



Region 7 Newsletter

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska

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IAEM Region 7 Newsletter Article Submission Deadline: April 1, 2014

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From the President



This is the first edition of what I hope is many to come from IAEM-USA Region 7 members on what has been happening and I look forward to sharing upcoming opportunities and events to ensure our region is able to face the challenges associated with emergency management.

Information sharing, collaboration and cooperation is vital for success, and this is what I envision these newsletters providing for all of us! We can learn from each other by sharing lessons learned, training opportunities, exercises, conferences, special events, plans, and more.

In this edition, we reflect

on a train derailment disaster response that was exercised earlier using another train derailment that happened on the East Coast. What is unique about this type of planning is that pretty much any type of disaster or emergency we can come up with has probably already happened somewhere else, and understanding what was successful or needed improvement will better enable us to make our communities safer and more resilient.

As we become more borderless in our planning and responses, since disasters and emergencies don't recognize demographics, regionalization has become more prevalent. In addition, federal grants are becoming more tied to regional actions and projects for release of funding. One of the advantages to information sharing allows us the opportunity to see what other trainings and projects have occurred elsewhere and allowing us to work with

each other on strengthening our resilience and sustainability.

In addition, the 2012 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Guide (THIRA) or CPG-201 looks at those risks in our communities that can impact us through threat and hazard identification, cause and effect, resources and capabilities, target prioritization and capabilities, and overall results through response and planning measures along with mitigating opportunities.

Our programs, trainings, and working relationships can only get stronger! This newsletter will provide that opportunity for everyone to reflect not only what everyone has done and what's going on, but also advance our profession by promoting the principles of emergency management; to serve our members by providing information, networking and professional development opportunities.

Emergency Management Performance Grant



The Emergency Management Performance Grant program has been in existence for over 60 years and is considered one of the pillars of support for the emergency management system in the United States.

conducting their seventh annual survey seeking input from U.S. local government emergency management offices on the impact of Emergency Management Performance Grant funding. We need as much participation from local government emergency managers in the survey as possible! It is vital that we have the information to provide to Con-

gress to show the importance of EMPG in building emergency management capacity at the local level. Congress wants to know what they are getting for the money. The link to the on-line survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/IAEMEMPGSurvey2014> and the deadline is March 4, 2014.

Any significant cuts in this long-standing, proven program will have a drastic “ripple” effect on the preparedness capability across the nation. IAEM-USA is

Operation Invite A Friend

Existing IAEM USA members will be provided the opportunity to give away full memberships for 12 months, with all member benefits to an unlimited number of non-IAEM USA members!

This initiative provides the tool for us as individual members to grow this organization and invite our

friends to participate in our network, attend our incredible annual conference, participate in our wide range of committees and caucuses, receive our IAEM Bulletin, and have a voice in our profession and the policies that impact our communities.

As you begin to think about offering member-

ships, please take the time to think about the possibilities of future members. As a member-based organization, each one of us has a responsibility to grow the organization, to ensure that we are truly representative of our profession. For more information go to www.iaem.com

“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement and success have no meaning.”

Benjamin Franklin

Severe Weather Symposium



(C) Derek Deroche

Join Emergency Managers, Storm Spotters, Media, Meteorologists, and Weather Enthusiasts for Douglas County Emergency Management's 14th Annual Severe Weather Symposium. The event will be held 7:30

a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on **Saturday, April 12, 2014** at the University of Kansas Memorial Union (1301 Jayhawk Blvd.) in Lawrence, Kansas. Registrations will be ac-

cepted through April 4th.

The Symposium is for Storm Spotters, but is open to the public. This day is designed to train and expand your knowledge in advanced storm development as well as spotter safety and responsibility. The presentations will include incredible storm videos; experts in the field from the National

Weather Service and the private sector, and will include a Panel Discussion with local television meteorologists, guest speakers, and NWS meteorologists. For more information: www.douglas-county.com

Region 7—137 Members

Our ability to influence emergency management policy issues is dependent on the size and professionalism of our membership. I challenge all of you to help Region 7 grow and be heard!

IOWA—22 IAEM Members

Thomas Berger Dubuque Co. EMA	Michael Ehret Iowa EM Association	Larry Hurst Mills County EMA	Douglas Reed Pottawattamie Co. EMA
Samantha Brear Des Moines, IA	Michael Goldberg Linn County EMA	Chance Kness Clinton County EMA	Christopher Shade, AEM Veterans Hosp. of Central IA
Stephen Briscoe Grinnell College	Robert Goldhammer, CEM Dewberry	Melissa Kumle-Hammes JECC	Shawn Sharp University of Iowa
Robert Buser Mount Vernon EMA	Barry Halling Dallas Co. EMA	Michael Morlan Charles City, IA	James Wahome Iowa City, IA
Thomas Craighton Franklin County EMA	Gina Hardin, CEM Des Moines County EMA	Aaron (A.J.)Mumm Polk Co. EMA	Eddy Weiss LosbergerUS-C4L
Billy Dvorak, CEM Johnson County EMA		Jennifer Paukner Clinton County EMA	

KANSAS—36 IAEM Members

Lon Buller Harvey Co. EMA	Rita Hoffman, CEM Olathe, KS	Gary Middleton Middleton Assoc. Int.	Ricky Shellenbarger, CEM Sedgwick Co. EMA
Kyle Burns City of Overland Park	Jeanette Holt Haysville, KS	Steven Nelson 190th Air Refueling Wing	Allen Simmons Herrington, KS
Nelson Casteel Shawnee Co. EMA	Carolyn Koehn Via Christi Hospitals	Alisa Pacer Jo. Co. Community College	Teri Smith, CEM Douglas Co. EMA
Gary Curmode Sedgwick Co. Fire District #1	Tim Lockett, CEM Topeka, KS	Paula Phillips City of Lawrence	Brian Stone, CEM Cowley Co. EMA
Jeff DeGraffenreid Olathe Fire Department	Craig Loughlin US Army	Randy Pommenville Overland Park Fire Dept.	John Stradal Cowley Co. EMA
Randall Duncan, CEM Sedgwick Co. EMA	Charles Magaha Leavenworth Co. EMA	Tim Richards City of Olathe Fire Dept	Don Tinsley Lenexa Fire Department
Barry Fowler, CEM Booz Allen Hamilton	John Marmon University of Kansas	Dan Robeson Johnson Co. EMA	Steve Williams Truman Medical Centers
Cary Gerst Johnson Co. EMA	Matt May, CEM Johnson Co. EMA	Jillian Rodrigue Douglas Co. EMA	Tom Williams Overland Park, KS
Caroline Hackerott Hays, KS	Paul Meek, CEM Lawrence Memorial Hospital	Michael Selves, CEM Holton, KS	Emily Zahner Terracon Consultants, Inc.

MISSOURI – 63 IAEM Members

Meyer Library Missouri State University	Eric Evans University of Missouri	Michael O'Neal Platte Co. Sheriff's EMA	Michael Shelton Riverside Public Safety
James C. Kirkpatrick Library Univ. of Central MO	Edward Gilliam St. Peters Police Department	Mark Owen, CEM Platte Co. Sheriff's Dept.	Gene Shepherd City of Kansas City, MO
Anthony Avery Platte Co. Sheriff's EM	Thomas Hall FEMA Region VII	Andrew Palmer St. Louis University EMHS	Mark Sherwood Oak Grove - Sni Valley EMA
Wyatt Bacon Springfield, MO	James Ham SISU Strategic Survival Solutions Inc.	Michael Parker, CEM DHS, FEMA Region VII	Dianna Smith The Salvation Army
Stephen Bean KCMO EMA	Paul Harris, CEM Lake Regional Hospital	Michael Parkinson Maryville University	Kelsey Sparr St. Louis, MO
Edward Beirne Metro West Fire Protection District	Glenda Harrison Ava, MO	Lance Peeples St. Louis University	Keith Stammer Joplin - Jasper County EMA
Nathaniel Beiser St. Louis, MO	David Johnson, CEM Missouri State University	Gregory Porte City of Fair Grove	William Steadman SecurePathways
Les Boatright, CEM Kansas City Power & Light Co	Michelle Kidwell Callaway Co. EMA	Eric Ramsey Clay Co. EMA	Johnnie Stevens Saint Louis University
Gary Christmann St. Louis City EMA	Eric Knoll St. Louis College of Pharmacy	Denise Russell, CEM Camden Co. EMA	Andrew Stowers O'Fallon Police Dept
Rodger Clark Fort Leonard Wood, MO	Dorothy Lewis Liberty, MO	Joseph Russell Liberty, MO	Peter Sturner Peter C. Sturner & Associates
Jessica Conner St. Louis, MO	Vincent Loyal Metro West Fire Protection	Robert Russell SISU - Strategic Survival Solutions	Michael Thiemann Metro West Fire Protection
Abraham Cook Franklin Co. EMA	Richard Mahaney Daawn Food Products - MexMO	Jennie Sahagun Pevely, MO	Edgar Thomas St. Louis University Library
Frank Coots City of Independence	Lawrence McKeough, CEM City of Joplin Health Dept.	Joseph Sanders Saudi Red Crescent Authority	Paul Thomas, CEM Ballwin, MO
Joshua Creamer Boone County Fire District	Kyle McPhee, CEM Hagerty Consulting	Carolyn Sealy Saint Louis University	Gary Thurman United Way of Greater KC
Michael Curry Jackson County, MO	Ryan Nicholls, CEM Office of Emergency Mgmt	Susamma Seeley Catholic Charities Missouri	Christian Van Alstyne FEMA
Ty Davisson, CEM Washington University		William Sexton, CEM Webster County	Ken Walk St. Louis EMA

NEBRASKA – 15 IAEM Members

John Alspaugh Software Engineering Services	Paul Johnson Douglas Co. EMA	Whitney Shipley Douglas Co. EMA
Elizabeth Benson University of Nebraska - Lincoln	Shannon McVaney Sarpy Co. EMA	Kathleen Silva Bellevue, NE
William Cover, CEM Cover and Associates, Consultants	Bill Pook Region 5/6 EM	Melanie Smith Sarpy Co. EMA
David Edwards, AEM Regional West Medical Center	Mark Robertson University of Nebraska - Lincoln	Thomas Smith Omaha, NE
Stephen Huetter Bellevue, NE	Jon Rosenlund Grand Island-Hall Co. EMA	Rick Young Union College

IAEM-USA Committees

Much of the important work of IAEM and its members is carried out in the dozens of Committees, Caucuses and Work Groups operating under the auspices of the IAEM Councils. I encourage you to explore the work of these Committees and Groups at <http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=groups/us-committees> and get involved. If you'd like to join a group, please email the leadership of any Committee, Caucus, or Work Group and let them know that you'd like to participate and tell them how you can contribute to or learn from its important work. The challenges we face, as a profession and as a nation, are simply too great for us NOT to respond!

Current IAEM-USA Standing Committees, Ad Hoc Committees, and Caucuses

IAEM-USA Standing Committees

- Awards & Recognition
- Bylaws & Resolutions
- Conference
- Government Affairs
- Membership & Marketing
- Nominations & Credentials
- Standards & Practices
- Strategic Planning
- Training & Education
- Website

IAEM-USA Ad Hoc Committees

- Diversity
- EMI
- Past Presidents

IAEM-USA Caucuses

- Children in Disaster
- Emergency Services
- Emerging Technology
- Faith-Based
- Federal Facilities Emergency Mgrs.
- Food & Agriculture
- Healthcare
- Public-Private Partnership
- Special Needs
- Tribal Affairs
- Uniformed Services
- Universities & Colleges

A Look Back at 2013 – State of Kansas

Kansas Adjutant General 2013 Annual Report

Over the last three years, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) and Kansas Homeland Security (KSHLS) have experienced a reduction in federal funding of approximately 65 percent. Deputy Director Morgan has been working with the Office of the Governor, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments and various other persons and groups to develop a sustainability strategy for the KSHLS and the KDEM. The purpose of the information is to position both KSHLS and KDEM to withstand anticipated budgetary difficulties in the near future. The strategy will provide for the long-term viability of both divisions.

Due to budgetary constraints, a self-assessment tool has been developed that will help schools with a vulnerability assessment of safety, preparedness and security issues. The Comprehensive Resource Management and Credentialing System (CRMCS) currently have approximately 35,400 personnel and 3,600 pieces of equipment entered from state and local level. Integration between the Kansas Driver's License System and Resource Manager Web was finalized in September 2013, allowing the first responder indicator to be printed on Kansas driver's licenses. The LEOPard mapping support application was released in 2013 and provides GIS capability to assist in county emergency operations planning.

In planning, the update of the Kansas Response Plan which serves as the state's emergency operations plan was completed; the update of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) that identifies state hazards, risks associated with those hazards and specific actions which can reduce risk was also completed. This is the first time that the SHMP was written in a regional format, thereby enhancing the regional mitigation planning initiative.

A COOP tabletop exercise in July included 36 participants from eight state agencies to test the agencies' mission-essential functions, staff notification procedures in an emergency and alternate facility plans. An Alternate Site Drill in August challenged state agency participants to physically visit their alternate work sites and

complete a checklist evaluating the capabilities and functions that could be supported at the site. The exercise included more than 50 people from 12 state agencies.

Additionally, the regional hazard mitigation planning initiative involving the counties has been implemented and is 27 percent complete. Lastly, the state Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis (THIRA) was also updated and identifies capability targets for each core capability and estimated resources required to meet high priority capability targets.

Training staff facilitated the delivery or attendance of 23 courses from the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium. A total of 121 FEMA/National Incident Management System emergency management courses were provided to 2,690 participants. In 2013, the KDEM Volunteer Training Cadre grew to 65 members with 45 attending the Instructor Cadre Meeting and Professional Development Training.

Crisis City officially opened Oct. 1, 2009, and serves as a multiuse, fully-functional training complex for local, state and federal responders, emergency management officials, public and private industry safety professionals, and military operations in support of civil authorities.

A site survey conducted by National Guard Bureau officials has designated the Kansas Army National Guard Weapons Range and Crisis City as one of 10 national chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive training facilities in the country. Training venues at Crisis City have increased to 13 venues available for scheduling and use with two others in planning stages.

For federal fiscal year 2013, there were 21 projects supported in 2013. There were two major regional projects—a 12-county commodity flow study in the northeast and a three-county regional emergency operations plan update. One project was awarded to the Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute to offer classes around the state in the areas of hazmat on-scene incident commander and LP gas ammonia, and ethanol emergencies.

Website: www.accesskansas.org/kdem/

IAEM Clayton Christopher Award

Douglas County, Kansas Emergency Management Director Teri Smith was awarded the highest honor for a local emergency manager by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) - the Clayton Christopher Award – during the recent IAEM conference. This award is given to an active local emergency manager in recognition of unselfish devotion and outstanding contributions to the profession of emergency management. Smith is the president of IAEM-USA Region 7 and past president and northeast region vice president of the Kansas Emergency Management Association.



EMAP Accreditation

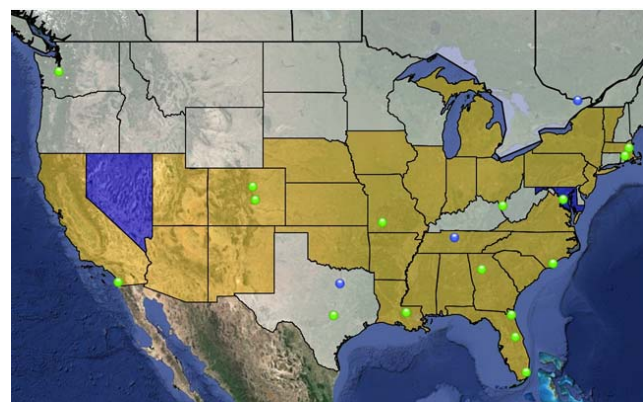


2013 marked the year the State of Kansas joined Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska as an Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) participant.

EMAP is an independent, non-profit organization, fostering excellence and accountability in emergency management and homeland security programs by establishing credible standards applied in a peer review accreditation process.

Emergency management departments, divisions or offices wishing to become accredited must follow a six step process that includes:

- 1) subscribing to EMAP that includes an EMAP Assessment Tool;
- 2) conducting a self-assessment using the tool to determine if existing programs are in compliance with the 63 EMAP standards with corrective activities and/or additional reviews are needed and then submitted to EMAP for review;
- 3) an application is completed once the assessment has been completed and there is a desire to pursue accreditation;
- 4) the applicant is provided information on a proposed schedule for a team visit for an on-site assessment;
- 5) an EMAP Program Review Committee reviews team findings and documentation provided of compliance or non-compliance with recommended accreditation submitted to the EMAP Commission; and,
- 6) the EMAP Commission may grant full accredited status, conditional accreditation (deficiencies can be addressed in nine months) or denial for accreditation with reasons for the decision.



■ Full Accreditation
 ■ Conditional Accreditation

A Look Back at 2013 – State of Iowa

Submitted by Lucinda Robertson, HSEMD PIO

The year 2013 was a busy and productive one for the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD), in great part due to the four Presidential Disaster Declarations received by the State of Iowa. Iowa's weather woes began in April with a severe winter storm and severe storms and flooding, followed by tornadoes, severe storms and flooding in May and June.



All four of Iowa's Presidential Disaster Declarations provided Public Assistance funding to the declared counties. More than \$45 million in damage is estimated to be eligible under the federal Public Assistance Program for the four disasters. The 2013 disasters also brought to the state an estimated \$6.8 million in hazard mitigation funding for projects statewide to minimize the impact of future disasters.

Iowa's state-funded Flood Mitigation Board began its work to create a flood mitigation program in 2013. This program allows certain governmental entities to submit flood mitigation projects to the board for review and possible approval of funding. The funding will come from either sales tax increments or funds appropriated by the General Assembly. In December 2013, the board approved funding for flood mitigation projects for six communities, totaling \$877 million with the state providing \$390 million via the sales tax increment. The board will consider applications for funding through the end of 2015. The board was created by the Iowa General Assembly and signed into law by the governor in 2012. HSEMD's director chairs this board and department staff is closely involved in assisting the board with its work.

Over the past year HSEMD took action to build response capability at the local level. Recognizing that all disasters start as local events, the department purchased and prepositioned pumps and generators throughout the state. Prepositioning of 31 pumps and 17 generators will enable quick access when these resources are needed. Another area where HSEMD is assisting local government is emergency mass notification. A survey conducted by the department showed that 52 counties spent more than \$600,000 per year for their current mass notification systems, while 46 counties used a free system or had no system at all. In 2013, HSEMD issued a request for proposal for a statewide mass notification system with the goal of providing greater access to this type of tool. In 2014, HSEMD will pursue implementation of an emergency mass notification system to create a more efficient system at a reduced cost.

HSEMD also began working with local emergency managers in 2013 to conduct an assessment of current local and state capabilities to carry out emergency management functions. A group of subject matter experts assessed current capabilities in 31 areas. This year, the group involved in this project will identify gaps in capabilities and propose ways to fill those gaps. The goal is to build capabilities from the ground up, and HSEMD has committed \$400,000 to this effort.

HSEMD continued its work in 2013 to upgrade the state's wireless 9-1-1 system using leading-edge technology. Iowa is one of the first states to complete a state-wide upgrade of its wireless 9-1-1 network to an Internet Protocol (IP)-based system, which is more robust and capable of handling new messaging technology. HSEMD is continuing to work with the state's public safety answering points over the next two years as they upgrade their call-taking equipment and with wireless service providers as they work to utilize this technology. When completed, this project will allow Iowans to contact 9-1-1 using IP-based text, video and picture messaging. A great many Iowans use communication devices that offer text, video and picture messaging capabilities and we must be able to

Management in 2013 to improve the state's emergency management system and ensure Iowa and Iowans are prepared for all emergencies and disasters.

Website: www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov

Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD)



Director:
Mark Schouten

The Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department has been working to make Iowa more prepared for disasters since it began as the State Civil Defense Agency in 1965. The focus of emergency management and the hazards faced by Iowans may have changed in some ways since that time, but what hasn't changed is our commitment to making our state more prepared for any emergency or disaster.

Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Department was directed by the Governor to coordinate Iowa's homeland security efforts. While this broadened our mission, our underlying priority of ensuring Iowa is prepared and ready to respond to any disaster drives all we do.

Iowa Emergency Management Association (IEMA)



President:
A.J. Mumm

The IEMA Executive Committee consists of a President, Vice President, Past President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, each of Iowa's six emergency management districts each elects a person to represent their district on the Executive Committee.

The Iowa Emergency Managers Association (IEMA) recently revamped an education program for local emergency managers. The IEMA Executive Committee established a working group to create version 3.0 of an education program.

The resulting Emergency Management Program Development Course now has a multi-method approach that includes classroom lecture, mentorship, and practical experience demonstrated through a task to design a program that focused on competency over compliancy. The work group met several times over the past year to update the curriculum, develop presentation materials, create instructor guides, and craft task books for each module. The course is taught jointly by local emergency managers from Iowa as well as staff from the Iowa HSEMD.

Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM)



Director/Adjutant General:
Major General
Lee Tafanelli

Deputy Director:
Angee Morgan

The Division of Emergency Management is the arm of the Adjutant General's Department that provides mitigation advocacy, planning requirements and guidance, response coordination, and administration of recovery programs for the civil sector of the State, regardless of the type of hazards.

Each county is required to maintain a disaster agency responsible for emergency preparedness and coordination of response to disasters.

The State and local governments work together to provide training to local emergency management and response personnel, along with periodic exercises to test the State and local emergency management systems.

Kansas Emergency Management Association (KEMA)

KEMA offers networking opportunities among local emergency managers as well as opportunities to interact with emergency management professionals, other affiliated individuals, governmental agencies, and interested private groups.

In response to a growing movement nationwide to provide for methods of professional certification of emergency managers, KEMA developed a certification program that would increase the visibility and scope of emergency managers' positions and the commensurate requirements to ensure that some mechanism was in place to evaluate persons who occupied these positions.



President:
Garry Berges

State of Missouri Emergency Management Agency (SEMA)

The State Emergency Management Agency, a division of the Department of Public Safety, is the state of Missouri's coordinating agency for disaster response.

The State Emergency Management Agency's mission is to protect the lives and property of all Missourians when major disasters threaten public safety in any city, county or region of Missouri. SEMA works with other state departments and agencies, and the federal and local governments to ensure coordinated disaster response.

The agency consists of almost 50 full-time employees in five branches: Executive; Administrative and Fiscal; Logistics and Resources Management; Operations, Training and Exercise; and, Planning and Disaster Recovery.



Acting Director:
Tim Diemler

Missouri Emergency Preparedness Association (MEPA)

The Association has been in existence since the 1950's and was formed by innovative local Civil Defense directors. Their mission, to help their fellow colleagues communicate to all the citizens throughout the state, better ways to prepare for disasters to be a collective group in getting that message to the citizens, and encourage the development and growth of the profession overall. The association still looks to provide these tasks and more through a new inspiring, group of individuals, enriched on innovating ways and educating means.



Acting President:
Mike Daniels

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)



Assistant Director:
Al Berndt

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is part of the Military Department. The state's Adjutant General, Major General Daryl Bohac, serves as the director of the agency as well as the commanding officer of the Army and Air National Guard.

The agency is located in a bunker built in the 1960s during the height of the Cold War. It was intended to serve as Nebraska's government headquarters if nuclear confrontation was likely. The agency headquarters now serves as the nerve center for emergency management. NEMA is a small agency with less than 40 full-time and part-time employees.

Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM)



President:
Lynn Marshall

The purpose of NAEM is to serve the emergency managers throughout Nebraska by: Encouraging the development of disaster resistant communities to reduce the effect of disasters on life and property; providing a forum for creative and innovative problem-solving on emergency management issues; fostering informed decision-making on public policy in the emergency management arena; providing means of networking opportunities between individuals involved in the many different facets of emergency management and Homeland Security; and, development and delivery of educational programs to the public.

The Nebraska Association of Emergency Management (NAEM) is governed by the following offices: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 5 Directors that represent the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) districts. NAEM has four membership levels: Professional, Associate, Departmental, and Retired. We are also considering an additional level for Emergency Management students who are enrolled in an accredited EM program. The Departmental membership is offered for larger agencies that have multiple EM staff and or EM Liaisons in their organization. We are currently coming off the NACO Conference in December and are currently rolling out some of the agenda for 2014 Annual conference April 2-4, 2014.

Another project we have on the calendar is our Statewide Severe Weather Poster Contest which is sponsored by NAEM, NEMA, and National Weather Service. We offer this contest to our fourth graders statewide, and the top 4 winners are honored at the State Capitol during the Governors' Proclamation kicking off the Statewide Severe Weather Awareness week March 24 - 28. The top winners earn a monetary gift for their efforts, ranging from \$125 for 1st, \$100 for 2nd, \$75 for 3rd and \$50 for fourth. Their award winning posters also are matted and framed as part of contest.

Website:
<http://www.naem.us/>

I am honored and enjoy being your Region 7 President, working with you, and look forward to the opportunities to continue giving my experience as the IAEM moves forward. I have a passion for our work and want to continue to ensure our region can mitigate against, plan for, respond to, and recover from an emergency or disaster.

I believe strongly in IAEM and want to use our knowledge and experience to help further the goals of the organization. To do this, we all need to continue to focus on these very important priorities within the Region:

Partner and work together: Working with our dynamic leaders and our dedicated members is a privilege. I have always been impressed with our members' dedication to our cause and the amount of work accomplished. We all need to continue building strong relationships to promote EM and public safety throughout the Region.

Maintain communications: It is imperative that an informed and motivated membership is maintained. I will continue to make it a priority that relevant topics of concern are shared, and that Governmental Affairs issues that impact EM at the local and national level are acted upon.

Increase membership: Take the challenge "Operation Invite A Friend" to continue building IAEM Region 7 by enhancing promotion of the organization and increase membership in our underrepresented areas. Increasing our membership provides us with the ability to influence EM policy issues.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you!



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IAEM—USA
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