

From the IAEM-USA President

Why I Am a Member of IAEM – A Professional Association of Emergency Managers that Provides Many Benefits

By Lanita Lloyd, MS, CEM, IAEM-USA President

In June, IAEM-USA kicked off a three-month membership drive. I hope that you are joining us in this worthy effort. I could talk with you all day about why I am a member of IAEM.

Here is my Story

I'll begin by sharing my story. In 2003, I accepted an emergency manager position with a county in Georgia. Later that same year, I attended my first IAEM Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas. It was huge! It was not difficult to recognize the value of the stellar training and top-notch speakers.

I left the conference, excited and encouraged, feeling that I was a part of something exceptional. I wanted to "get to know" the experienced, knowledgeable professionals that were IAEM members. During the next couple of years, I met more and more members and became active in IAEM-USA Region 4.

My county experienced what was dubbed as a 10,000-year flood. During this event, my phone did not stop ringing with offers of guidance and assistance from some of the greatest emergency managers in our field – all because I met them through IAEM.

I have met many others who have greatly supported, challenged and influenced me. Several were instrumental as I broadened my professional experience in the emergency management field. Every position that I have held since my time with local government, I

have obtained directly or indirectly through my connections at IAEM – including my current adjunct teaching roles and position as the Georgia divisional director for The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services. I could go on and on.

Share Why IAEM Is Important to You

Your colleagues, your friends, and those who admire you and are learning from you need to hear why IAEM is important to *you!*

- Have you expanded your professional contacts?
- Did you have access to some fantastic training or education via a conference, meeting, webinar or IAEM Think Tank?
- Did you contribute to or discover an excellent article in the *IAEM Bulletin* or *IAEM Dispatch*?
- Did you obtain information that was critical to you via the IAEM website, social media accounts (Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, Twitter), or discussion boards?
- Are you participating in activities or committees that are making a difference in our profession?
- Have you received information on the status of grants or other funding opportunities that supported your efforts?
- Have you witnessed changes in the direction of our legislative issues or policies, where a unified voice has influenced change or can in the future?

You can find a list of membership benefits on the IAEM [website](#), and I

am sure that each one of you has a personal experience or example that you can share with others.



Growth in IAEM Networking Opportunities

As a current member, you will reap the benefits of participating in the membership drive – in more ways than one. IAEM's benefits grow as the network grows. Having additional members increases your professional network and allows for IAEM-USA's growing influence on issues of importance.

Some great examples of our "unified voice" include recent legislative testimony by 1st Vice President Nick Crossley, CEM, about the impact of policies and legislation on emergency management services. Additionally, we have representatives on various committees and special appointments to speak on behalf of our association, so our concerns and priorities *are* heard.

Membership Drive Rewards

During the 2017 IAEM-USA Membership Drive, you also can be personally rewarded. Current members receive a \$10 certificate for each referred member (up to \$100) to be used for membership dues, conference registrations or in the IAEM store for products. The new IAEM-USA member receives a \$15 certificate. This is a win-win.

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Remember to reach out to past members too. If they have lapsed and no longer have an open invoice, they can rejoin. Help IAEM-USA grow during the Annual Membership Drive by inviting colleagues to join. As a result, IAEM-USA's network will grow – and you will be rewarded.

Keep This in Mind

Here are a few other items to keep in mind:

- Members can join any of our almost 30 committees and caucuses.
- Certification costs are reduced for members.
- Conference registration just opened, and members receive discounted registration rates.

Contribute a Short Video Testimonial to Tell your Story

This is your chance to be a star! There are many ways to tell others about IAEM. Consider helping IAEM-USA tell its story by contributing a short video. Introduce yourself in your video, and tell us how IAEM helps you or what you like about IAEM. Email your video to membership@iaem.com. You will be notified if your video is selected to be used on the IAEM website or in social media. Learn about the IAEM video guidelines [online](#).

Conclusion

Becoming a member of IAEM is one of the best decisions that I have made for my career. I have unique



**Join Together in
EM!**

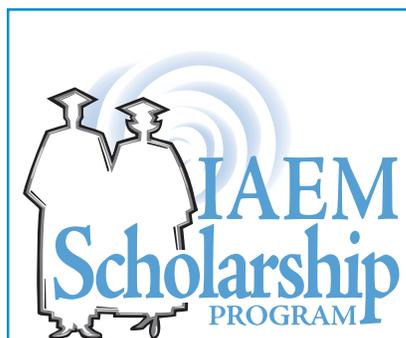
IAEM-USA is where more than 5,000 EMs learn from each other and create better outcomes.

There's no better time to join IAEM than today. New, returning and sponsoring members receive valuable credit through August 2017!

Learn about the 2017 IAEM-USA Membership Drive at:

www.iaem.com/USA2017MembershipDrive

opportunities to obtain education and training; I am informed of the most recent policies, procedures and standards that affect our profession; and I have a wealth of experienced EM professionals that I can reach out to for advice, guidance and support. As an IAEM member, you have the same opportunities. I encourage you to spread the word, so that more emergency managers are aware of the many excellent benefits that will come their way with IAEM membership. ▲



Support the future of emergency management – donate to the IAEM Scholarship Fund!

www.iaem.com/Scholarships



Did you miss any of the IAEM Certification Series Webinars?

Access the webinar recordings [online](#).