



THE KEMA PERSPECTIVE

AUGUST 2013—ISSUE 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

VIRTUAL TTX	2
2014-2016 KEMA CONFERENCE LOCATION	5
VOTING	6
KCEM INTIAL CERTIFICATION	7
2013 KEMA CONFERENCE	8
POLICY-BYLAW	9
STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL	9
KAC UPDATE	10
CREDIT CARD USE AT THE CONFERENCE	11
KCEM RECERTIFICATION	12

THE KEMA BOARD

Serving as the KEMA President has been an exciting and interesting endeavor for the past 11 months. Being the President does not mean I have the duty to make all the decisions or to be left stranded on my own when questions or concerns arise. Being President of this organization means I get to work alongside some of the best professionals there are in the entire State of Kansas.

The KEMA Board consists of eleven (11) members: Past-President, President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and six (6) Regional Vice-Presidents. The KEMA Board is elected by the membership of either their Region or by general membership depending on the position.

Each Regional Vice-President is elected to a two year term and the six regions are split between even and odd years. During an odd year, elections are held in the Southeast, North Central and Southwest. The elections for Northeast, South Central and Northwest are held in the even years. This year is a bit different as South Central must hold an election to fulfill a term vacated by the resignation of the past Vice-President.

With that being said, keep in

mind that the Vice-President that you elect is your representative and liaison between your members and the KEMA Board. Your Vice-President is the gateway between what happens at the KEMA Board level and all members within KEMA. Being a Regional VP is just one more duty that an Emergency Manager takes on and they do it because they want to be actively involved and be supportive to the members.

This year, there will also be elections for KEMA's President-Elect and Treasurer. The Nomination Committee is currently taking names for anyone interested in either of those positions.

There are numerous Committees within KEMA that are looking for members. If you have an interest in any of those, please contact a Board member at the Conference this year about joining.

Throughout the year, KEMA Board and Committee members do a lot of "behind the scenes" work to make the Association

what it is today. While it is our goal to serve the membership and to promote professionalism and leadership, we understand that there may still be issues that arise. If you don't know your Regional VP or anyone else on the Board, please go to the KEMA website and search it out and make contact with them. We are all here to help. While we may not always answer your questions with the answer you want to hear, I can assure you that each KEMA Board Member is a professional and will do his or her best to address any concerns.

When you see a KEMA Board member, give them a sincere "thank you" for their service. If you've been in the field for awhile, you may be a past Board member so you know the work they do. If you're fairly new to the field, then your chance is coming! Be ready to step up and help keep KEMA as one of the best State Associations in the nation.

BY PRESIDENT STONE

VIRTUAL TABLETOP EXERCISE

BY: CODY CHARVAT

EMI's Virtual Tabletop Exercise: Is it Worth Your Time?

Back on June 25th, Sedgwick County Emergency Management had the opportunity to participate in a Virtual Tabletop Exercise (VTTX) sponsored by FEMA's Emergency Management Institute. The 'virtual' part comes from the fact that, while our host and facilitator was located in Maryland, we (and all the other participants) were still in our home jurisdictions, connected to each other via Video Conferencing (VTC) equipment. The purpose of this article is to describe our experience in case any of you are considering an application for an upcoming exercise in the VTTX series.

First, it almost goes without saying, but you need a VTC setup in good working order... and IT people who will leave it alone! We thought we had the former, but nearly were sunk because of the latter. We had considered applying for a VTTX earlier this year that was built around a tornado scenario, and even went so far as to test our connectivity with EMI at that time. Everything worked perfectly, but then we decided to skip the tornado and wait for the Mass Casualty Incident instead; we proceeded toward our new exercise date blissfully unaware that all was no longer well with our video equipment. In the interim, our IT folks had made significant changes to the Internet firewall and suddenly we no longer were able to

make or receive VTC calls. It wasn't exactly 'last minute', but it was pretty late in the game before we got the appropriate ports opened back up so that our equipment would function again.

Lesson 1: Test your VTC early, and test it often. Give us a call here at Sedgwick County and we'll be happy to do a test connection between our equipment and yours (that is true in all cases, whether you are preparing for a VTTX, or just need the practice).

The folks at EMI were very helpful throughout, and very easy to work with. My main POC was Training Specialist Todd Wheeler, and I can almost guarantee you will never work with anyone at any level of the Federal government who will respond faster than Todd. We had quite a few e-mail exchanges, and the only time he didn't respond within minutes was when he was deployed after Hurricane Sandy. EMI gets high marks for taking care of almost all of the pre-exercise documents, and getting them to you with plenty of lead time for you to make local customizations and distribute to your players.

One problem we encountered is **Lesson 2** for anyone considering an application: They have a limit on the number of VTC's that they can hook together for this exercise, so they must take applications for participation; that application window opens about eight weeks out and does not close until five weeks ahead of the exercise date. They take another week to process, so if you are selected, you will be given only one month's notice that you need to block out four-plus hours during the middle of the day for all your local participants (yes, it's a four hour exercise, more on that later). If you are going to apply, identify all players ahead of time, *assume you will be selected*, and have them put it on their calendar even before you apply. If you are not selected, it's a lot easier to go back and open that time up than it is to block it off just one month out.

But that is only part of the picture. **Lesson 3:** I would strongly recommend you tell everyone to block out the appropriate timeframe (probably 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM unless EMI changes something), **for three straight days:** the advertised day of the exercise, plus the day before and after. Here's why: the VTTX program has been met with great enthusiasm and they are seeing large numbers of (continued on page 3)



Cody Charvat
Sedgwick County EM
SC Region Vice President

"I'm a great believer that any tool that enhances communication has profound effects in terms of how people can learn from each other, and how they can achieve the kind of freedoms that they're interested in."
~Bill Gates

VIRTUAL TTX CONTINUED

applicants for each offering. They don't like saying 'no,' so what they told us (and 14 others) was 'You've been approved, but the original date has filled up, so if you want to participate, it will have to be on the day before.' Another 15 jurisdictions were told the same thing except they were moved to the day after. I understand why they did this, but it was frustrating not knowing it was coming and lead to some logistical issues trying to get that many people to move that large of a time block up one day with (in our case) less than a month's notice. EMI was willing to try to work with us if the date change had been rejected by our players.

As already mentioned, the exercise is four hours in length and starts promptly at 11:00 AM Central Time. If you think four hours is a long time for a TTX, you're right, especially when it includes the lunch hour here in the Midwest. We encouraged folks to eat lunch early, or told them they could brown-bag it and eat here in the EOC. I also made the mistake of telling them we started at 11:00; **Lesson 4:** do yourself a favor and set your local start time at 10:30 or 10:45 so you can have everyone in place and do introductions or discuss local logistics before EMI takes over at 11:00.

In fairness, the four hours did not seem that long to the players while they were engaged... provided their agency had something to contribute. If not, it can be very difficult to sit

around for four hours and listen to others discuss situations that won't involve you or your department. **Lesson 5** is making sure you have the invitation list whittled down to only those who need to be there. I asked for and was given an advance copy of the exercise PowerPoint which had highlights of the scenario, so I had a rough idea of which EOC partners we would and would not need.

Our exercise (and I believe they all are this way) was broken down into three modules. After 30 minutes up front for general ground rules and each site introducing themselves, there were 65 minutes designated for each module: five minutes of setup, 30 minutes of local discussion, then 30 minutes of report back from all groups via VTC. You are allowed to customize certain details within the broader scenario, but everyone answers the same six questions when reporting out. Depending on the size of your local group, you may be challenged to get through all six discussion points in that 30 minutes. As the local facilitator I didn't want to interrupt a good discussion, but I also realized it was my duty to make sure we discussed

every question.

The report-backs are the area of the exercise where I feel EMI has the most room for improvement. We ended up with 11 jurisdictions from around the country participating on our day; even if everyone keeps their remarks to four minutes, that's still 44 minutes of talking to fit in a 30 minute window; if all 15 approved jurisdictions had signed on, it would have been even worse. By the time any of you take part in future exercises, EMI may be back to their original plan which was either A) Have only one-third of the jurisdictions report on all their answers after module one, followed by another third after module two, and the final third after module three; or B) If every jurisdiction is going to report every time, limit it to reporting on just one or two of the discussion

(continued on page 4)



VIRTUAL TTX CONTINUED



points. Find out ahead of time what they are planning, and if they do not fix this, then **Lesson 6:** there will be no time given for breaks and your folks will have to do that while other agencies are reporting their answers. Obviously that defeats the purpose of getting multiple jurisdictions together to learn from one another, which is why I am hopeful we can convince EMI of the need to remedy this problem.

Once the exercise is complete you are responsible for sending in copies of the sign-in and feedback forms, plus a separate optional form for receiving a certificate of completion. Sorry, there are no CEU hours associated with the VTTX program, but it certainly would satisfy one of your EMPG exercise requirements, as long as you complete the AAR/IP, which EMI sends you a template for. You must complete it for your local jurisdiction and they ask that you have it back within 30 working days.

Since the report backs were so

long, we went all the way to the scheduled end time of 3:00 without completing the hotwash, so I was forced to do that through e-mail (which does have the added benefit of giving everyone a

day or so to absorb what happened before commenting on it). One of the most important things I asked our players was: If we do this again, will you participate? Most of the answers were 'yes,' although there were some with qualifications attached to their answers.

For my part, I felt our discussion sessions were good, but if you think about it, do we really need a four-hour EMI exercise to prompt 90 minutes of good local discussion? I bet most of us would answer that as "no;" so then what else did this VTTX offer that we don't normally have locally? The obvious answer is the ability to share with and learn from jurisdictions of various sizes from across the country; for our event we went from Connecticut to Nevada and from Alabama to Alaska; in terms of size, the smallest jurisdiction was 10K while the largest was 730K. That is an attractive drawing point, but it was mitigated almost entirely away due to the format used for report backs; you can only sit through so many people saying "Our answers are pretty much the

same as..." before you start tuning out. And if you also have to use the report-back time for restroom breaks, well, you get the picture.

So, bottom line: is it worth it and will we do it again? I think the answer to both questions is yes, but with a little hesitancy for the reasons just discussed. This is the first year for this program and I believe they will only get better the more they do. And now that we have learned a few lessons the hard way, we will be better prepared next time.

UPDATE: I allowed the folks at EMI to preview this article to help me correct any factual errors. They were very appreciative of the feedback, they recognized its validity, and said they were going to look at making changes to their program (especially the report-backs) and offer advice to future participants based on the Lessons Learned contained herein. If indeed those changes are made, I have even less hesitancy in recommending the program. EMI already has released their schedule for FY 2014 which can be found by searching the term 'VTTX' on their website. There are some attractive offerings on there, so if you do decide there are one or more that you want to pursue, I hope you can use our Lessons Learned to help enhance your experience.

KEMA CONFERENCE IS MOVING

BY:BYRDEE MILLER-MARCIC

In the last newsletter I mentioned we would announce more information about the 2014, 2015 and 2016 conference. Well, here we go!

The KEMA Conference after this year’s meeting will have been in Topeka Ramada for six years and although it is an excellent location it was time for a change. And as most of you know every three years the KEMA Board’s Site Selection Committee sends out information across the state to gather information about the best locations to host the next three years conference. In November of 2012 several places responded to this request. After much research, phone calls and emails, six locations were presented to the Board in February. All board members present at the February meeting voted to visit two of those locations.

On March 28, 2013 Brian Stone, Beth Reed, Garry Berges, Mike Selves and Gary Middleton toured those two facilities. I did not get to attend this meeting as my husband Richard and I were visiting with his hip doctor about his approaching hip replacement.

At the Board’s recommendation the Courtyard by Marriott, 310 Hammons Dr. Junction City, Kansas was chosen. This is located at the exit 298 off of I-70 and has many things to offer for a very organized, educational and enjoyable conference. Some of

the positive things the conference organizers are looking forward to, for you, at the Marriott are:

- Those visiting the hotel and conference center found the facility to be extremely clean and pleasant. Although the hotel was clean, it is our understanding before the 2014 conference some extensive updating will have taken place. Talk about awesome!
- The break out rooms, general session room, banquet room and vendors space are located near each other and have plenty of room, also this area is somewhat separate from sleeping rooms.
- The registration folks will have plenty of area and a very secure



room for all of their supplies as well as the computers and projectors used for the breakout sessions.

- The vendors will have a garage door to drive directly into the building to unload and load as well as oodles of room to set up and interact with the conference

attendees.

- Several eating establishments are near-by for those arriving early or if you just want to take a break from the rest of us. Wal-Mart is also very close by for those that tend to leave important things at home.
- There is also a car wash nearby for those of us coming in from the country so we don’t look different!
- But one of the best things for some of us is that the hospitality room is located on the main floor meaning no stairs to navigate and it has direct access to the outside and into a secure courtyard area! What a wonderful place to interact with your neighbors! Also the Geary County Visitors Bureau has agreed to furnish \$1500 towards the conference. They have also been very hands on in scheduling the Golf game, Clay Shot and other activities.

One of the best things other than the entire items listed above is that we as conference attendees will be the only guests in the facility. Over all the conference for 2014 on September 10-12; 2015 conference on September 16-18 and 2016 conference on September 14-16 should be very comfortable, interesting, enlightening, safe and fun place to be.

One cannot ask for more than that, can we? We as the Board hope to see each and every one of you at the conference this year and in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Again, we do appreciate the Ramada Inn, Topeka for being well organized, professional and accommodating to us during the past six years.

ON-LINE VOTING

BY: PAM BEASLEY

Did any of us ever think that we would see the day when KEMA had online voting? When I actually started in Emergency Management in 2008 I never dreamed I would be where I am today nor did I think about online voting for KEMA officers. Well that time has come!!!

A big thanks to Brian Stone and his persistence to get this up and going, I know it doesn't look like a lot of work, however, I can tell you from personal experience a lot of time and effort was spent on designing, thinking of possible problems, as well as answering questions before they were asked!!! I have completed a couple of surveys through SurveyMonkey and was somewhat familiar with this website, but I learned a lot from actual experimenting with the design of this survey. The survey that we designed was specifically designed for several reasons; to receive feedback from members and to test the survey for voting purposes and alleviate possible issues before the official voting survey. At this time we have received responses from

almost half of the KEMA members with hopefully more results to come. Several members have taken the approach to test all possible scenarios or problems with the survey and I appreciate that!!!

Why do I mention this? Two words...KEMA Membership...In the past KEMA members that voted were the ones attending the conference. Why should you have to attend the conference to have a voice on whom will be representing you as KEMA? I would hope that everyone that can attend the conference, however, with budget cuts these days we all know that is not an option in some cases. I truly believe for an organization to succeed it is a joint effort of every member. At this time we have almost half of the KEMA members that have answered the "test survey" the responses received are positive and accomplished exactly what we wanted.

On the last note, I want to share with everyone a

thought to grow on. I initially had planned on running for President Elect this year. Originally, I guess I wasn't thinking with all of my brain...could I really run for President Elect and still maintain the position as Chair of the Nomination Committee with all the new online voting process? Originally I thought I could; but the more involved I became, the more questions I had, including integrity of the voting process. As the end goes, I had too much heart in seeing the online voting through the first year and that set it as my priority. Do I regret the decision, absolutely not. I'm proud of everyone involved in the accomplishing this process and will continue on!!! Thanks to all my fellow KEMA members for your support, input, and networking. Remember, to accomplish the goals of KEMA is a joint effort not just one!!!



Pam Beasley
Allen County EM
SE Region Vice President



Don't Forget to Vote!!!

KCEM INITIAL CERTIFICATION BY: GARY MIDDLETON

Achieving the Certification as an Emergency Manager is a milestone in professional development. Meeting the standards set by the Kansas Emergency Management Association indicates that the applicant has acquired the knowledge and experience basics needed by those in the emergency management field.

For successful submission of the initial application package, the applicant needs to carefully study and adhere to the guidelines found on the KEMA website. The standards have recently changed by action of the KEMA Board of Directors as presented to the 2012 Annual KEMA Conference and have been incorporated in the guidelines found on the website. Those changes relate to training courses on exercise. The changes were necessary to comply with current courses available to the applicants.

Listed below is the excerpt from the current guidelines related to the exercise requirement:

Exercises: Must have taken the following EMI online courses:

IS-120a - An Introduction to Exercises and IS-130 - Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning, plus attend the two courses being conducted by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management titled, *Exercise Design for Discussion Based Exercises and Exercise Design for Operations Based Exercises*. In addition, applicants are required to participate in the design, execution, evaluation and proposed improvement planning for at least one exercise per year for the past two year period. Official documentation must be provided such as sign-in rosters from meetings concerning the design, or a list of agency participants from the exercise, After Actions Report, and Improvement Plan. The applicant must also provide documentation of completion of the *Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program* (HSEEP).

Common problems encountered by applicants submitting their initial

KCEM application package include:

- Lack of required documentation
- Inappropriate listings of courses related to emergency management (i.e. first responder training, public health courses, etc.)
- No or insufficient documentation on the applicant's current emergency management related job description or a letter from the applicant's employer describing their emergency management role

My goal is to help qualified applicants successfully achieve the designation of Kansas Certified Emergency Manager. If I can be of assistance in achieving that goal, please contact me at:

gmiddleton@emfusionllc.com



Gary Middleton
KEMA State Agency Liaison
KCEM Initial Certification Officer

"You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world."

~ Tom Brokaw

2013 KEMA CONFERENCE**BY: GARRY BERGES**

The countdown has started!! In less than 60 days, the 2013 KEMA Conference will be here. Our theme this year is “**Expanding Our Horizons.**” Emergency Management has changed in the past few years and now with social media and other tools at our disposal, the theme fits right in. We have to look past where we have been and look way ahead as we do our job.

This will be the final year for the conference in Topeka. In looking over the schedule, it will be packed with opportunities to learn and interact with your fellow emergency personnel. And of course, the hospitality area will be open on both Wednesday and Thursday evenings for “networking”.

The registration info along with the schedule should be up on the KEMA website by August 1st. We are once again using CVent to help register and track attendees to the conference. Once the website is operational, you will be receiving an e-mail about the conference.

Make sure to get signed up and get your hotel reservation done. Our group ID with the Ramada Inn is CG9981. Use this number when making your hotel reservation.

Several people have been working on getting this conference ready to go. Mike Selves has been working

since about January to get the 2 Keynote Speakers booked. He has also arranged for the 3 different tracks which will be our breakout sessions during the conference. Gary Middleton is our contact with the hotel and will be taking care of the logistics of the conference. Russel Stukey is our Vendor Chair this year and has been working to get vendors signed up to show their products during the conference.

Tuesday, September 10, is the Pre-Conference Training. In the morning, we will have a Hands-on Social Media Course. You will be able to learn about how you can use the different social medias to get your information out to the public. In the afternoon, one can choose to attend either a NWS Weather School for EMs, or learn more about the Accountability Systems that are being used (Rapid Tag, Mobile Express, Command, and InterTRAX Exchange). Then starting at 4pm, the Golfing and Skeet Shoot will take place, followed by the hamburger cookout sponsored by E-Fm Consulting.

Wednesday, September 11, will be the official start of the conference. After the presentation of the Colors and Welcome by the dignitaries; Dr. Kathleen Tierney, Director, Natural Hazards Research Center, University of Colorado will speak. The afternoon will have breakout sessions, followed by

the vendor reception where you can spend more time one-on-one with the vendors while enjoying hors d’oeuvres. The Hospitality Room will be open that night for networking.

Thursday, September 12, Dr. Daniel Hahn, Director of Plans, Santa Rosa County, Florida will be the Keynote Speaker, followed by our annual KEMA meeting. The afternoon will be more breakout sessions. The evening will end with the annual Awards Banquet. Then off to the hospitality room for more networking.

Friday, September 13, the final breakout session will be held. Following that, we will do a short wrap-up session and give out door prizes (must be present to win). The 2013 KEMA Conference will be wrapped up by 11am so everyone can head back home. We are hoping that Maj. General Lee Tafanelli will be able to address the attendees sometime during the conference.

I hope that you can attend the conference. It is the one time of the year that the majority of the Emergency Managers and staff can get together and discuss issues and learn together. Invite someone who has not attended the KEMA Conference in the past to join us at this conference. **See you in Topeka!**

POLICY-BYLAW UPDATE

Well folks the Board has been very busy the last several months. It has been a vision of KEMA leadership to provide a more effective and efficient way to communicate changes in the KEMA policy and By-Laws to its membership to keep all involved. The Board has had the vision to bring virtual voting to the membership for years. I am here to tell you all that day has come. With that vision set out from the Board virtual voting is now a reality. I had been tasked to present Policy and By-Law changes to allow the Board and the Membership the capability to vote on issues via electronic voting. That task has been completed and present to the Board and approved; now it is your turn as members to start your voting

from your desk or where ever you might have computer access.

Without changes in the present way of doing business, the Board would have to propose a change to By-laws or cast elections at the annual conference and implement the change for the next year. The proposed change in virtual electronic voting will expedite the process and allow the Board to move forward with time sensitive issues that may arise in the months before and or after the annual conference. Allowing all members the opportunity to vote electronically will get everyone involved. With time constraints or whatever the case may be, membership will now all have the opportunity to vote via computer website, whether you gain access from your smart phone, office equipment, neighbor's equipment or local Li-

brary you can vote.

The Board is excited to present the new way of voting to its membership. The first few changes will be found in the By-laws on voting for positions of the Board. Voting will be monitored with your KEMA Membership card. All members will have one vote on each subject presented to the membership. The Board will then present the outcome of the electronic vote at the annual conference when the vote is for a position for the Board. If the subject is other than the position of the Board leadership, the Board will have the capability to present the outcome either by email or the KEMA Web page. Anyway just wanted you all to know that good changes are on the way and if you should have any questions please contact your Regional Vice President or any member of the Board. See you all real soon in September.



Chuck Magaha
Leavenworth County EM
Policy-Bylaw Chair

BY: CHUCK MAGAHA

STATEWIDE TORNADO DRILL

What Are We Really Testing?

Each year in March, emergency managers, the National Weather Service, and partner agencies across Kansas take time to participate in and promote Severe Weather Awareness Week. As you know, this is an ideal time, generally before severe weather strikes, to spread the word about severe weather mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, but also to encourage active participation and awareness from the public, media,

and local businesses through the Statewide Tornado Drill. This drill is designed to simulate an actual tornado warning and activate the means by which individuals and those responsible for warning and notification receive and disseminate this information. Unfortunately, the way the current programming is set, this test is limited in its ability to truly test the warning system. Weather radios are activated and emergency managers activate their outdoor warning sirens, but what about the rest of the warning

system? When the test tornado warning is issued, it does not show up on the NWS's website or in NWS Chat nor does it activate Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), iNWS, or other cell phone applications or call notification systems. For example, Douglas County Emergency Management utilizes software to automatically
(continued on page 10)



Jillian Rodrigue
Douglas County EM
NE Region VP

BY: JILLIAN RODRIGUE

...TORNADO DRILL CONTINUED

post severe weather watch and warning posts to Twitter and Facebook and IRIS (a call notification system in which users can sign up to receive weather alerts). Neither system pushed that test tornado warning out as it would during a live tornado warning. No one received a WEA nor did their newest cell phone application alert them to the test. Local media helped share the information about the drill, but we

still had a number of individuals who were completely in the dark about the test. If the goal of the statewide tornado drill is to test the warning system and encourage each business and resident to practice their severe weather plan, we are failing our citizens. Without a change in the test tornado warning coding or changes in the programs we use, the drill does not meet its goal. The KEMA

Board of Directors will be reviewing a letter which, if approved, will be sent to representatives of the National Weather Service to press for collaboration to find ways to correct this situation, so that we may effectively reach our residents in an effort to help them prepare for the severe weather season of today and tomorrow.

“History is a vast early warning system.”

~Norman Cousins

KAC UPDATE

The mission of the KAC is to improve county government in the state of Kansas; act as a liaison with other levels of government; present the county position on state issues, advocate legislative policies that advance the interests of Kansas counties, and advance public understanding of the role of counties.

The Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) exists as an instrumentality of the member counties of the state of Kansas. Any formalized association of county officials of Kansas Counties shall be eligible for affiliate membership in the KAC if:

1. The association of county officials has been formally organized for at

least one year;

2. The association has a membership representing at least fifty-three (53) counties;

3. The association is regularly involved in and serves for the benefit of county government.

Such association shall be admitted as an affiliate member upon request to the KAC, election by a majority vote of the delegates attending a meeting of the KAC; and payment of dues (\$2000 each year) as prescribed by the KAC Governing Board. KEMA is an affiliate member, and has a representative serving on the KAC Governing Board.

Any formalized association

BY: LON BULLER

that is regularly involved in, or serves for the benefit of county government shall be eligible for associate membership in the KAC. Such association shall not have voting rights within the KAC. Such association shall be admitted as an associate member request to the KAC; approval of the Governing Board; and payment of dues (\$800 each year) as prescribed by the Governing Board.

The work of the KAC Governing Board is to govern. The words govern, government, governance derived from the Greek word “to steer”. The KAC Board has ten basic responsibilities as follows:

1. Determine mission and



Lon Buller
Harvey County EM
KAC Rep



...KAC UPDATE CONTINUED

purpose

2. Select chief executive
3. Support the chief executive and evaluate him/her against pre-determined criteria
4. Ensure effective planning
5. Ensure adequate financial and human resources
6. Protect assets through proper financial oversight
7. Monitor and strengthen progress
8. Enhance the organization's public standing
9. Ensure legal and ethical integrity
10. Assess and develop board effectiveness

The KAC Governing Board has the legal responsibilities as follows:

1. Duty of Care in which decision making should reflect the level of care that would be exercised by an ordinary person;
2. Duty of Loyalty in which Board Members act out loyalty to the organization and never for personal gain or gain for another agency;
3. Duty of Obedience in which Board Members are faithful to the mission of the organization and ensure that resources are used to support the mission.

In 1998 KEMA became an affiliate member and has a representative that is seated on the KAC Governing Board. The KAC Governing Board is made up of fifteen (15) members which are: County Coun-

selors (1), County Commissioners (6), County Clerks (1), Highway (1), EMS (1), Noxious Weed (1), Emergency Management (1), Health (1), Appraisers (1), and a NACO representative (1).

My role as your KAC representative is to advocate for the KEMA membership on those emergency managements that are in the best interest of counties in Kansas. On some occasions there may be other issues that may be supported as well. You are welcome to view KAC's website at <http://www.kansascounties.org/> which has a wealth of information. The KEMA President appoints a representative to the KAC Governing Board. I am currently the representative and may be contacted about any questions or issues that you may have at:

Lon Buller, KCEM
Harvey County Emergency Mgmt.
316-284-6910
lbuller@harveycounty.com

CREDIT CARD USE AT THE KEMA CONFERENCE**Jillian Rodrigue and Beth Reed**

Have you attended a KEMA Conference and ever asked, "Can I pay my registration or membership fees with a credit card?" The answer to that question is now much closer to a resounding "Yes"! The KEMA Board has opted to utilize a service called PayPal Here™. This app and associated card reader are linked to KEMA's PayPal account. We are working diligently to have this available at the conference for those of you needing to pay with a credit card. Here are a few details you should know:

A 2.7% rate per transaction will be added to your payment. This is a cost from PayPal for each transaction.

The card reader has the highest level of encryption and no personal data is stored on the phone, the PayPal Here™ app, or the card reader. The only information the phone will have is a phone number or e-mail, supplied by you, for a receipt of your transaction.

You can receive a refund if paying by this method. The refund is based upon KEMA's refund guidelines.

For more information on the PayPal Here™, visit <http://bit.ly/PayPalHereInfo>.

KCEM RECERTIFICATION BY: JOHN STRADAL



John Stradal
Cowley County EM
KCEM Recertification Officer

Since I took on the role of KCEM Recertification chair in 2012, I have had the pleasure of working with Emergency Management professionals throughout the State of Kansas, granting many KCEM renewals, and also answering many questions regarding the recertification process.

The most common question I have been asked is in regard to renewal reminders, specifically when and how they would be sent out. After careful consideration, I have decided to send out a list twice a year for distribution to the membership via the Regional VPs. This list will be sent out in January and June of each year, and will contain the names of KCEM holders due to expire, as well as those who are within their one year renewal grace period. In sending out a list twice a year, I hope to strike a balance between not sending out notices, and sending out individual emails to every KCEM holder.

When the time for KCEM renewal comes around, there are a few things that can help

expedite the processing of an application.

- Before submitting an application and supporting materials, please make sure that the application has been filled out completely, and that all necessary supporting documentation is provided. I occasionally see applications that are missing vital information, such as exercise sign in sheets, or copies of course certificates.
- When submitting a course for professional credit hours, please make sure that the number of credit hours for each course is clear. This information ideally could be provided on the application form itself, but should at least be available on the copies of course certificates.
- Courses used for professional credit that are not FEMA/DHS/EMI courses should

still relate back to the Emergency Management field in some way. An example of this might be training provided by a pipeline company or hazardous materials facility. If a course being submitted is unusual, a brief blurb describing the course and how it relates to EM will aid in awarding credit.

It is my goal to process each KCEM recertification application quickly, and to aid each KCEM holder in successfully obtaining their recertification. I can be reached via the contact information provided on the KEMA website, and I am happy to answer any general or specific questions relating to the recertification process, or the KCEM certification in general.

“We can’t help everyone, but everyone can help someone.”

~Ronald Reagan

We are on the web!

www.kema.org



Contact the 2013 KEMA Board

Past President Teri Smith
tsmith@douglas-county.com (785) 838-2460

President Brian Stone
bstone@cowleycounty.org (620) 221-0470

President-Elect Garry Berges
Garry.Berges@jcks.com (785) 238-1290

Secretary Keri Korthals
kkorthals@bucoks.com (316) 733-9796

Treasurer Beth Reed
rc26@nckcn.com (785) 527-5692

NW VP Keith Haberer
russellcountiem@rfd5.org (785) 483-5100

NC VP Rodney Job
lcem@lincolnks.org (785) 524-5005

NE VP Jillian Rodrigue
jrodrigue@douglas-county.com (785) 838-2459

SE VP Byrdee Miller-Marcic
elkcoem@gmail.com (620) 374-3597

SC VP Cody Charvat
ccharvat@sedgwick.gov (316) 660-5968

SW VP Vaughn Lorenson
stcoem@pld.com (620) 492-6892