

Sara Ruch, candidate for IAEM Region 3 President. I have been an active member of IAEM for 19 years. I have the right background and passion to continue to move IAEM Region 3 forward. During my 1-year tenure as President, I have worked on bringing the region together through the creation of a regional state presidents' group, regional policy group, and participated in IAEM's first Hill Day in DC. We started our "Day in the life of ..." series to highlight different types of emergency management jobs and give members the opportunity to expand their knowledge about different types of emergency management and to broaden their network. We started a congratulations graduate campaign to highlight Region 3's recent college graduates. We are holding our virtual conference in July and our mental health symposium in the fall. We have also cleaned up our webpage and made it easier for members to contact their state liaisons and find our webinars. My main goal as president is to make it easier for members to participate in Region 3, whether it is by being able to easily contact a board member or participating in one of our programs.

Region 3's members come from a wide range of areas, from rural to some of the largest metropolitan communities in the Country. It is important to ensure everyone can be able to participate in projects, initiatives, trainings, and other offerings without needing to travel to participate. This year we have been offering all programming virtually so every member has the opportunity to participate. If elected president, I will continue to offer programming options virtually.

As a Past President of the Virginia Emergency Management Association (VEMA), I advocated for making participation in the organization easier to access for all members. I have brought that position with me to IAEM Region.

A few relevant experiences I am proud to have achieved are:

- Currently IAEM Region 3 President
- Current Hampton Roads Urban Area Security Working Group Chairperson
- Past IAEM Membership Committee Co-Vice Chair
- Past IAEM Region 3 Secretary/Treasurer and Vice President
- Created a system for IAEM Region 3 fund requests and yearly budget development
- Graduated from FEMA's Executive and Advanced Leadership academies
- Former VEMA President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, and Secretary
- Former member of FEMA Region 3 Advisory Council
- Recipient of IAEM's Region 3's top 40 under 40
- Graduate of the Center for Homeland Defense and Security's Radiological Emergency Preparedness Executive Education Program
- Assisted FEMA's National Preparedness Directorate with reviewing CPG documents and National Planning Systems documents

I am a CEM Mentor and have assisted several emergency managers with obtaining their CEMs. I will continue to engage and assist those who are new to emergency management, promote and create new opportunities for all, and contribute to moving the profession forward. My passion for continued personal growth and expanding the emergency management profession, have made me well suited to continue as IAEM Region 3's President.