

## **MICK FLEMING**

### **IAEM REGION 5 CANDIDACY**

Dear IAEM Region 5 Members,

I am honored to submit my candidacy for President of IAEM Region 5. Over the past fifteen years, I have been deeply committed to advancing the emergency management profession through collaborative leadership, inclusive partnerships, and service to my communities. I believe that Region 5 stands as a cornerstone in partnerships, resilience, and professional development in our field. I am seeking this position to support and represent the stellar emergency managers of our region.

Currently, I serve as the Director of the Northwest Central Joint Emergency Management System, where I lead a multi-jurisdictional program supporting twelve diverse municipalities in the Chicago metropolitan area. In this role, I have overseen the development and coordination of emergency operations plans, continuity programs, recovery strategies, and training and exercise initiatives tailored to both large urban centers and smaller communities. With nearly a decade in this position, I've learned how to unite stakeholders with differing priorities under a common mission, experiences and perspectives I would bring as a member of the Region 5 leadership team.

My foundation in emergency management is built through both academic and practical experience. I earned a Master of Science degree in Fire and Emergency Management Administration from Oklahoma State University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Emergency Management from Western Illinois University. Apart from my time working for municipalities, I have worked at the county level in California, as well as in the private sector, helping organizations build robust business continuity and emergency response systems. This blend of public, private, and academic perspectives has provided me with a balanced and inclusive leadership style.

I am proud to hold the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) credential through IAEM and the Illinois Professional Emergency Manager (IPEM) certification. My commitment to professional development is further reflected in the roles I've held within our organization:

- **Vice Chair**, IAEM Government Affairs Committee
- **Illinois State Liaison**, IAEM Region V Board
- **Committee Member**, IAEM Training and Education Committee
- **Caucus Member**, IAEM State Associations Caucus
- **Caucus Member**, IAEM Municipal Emergency Managers Caucus

These positions have given me the opportunity to represent local perspectives at the national level, champion training and policy improvements, and mentor emerging professionals. They've also given me a deep appreciation for the work done at every level, from large-scale programs to single-staff departments working tirelessly behind the scenes.

As President of IAEM Region 5, I will work to strengthen our collective voice in national conversations, support member development across all career stages, and continue fostering the

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relationships that make this region exceptional. I believe deeply in this profession and the people who serve within it. It would be my honor to lead and advocate for you in this role. As President my goal would be to:

- **Increase regional engagement** – Build on the work done by the existing board to hold social and professional development opportunities within the region. Find a way to have a mid-term regional meeting.
- **Keep the Region informed** – Provide updates on happenings with the IAEM-USA Board of Directors, job openings within the region, and announcements from state representatives to the Region 5 Board.
- **Provide opportunities for involvement** – Leverage committees and structures allowed in the IAEM Region 5 Bylaws to give regional members an opportunity to contribute.

Thank you for your consideration, and for the work you do every day to make our region safer, and more resilient.

Respectfully,

**Mick Fleming**

Candidate for President, IAEM Region 5