

INSIDE:

FINANCIALS₁₀

WOMEN IN REACT₀₃

the REACTer

SUMMER • FALL 2013



sharing ideas. moving forward.



contents

opinion 03

equipment 05

regional news 06

NIMS training 08

success in the field 09

the numbers 10

your directors 14

webexclusive:

Click a title to go directly to the feature. To return to the table of contents, simply click on the REACTer logo at the top corner of any page.

snapshot



REACT Team 4800 assisting the Flagler County Sheriff's Office with the Annual 9/11 Memorial Motorcycle Ride. September 8th, 2013
Photo courtesy of Bob Pickering

opinion



Stephanie Robson (right) and her husband, Alan Robson (left) at the Waterloo Air Show.

WOMEN IN REACT

Stephanie Robson *Event Coordinator/Director*
Waterloo Regional REACT

“Oh no,” you might say to yourself, “not another article discussing the trials, tribulations and benefits of women in this or that...” This, I assure you, is NOT one of those!

When first asked to write about women in REACT, my first inkling was to discuss the gender differences and the role of women in volunteering, and more specifically, volunteering as a woman in the emergency services. To my own amazement, I didn't even know where to begin with that as my main focus.

Granted, volunteering or working in the emergency services was once male dominated. However, this gap has now been bridged and, in most cases, new roads have been built creating opportunity for all who are willing and capable.

Waterloo Regional REACT has a diverse membership with members who come from all walks of life. It is well known that volunteerism is as diverse as the individuals who volunteer and with that Waterloo Regional REACT is fortunate to be able to provide our services with that much more ability, skill and understanding. We contribute to our community at special events offering various resources for dealing with issues, while keeping the community safe and connected. During emergency service related “events,” we offer those same resources and are able to do so with the necessary skills and equipment that are required and requested by those in the emergency services.

Having been a volunteer with REACT for over 4 years now, I cannot even think of a time where I thought to myself how much easier it would be if I were male, nor how I didn't fit in because I am a female. My mind kept swaying to thoughts of how much I gained as an individual for the volunteer work that I do and

how much the community benefits for all that I, and my teammates, contribute. As one of the few female members of the Waterloo Regional REACT team, I am proud to say that what matters most to the organization are the services we offer and the outstanding social and professional networks we have built up over time.

When I began volunteering with REACT it was initially to help others. To my amazement the real change has come from within me. I have developed my leadership and communication skills, improved my interpersonal skills, and have been able to use my volunteering as a rich educational and career development tool.

My time as a member has also led me to the wonderful position of event coordinator and member of the board of directors. So, I guess one could say that I have “broken the glass ceiling,” even though I’d like to think that there wasn’t even one there to begin with. Being a part of the senior management team has also allowed me to voice my perspective on decisions that are to be made and offer insight that others may not have thought of. It truly is a rewarding way for me to contribute to the team, to my community and to the emergency services.

“I have gained and grown as an individual.”

Many often struggle with the decision of whether to volunteer or not, with many feeling that they just do not have the time. As a wife, mother of two young children, full time law clerk and (occasional) housekeeper (not that I enjoy cleaning my house,) I have chosen to make the time to volunteer. I could not be happier that I do. I have gained and grown as an individual.

My husband and I volunteer together and my children have been shown a great example in how they too can contribute to their community. My son, now

old enough to be a junior member, has joined in the wonderful contribution of volunteering and my daughter is counting down the years until she can too. We have made it a family event.

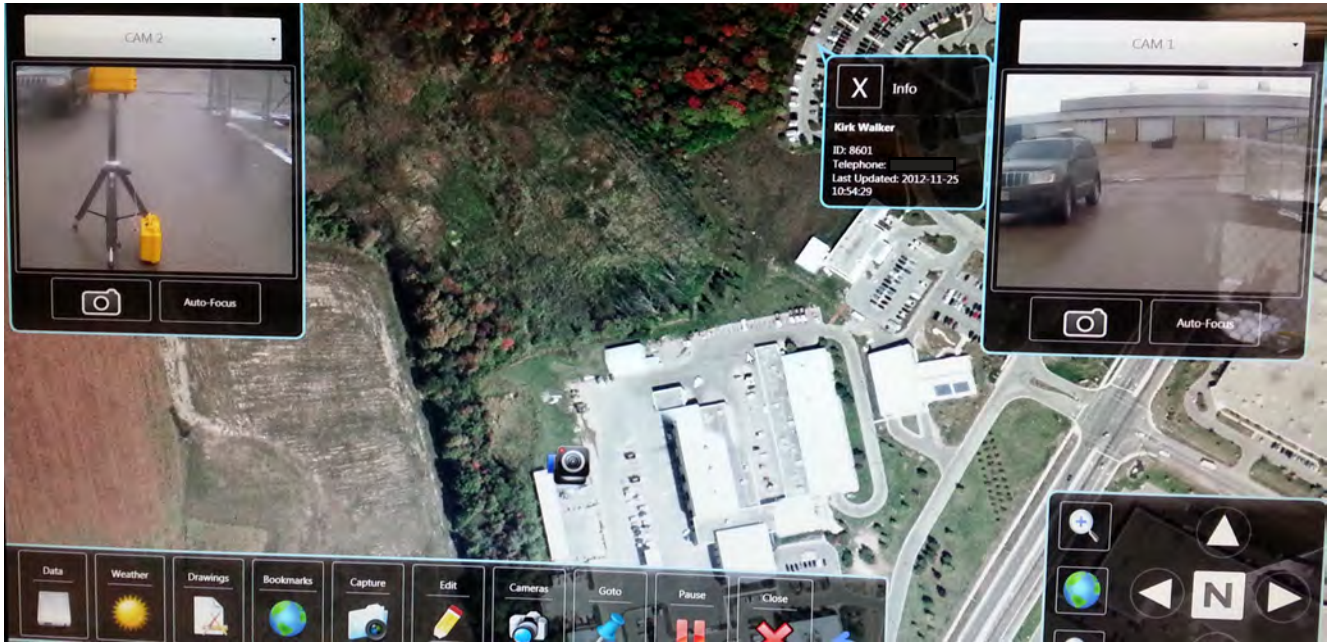
I am still not sure where all my time goes or how I manage to juggle everything at times, but I can tell you that: my laundry is not going anywhere, I can dust tomorrow, I am leaving the office on time every now and then, and with all of that I still look forward to my next community event or helping the emergency services during times of need. Most importantly, I know that they too are grateful for the benefits of the volunteers they have.

As a REACT volunteer, I offer first responder services to the community, safety and security at community events and emergency situations, I assist at road closure barricades and operate small equipment (lighting units, Argos and Gators) at community events and emergency scenes. I work with members of the community, event organizers, police officers, firefighters, paramedics, and even, at times, the coroner. Although this may not be something for everyone, it certainly is not gender driven. I enjoy the community involvement and the opportunity assisting the emergency services.

So, being a woman in REACT does not fit into one of the discussions of the trials, tribulations or benefits of being a female volunteer. Instead, it is a discussion of the rewards that it brings, be it of a personal gain or for the community as a whole. One thing to remember when considering volunteering, which I have learned, is to be teachable and prepared to change along the way, as the rewards will certainly outweigh the costs – no matter what gender, race or religion you are.

Thank you Waterloo Regional REACT for allowing me to grow, to learn and to apply myself, as a woman, an individual, and as a volunteer within my community.

equipment to talk about



SHOW & TELL

DISCLAIMER: “Mimicry is the sincerest form of flattery.” We want you to get inspired. If you like something you see, copy it! Use it within your organization and, by all means, put your stamp on it! Don’t be afraid to think outside the box. We’re excited to hear about and learn from your creative projects, *can’t you tell?*



Technology can be the point of difference that sets your team apart, especially when dealing with the emergency services. It can also help to both attract and retain members. Here’s an example of some cool tech gear in the field:

Waterloo Regional REACT recently had two wireless cameras and their corresponding software donated (shown left and above) from a generous contributor.

This technology allows a remote image up to one mile away to be transmitted back to the Command Centre, giving on-scene supervisors a more complete picture of an event or emergency scene. This is yet another reason for REACT’s services to be called upon!

For more information including how your team can get its hands on similar equipment, email: info@wrreact.com

send your **SHOW & TELL** to: editor@thereactor.com

regional news

NEWS FROM R:3

Roy Drury *Region 3 Director*
 REACT International

Summer is always a busy time for Region 3 with the start of the annual hurricane season as well as teams working events in their areas. Summer is also a time to take stock in the status of all the teams and members in the region, since annual renewals have been concluded for the year.

Currently, Region 3 has four un-renewed teams which I have been working on following up on; however, I'm saddened to report that REACT has lost three of those teams due to various reasons. The other team has not renewed due to its president and founding member being seriously ill. My best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Currently, I am working with several new leads for new teams in North Carolina (three teams), Florida (one team), Georgia (one team), Puerto Rico (one team) and Tennessee (one team), so there is plenty of interest in REACT and what we do.

For current teams, now is the time to be recruiting as half price dues went into effect on July 1st. This means that for a regular member, the dues are only \$10 for the remainder of the year. Remember that you have to add the \$5 insurance charge for all members. The half price dues special does not apply to renewing members, only new sign-ups.

Next, I would like to welcome Star Mountain REACT Radio Club of Etowah, TN as Region 3's newest team. Also, I would like to recognize the following teams in Region 3 for their continued outstanding work in their communities in support of the REACT program: Burke County REACT of Morganton, NC and Flagler County Assist REACT of Palm Coast, FL.

teams by state

State	# of Teams
Alabama	0
Florida	4
Georgia	1
Mississippi	0
North Carolina	5
Puerto Rico	1
South Carolina	2
Tennessee	1
Total	14

I wish to urge any member who has extra time and wants to see REACT succeed to contact our president, John Capodanno, and inquire about committee openings. I also urge any member who is interested to attend our board meetings. There is always time allotted on our agendas for members to address the board on any topic that they choose for up to 3 minutes.

It is asked that if you have a matter that you wish to discuss with the board that will be longer than 3 minutes, contact your regional director, chairman of the board or the president to have your item added to the meeting agenda. Meetings are always open to members.

To find out when the next meetings are scheduled to take place, and how you can connect to them electronically, visit:

www.reactintl.org

snapshot



REACT members staging a mock remote rescue during a training exercise.

Vehicle: Rescue Argo

Photo Courtesy of ODG

NIMS training

CERTIFICATION GOES INTERNATIONAL

Ravindranath Goswami *Region 9 Director*
REACT International

For a long time, Region 9 members of REACT International had to stare at the back section of their REACT membership identification card and see the four bold **N**'s under the FEMA NIMS TRAINING section. There was no possibility of changing the status to **Y**.

Well, that is about to change...

The reason for the limitation lies in the need to possess a United States Social Security Number in order to be eligible to sit the exam and become certified.

Through an initiative led by the Board of Directors, REACT International is now an approved FEMA sponsor organization for its membership outside of the US. This sponsorship allows members from countries such as Canada and Trinidad & Tobago to apply through REACT International for an ID that can be used to become a candidate and sit the exams.

In order to pilot the system, [I] was chosen to be the proverbial guinea pig, to test the system and develop the policy and procedure for making the facility widely available to the membership. To date, two courses have been completed with two more go to.



FEMA

The availability of this program achieves the following strategic objectives:

- ▶ *It provides the required standard of certified training to all members of REACT International*
- ▶ *It differentiates REACT from other volunteer public service groups*
- ▶ *It answers the questions: "What are the benefits to being a member of REACT International?" or "What do I receive for my annual dues payment?"*
- ▶ *Finally, it provides an exciting marketing tool for membership recruitment.*

Stay tuned for part 2 of the article in the next edition of the REACTer for details on exactly what FEMA-NIMS/ICS is, why it's necessary, the experience of registering, studying for and sitting the exam as well as to learn how you can get hooked up to take the exams!

to learn more about NIMS, visit: www.fema.gov/NIMS

success in the field



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

For this edition we'll briefly touch on professionalism as it pertains to uniforms:

To be successful in earning the respect of the emergency services and the public, it is important to not only act the part, but also look the part. The way your team presents itself should always be perceived as professional and this certainly can stem from the look of your uniforms.

Many teams have developed their own shoulder flashes and uniform standards over the years. Maintenance and continued development of these standards allow your team look professional in the public eye. This should be a number one priority for all teams.

With this in mind, maybe it's time for a refresh. When designing your uniforms, always consider the professional standards expected by your community. Your uniform is a major part of the first impression you have on people—so make it the right one!

OPERATIONS

Once again we need your help! Tell us about your successful operations. Be sure to include a brief description of: what you are doing, how you are doing it, the keys to your success, who your customers are and what your goals are for the future. Of course, high-resolution action photos are encouraged and may also be featured as a snapshot in the next REACTer!

FINANCIAL HEALTH

Financial well-being is critical for your current operations and future growth. We'd still like to hear what steps your team is taking to secure its financial well-being. For example: what revenue streams are you tapping into and are you taking advantage of the REACT International charity status when fundraising?

send to: editor@thereacter.com

the numbers:

2012 YEAR END FINANCIALS

revenue

Source	Revenue (\$)
Dues	40,416
Team Charters	206
Team Insurance	6,828
Life Membership	300
Affiliate	553
Merchandise Store Revenues	2,005
Realized Loss on Investments	(706)
Contributions	141
Dividends	3,052
Interest	2
Total Revenue	52,797

expenses

Source	Expenses (\$)
Program Services	17,605
General and Administrative	46,786
Total Expenses	64,391

net assets

Source	Net Assets (\$)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	63,584
Change in Net Assets	(11,594)
Net Assets at End of Year	51,990



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*Please email your articles and high-
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your board of directors

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the REACTer

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