Recovery*

February 13, 2008

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (National VOAD). We apologize for the delay in responding to your inquiry. The increased interest in National VOAD membership, the increase in the number of organizations participating in disaster activities, and the heightened visibility of voluntary agency participation in government planning efforts have all contributed to the need for National VOAD to evaluate and update its membership criteria and application process.

The National VOAD Membership Committee and the Board of Directors have completed this review, and the current membership have approved the criteria we now present to you. The new structure consists of a two-tiered membership:

Tier One Members—Organizations with national scope and resources and a defined disaster program and policies for commitment of resources. Six Board seats are reserved for Tier One members and are voted on by the Tier One members.

Tier Two Members—Organizations with a smaller scope, more limited resources or jurisdictions. Three Board seats are reserved for Tier Two members and are voted on by Tier Two members.

Enclosed with this letter you will find a *National VOAD Membership Criteria and Application* document which lists the criteria that will be used to evaluate membership applications. We hope you have a continued interest in National VOAD membership and we look forward to receiving your application.

Our communities continue to be affected by larger and more frequent disasters, and meeting the needs created by those disasters will require that all of us make a commitment to increased collaboration and coordination of our activities. Your work is crucial to the communities you serve, and we applaud your commitment to increased inter-agency cooperation. If you have further questions about membership in National VOAD, I can be reached at 202-955-8396. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Diana Rothe-Smith
Executive Director