



THE KEMA PERSPECTIVE

NOVEMBER 2012

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- KEMA Conference Review and Award Highlights
- Get to know your 2013 KEMA Board
- Changes in the KCEM and KCEM Contacts
- Scholarship Update
- Updated information on EMAP

GIVING THANKS THIS SEASON BY PRESIDENT STONE

It seems that the fall season (for some, it went straight to winter) is upon us. It is the time of year when we all start thinking about the holidays, which include great family time, food, traveling, time off work, and of course..... Kansas Jayhawks Basketball.

For anyone in public service, especially in the field of emergency services, the holidays also mean that we may be pulled away from all of those things to do what we have dedicated our lives in doing.

I want to take a brief moment and encourage everyone to give thanks to the people of all the great services, agencies and departments across the State of Kansas who are willing to sac-

rifice so much every day of every year so that others may be safe and protected.

The field of Emergency Management is one in which we work so hard to pull so many of those agencies together in a unified approach to emergency and disaster preparedness. As we enter the holiday season, please take some time to think about all of the wonderful partner agencies we have, not only at the local level, but those at the State and Federal levels, our neighboring states, private partners and

many, many more. We are but just one piece of the giant puzzle that somehow always fits together when lives are at stake and property is at risk.

Emergency Management is more than just a job, career or passion ... it is also a family.



Let's all be aware of what we are really thankful for and take the

time to say it or show it with an

encouraging word or an act of kindness.



2012 KEMA CONFERENCE IN REVIEW

September is an exciting month for Emergency Management and their partners across the State of Kansas. Not only is it National Preparedness Month, but it is also the time of year where EMs and numerous partners gather for the annual KEMA Conference. The 2012 Conference was held in Topeka at the Ramada Inn hotel, making this the fifth year in a row in Topeka. The Ramada and the City of Topeka have been great hosts and we've enjoyed our time there.

The 2012 Conference had 166 participants and hosted 37 vendors. There were 14 separate breakout topics, all of which have received great reviews from the participants. This year, the plenary and general session speakers included Professor Roger Pielke, Jr. from the University of Colorado; Andy Bailey, WCM from the NWS Office in Kansas City; Keith Stammer, EM Director for Joplin/Jasper County, MO; Angee Morgan, Deputy Director for KDEM; and Judd Freed, EM Director for Ramsey County, MN.

One of the best portions of the Conference is the Awards Ban-

quet. Each year, some very deserving members of the EM community receive awards as voted on by their peers. Keith Haberer, Russell and Ellsworth Counties, received the Owen U. Turrentine Emergency Management Professional of the Year Award; Randy Blehm, Meade County received the Col. Mahlon G. Weed Outstanding new EM Professional Award; Randy Hill, Kingman County Sheriff received the Leon H. Mannell Outstanding Emergency Management Support Professional Award; Cathy Hernandez, KDEM won the Randy Reinecker Instruct of the Year Award; Bill Guy from Reno County, Jim Schmidt from Butler County and Deborah Swoboda from Washington County were all recipients of Life Member Awards. The Awards Banquet emcee and long time supporter of KEMA, Melissa Brunner of WIBW-TV in Topeka, received an

Honorary Member Award. Douglas County LEPC was recognized with an Outstanding Service award.

This year, there were Special Recognition Awards given to the Emergency Management agencies in 13 Counties across the State for "Best practices of cooperative partnerships with the National Weather Service for actions taken during the Tornado Outbreak of April 14, 2012". Those EM agencies are from the following counties: Barton, Butler, Ellsworth, Kingman, Harper, Marion, McPherson, Reno, Rice, Russell, Saline, Sedgwick and Sumner.

I would to extend a kind "thank you" to all of the Board Members, participants, willing helpers and EM Fusion, LLC. for all the work in making the 2012 KEMA Conference a success. Emergency Management across the State is a great field due to all the people and their willingness to serve others.

The 2013 KEMA Conference (continued on pg3)



Pres. Stone presenting Keith Haberer the EM Professional of the Year Award.

"The EOC is the Home Depot, aisles 1-15"
 ~ Don Angell



Pres. Brian Stone presenting Randy Blehm his award.

...MORE 2012 KEMA CONFERENCE

will be held in Topeka September 11-13, 2013 at the Ramada Inn in Topeka.

If you've never attended a conference, please consider joining

us next year. If you have any conference related questions or just any question related to Emergency Management, con-

tact your local Emergency Management agency or any KEMA Board Member.



Bill Guy and Reno County receiving their awards.

KDEM AND EMAP

The Emergency Management Accreditation Program or EMAP, is a voluntary review process for state and local

emergency management programs. EMAP defines "emergency management" in the

broadest sense, meaning it encompasses all organizations with (Continued on Page 5)

BY: JACKIE MILLER

KCEM NEWS

Hello to all my KEMA colleagues! I'd like to take this opportunity to bring you all up to date on some of the recent changes to the requirements for the KCEM certification, as well as introduce the new KCEM contacts for certification and re-certification.

The Kansas Certified Emergency Manager (KCEM) certification has existed for many years, and its primary purpose is to ensure a standard of training, experience, and education among Emergency Management professionals. As part of KAR 56-2-2, an Emergency Manager in the State of Kansas must obtain and maintain certification as an emergency manager from an association or

institution identified and published by the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM). The KCEM certification satisfies that requirement.

In order to remain current, there have been a few recent changes to the KCEM requirements, all having to do with exercise related training. One course that was previously required was no longer available, necessitating a change. Now, for initial certification, the following courses are required: IS-120a An Introduction to Exer-

cises, and IS-130 Exercise Evaluation and Improvement Planning. In addition, new requirements have been added to ensure new KCEM applicants fully understand the exercise development and execution process. Two of these courses are offered and conducted by KDEM and are entitled Exercise Design for Discussion Based Exercises, and Exercise Design for Operations Based Exercises. The third course is the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) course, (Continued on Page 4)

BY: JOHN STRADAL

**"Leaders are visionaries with a poorly developed sense of fear and no concept of the odds against them."
~Robert Jarvik**



MEET YOUR KEMA BOARD**BY: KERI KORTHALS**

While the 2013 KEMA Board is made up of a lot of familiar faces, the Board realizes that not everyone has had a chance to meet the people who have accepted the responsibility of keeping the Association running smoothly. To this end, we've compiled a quick "who's who" to introduce you to the members who be serving you for the next year.

First up is Teri Smith. As last year's KEMA President, Teri will now be filling the role of Past President. Currently in her 5th year on the Board, she has been a member of the Association for approximately 16 years. She is the Director of Douglas County Emergency Management, a position she accepted in 2007, after serving as the Assistant Director since 1995.

After a full year of conference planning, Brian Stone is making the move from President Elect to KEMA President. He has participated on the Board for four years, serving as the South Central Region Vice President before taking on the President Elect role in 2012. Brian is the Coordinator for Cowley County Emergency Management, a position he's held for 10 years—the same amount of time he's been a KEMA Member.

Garry Berges is picking up the

conference planning mantle from Brian Stone as he moves into the role of President Elect for 2013. As he begins his 3rd year of involvement with the KEMA Board, he also hits the decade mark as an Association member. For the past seven years, Garry has held the position of Geary County Emergency Management Director, as well as serving as a rural fire chief.

Beth Reed is currently one of the longest-serving members of the KEMA Board, having been involved with the Board for 10 years. She has also been a KEMA Member for an impressive 20 years, becoming a Life Member in 2010. In 2013, she'll continue in her role as the Treasurer for the Association. She is the administrative assistant for Republic County Emergency Management and has been in that position for 20 years.

Keri Korthals is new to the KEMA Board this year, assuming the role of Secretary for 2013. She currently works for Butler County Emergency Management as the administrative assistant, a position she's held for the last three and a half years. She has also been an Association member for the same amount of time.

Moving to our illustrious Vice Presidents, we begin with Rodney Job who represents the North Central Region. Rodney has served on the

KEMA Board since 2011 and has been an Association member since 2006. He has been with Lincoln County Emergency Management for 27 years, filling the role of Director the last six years.

Jillian Rodrigue is another newcomer to the Board, serving as the Northeast Region Vice President. She is employed by Douglas County Emergency Management, where she has been the Assistant Director for five years. She became a KEMA member in 2007.

Keith Haberer is starting his second full year with the KEMA Board. A year ago he was appointed by then President Lon Buller to fill the open position of the Northwest Region Vice President. Since then, he has been elected by his region to continue on in that position. He became the Director of Emergency Management in Russell County in 2006 and in 2011, he officially took on responsibility for Ellsworth County as well (though he and Rodney Job had already been helping Ellsworth out for sometime before that). Keith has been involved with KEMA since 2006.

Charlene Miller is starting her third year on the KEMA Board, though she is changing positions within the Board. She has served as KEMA's Secretary for the past two years, and this fall was elected to the position of South Central Region Vice President. She has been with Butler County Emergency Management where (continued on the Page 8).....

...KCEM CONTINUED

also offered by KDEM. After many years, Deb Swoboda and Bryan Armstrong have stepped down from their positions as contacts for initial KCEM certification and re-certification respectively. Both have served the KEMA organization faithfully, and I thank them for their service. Gary Middleton is the new contact

for initial certifications, and I will assume the role of KCEM re-certification contact. Our information will be updated on the KEMA website shortly, and any future applications should be sent to one of us. Should any have ques-

tions regarding the new requirements, or anything else relating to the KCEM certification, Gary or I would be happy to answer them for you. He and I both look forward to working with you all in the future!



Deb Swoboda and her Lifetime Membership Award, along side her family.

...EMAP CONTINUED

emergency/disaster functions in a jurisdiction, rather than only one agency or department. This system includes organizations involved in prevention of , mitigation against, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disasters or emergencies.

KDEM is fully engaged in the EMAP process as we prepare

for the onsite assessment scheduled December 10-14, 2012. Our emergency management partners are also very busy in this process and have been supportive and are working with us to become accredited. The process of self assessment has been invaluable in and of

itself, as we work together to look critically at all of our programs. We have discovered that we do many things well and definitely meet the standards and we have discovered shortfalls that we are working diligently to correct. As we (Continued Page 9)

“Emergency Management is an insurance policy against disaster”
~Kevin Wisniewski

KEMA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BY: JILLIAN RODRIGUE

An endowment will be established on behalf of KEMA at the Republic County Community Foundation (RCCF) which is an affiliate of the Greater Salina Community Foundation. The RCCF provided the lowest monetary base of \$10,000, to begin giving out funds. While

KEMA maintains ownership over the funds, are our funds are invested with the total funds of the Foundation (~\$70+million dollars) for a larger possible return. Once KEMA reaches that \$10,000 goal, we

can begin to give scholarship at an amount of 5% of the total fund. As part of the RCCF, our program will show up on their website for all viewers to be able to donate.

(continued page 7)....



Jim Schmidt and Butler County receiving their awards.

THE NATURE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BY: MIKE SELVES

By the time this is published, we will have had one of the most widespread natural hazard events ever on the East Coast. Such an event will invariably engender a good deal of discussion about the nature and function of Emergency Management. The problem with such discussions is that for years, many emergency managers (including those in FEMA) do not really understand their own “system” so its not surprising that public officials and the media doesn’t either. Short of a “crash” course in the philosophy of Emergency Management in the U.S., it’s very hard to explain how the system is supposed to work.

People need to focus on the integrated nature of the system and the fact that we are not just dealing with public safety issues or even governmental issues, but private sector participation in disasters as well. The reason we need to help people understand the system is that without such understanding, it is very difficult for decision makers to see that support for the structure of emergency management at all levels is vitally important—independent of support for emergency services personnel, equipment, etc. Other-

wise, massive amounts of money can be infused into the homeland security (or natural hazard) “problem” through various bills and initiatives and still not obtain the desired result of a viable, coordinated response when one is necessary.

We have to spend a certain amount of resources on the maintenance of the structure itself...that’s where the criticality of a significant increase in funding targeted to emergency management specifically comes in. The federal system is pretty well established and ef-



fective. Most states are generally at least marginally supported. The element of the system which is (and has been) neglected is funding for support of local EM programs which ultimately will be depended upon (in every case) to handle the disaster (or terror) event.

I want to emphasize that while significant amounts of money for emergency services (fire, EMS, law enforcement and even public health) are essential, they will not produce the desired effect

if the function of government (i.e. Emergency Management) responsible, at all levels, for integration and coordination of all efforts is not also viable. The biggest problem emergency managers have, as a profession, is dispelling this misconception that our function is simply the sum total of the efforts and resources of the emergency services. That is a difficult job because politicians can identify with firefighters and police and EMT’s. However, the idea that there is a profession of public ad-

ministration, called Emergency Management, whose job it is to facilitate the creation of basic disaster policy and coordinate the implementation of that policy during a disaster is not well understood (even by some of own colleagues). The

work we do is not just related to emergency services. It ties not only the responders but also the decision makers, public and private agencies not normally associated with emergency response, and a whole array of other elements of the local community together before, during, and after any disaster.

KEMA COMMITTEES

BY GARRY BERGES

As President-Elect, I am charged with filling all of the committees. The signup sheets received a good response during the conference, but there are still open spots.

One way you can be active with KEMA, in addition to attending your regional KEMA meetings, is by being on one of the several KEMA Committees. The following committees still need members from the different areas. If your region is listed with one of the committees and you want to serve on it, please send both myself and your Regional VP an e-mail.

Scholarship Committee (NC & SW reps needed). This committee works on the scholarship funding, looks for additional funds to help reach our goal, and solicits items for the Silent Auction. Jillian Rodrigue serves as the Chairperson.

Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures Committee (NC, NW, & SE reps needed) The committee conducts an annual review of the current KEMA bylaws, policies and procedures and develops and presents

proposed changes and/or amendments for action. Chuck Magaha is the chairperson.

Nomination Committee—(NE,NC, NW and SW reps needed) - This committee solicits nominations for each open position and then presents the slate of officers to the KEMA Board of Directors and then to the KEMA membership at the annual conference. The chairperson of this committee is Pam Beasley.

Member Communications Committee (NW, SW, and SE reps needed). This committee works with their region VP to ensure that members are kept informed of current and future activities thru communications and the KEMA website.

Two other committees that are important to the organization are the Audit Committee and the Government

Affairs Committee. The Audit Committee reviews all accounts and financial records of KEMA and assists the Treasurer with making sure the proper forms are filed. This committee is chaired by Vivian Button. The Government Affairs Committee monitors/reviews past, current, and future legislative actions that have the potential to impact emergency management activities or organizations. They also report critical legislative actions to the KEMA Board of Directors. Doug Schmitt chairs this committee.

We encourage you to be an active member and be involved with the organization! Help us fill those empty positions!



“If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.”
 ~Henry David Thoreau

...SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUED

We will continue to request funds during the conference and from businesses identified by the Scholarship Committee. Our thanks to you for your continued support and generosity!

~The Scholarship Committee

The Greater Salina Community Foundation can be found

online at www.gscf.org. Both the Salina and Republic County Foundations are on Facebook!





Pres. Stone presenting Bill Guy his Lifetime Membership Award.

We are on the web!
www.kema.org



Pres. Stone presenting Jim Schmidt with the Lifetime Membership Award.



Past President Teri Smith and President Brian Stone



Douglas County LEPC receiving the 2012 Outstanding Service Award.

...KEMA BOARD CONTINUED

she serves as Assistant Director, and the KEMA Association for 11 1/2 years.

Byrdee Miller-Marcic has been involved with the KEMA Board since 2011. She is currently the Vice President of the Southeast Region and is also involved in the site selection and scholarship committees. Byrdee has been the Director of Elk County Emergency Management since 2007 and has been a KEMA member since the beginning of 2008.

The last of the VPs is Vaughn Lorenson, who is entering his fourth

year on the KEMA Board. Representing the Southwest Region, Vaughn is currently the part-time Emergency Management Coordinator for Stanton County. He has held that position for 12 years and has been with Stanton County for 25 years. His other duties for Stanton County include management of the Landfill and serving as Flood Plain Manager. Vaughn has been a KEMA member since 2000.

Chuck Magaha has spent many years on the KEMA Board and filled many roles. After three terms as President and one term as a regional Vice President, he now serves as the Policy and By-Law

Chair, a position he has held for three years. Chuck provides guidance to the Board and the membership when policy issues arise, and he oversees changes or additions to the Association's policies or by-laws. When not handling policy issues, he keeps busy as Emergency Manager for Leavenworth County. Chuck has been a KEMA member for 26 years and became a Life Member in 2011.

Your 2013 KEMA Board is engaged and ready to support you in 2013! Feel free to contact any of them if you have any questions throughout the year!

...EMAP CONTINUED

review, create, and document plans, policies, and procedures that are required for EMAP, we are elevating the overarching Kansas Emergency Management Program to a professional level that will allow superior customer service to county emergency management and all the residents of Kansas.

KDEM Deputy Director Angee Morgan stated she has “been working toward EMAP for several years,” but just didn’t tell anyone. Last spring, the time seemed right to apply for accreditation as there was an opportunity for the assessment to be conducted at no cost to the State of Kansas.

Once the onsite assessment is complete

and KDEM receives the assessment report, we will share with you lessons learned including our best practices and standards for improvements!



Contact the 2013 KEMA Board

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