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May 14, 2014

IAEM-USA Region 7 Monthly Update

Region 7 Members:

IAEM-USA Operation Invite a Friend is a six-month membership drive that runs through August 31, 2014. In 10 weeks 1,739 free memberships have been given away and 68 of those have been in Region 7. Previously Region 7 had 144 members, so we have grown by almost half! We have been able to accomplish this by all of you reaching out to prospective members and inviting them to become a member for free for 12 months! Continue to tell your friends about this incredible opportunity, how to join, and be sure to give them this link: [JOIN NOW](#).

I want to take this opportunity to welcome new members to the International Association of Emergency Managers. Congratulations on joining the premier international organization of emergency management professionals. We advance the profession by promoting the principles of emergency management; to serve our members by providing information, networking and professional development opportunities.

I also want to thank everyone else for renewing your membership and continuing to invest in IAEM and be a valued member.

Below are activities to report within the region as well as with the national board of directors for IAEM-USA.

IAEM-USA Region 7 Activities:

- **Outreach:**
 - Region 7 developed a quarterly newsletter for the purpose of allowing everyone to become more familiar of what our region has and plans on accomplishing along with a better understanding of our projects. To make this newsletter successful, increase awareness of what is happening, and a benefit for all emergency management staff within the four states, please send Rick Shellenbarger, Newsletter Editor projects, programs, past disasters, deployments, resources, lessons learned, exercises, special events, and any other items that you feel would be great to share with everyone else including outreach programs.
 - Distributed information to all members on pertinent Emergency Management issues including webinar opportunities, Mitigation Plan update, and grant consolidation.
 - The IAEM Awards Program provides the best way for us to recognize outstanding programs and people who serve our profession. The IAEM has one comprehensive Awards Program now that includes all the facets of our Global membership and the activities they do. Please visit <http://www.iaem.com/Awards> for more information and to obtain access to the Award Guidelines and entry forms. We encourage YOU to submit an entry to showcase talents of your

colleagues, peers, and professionals who do great work that contributes to the success of the emergency management profession. The entry process is fairly simple, and free to members. More than one entry may be submitted by the same member, as long as the entry is about different programs or people. The entry deadline is **Friday, May 30, at 5:00 pm ET.**

IAEM-USA Activities:

I wanted to make sure all members are aware that the board agendas for future meetings and the minutes from previous meetings can be found at <http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=council/usa/board-minutes&lvl=3>. Highlights from the April meeting include:

- 2014 Annual Conference – November 14-19, Grand Hyatt, San Antonio
<http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=events/annual-conference>
- Strategic Planning – A survey will be conducted on the SWOT (strengths-weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats) to assist in the strategic planning process. This committee, with member representation from every region, committee, and caucus meet virtually to work on the plan. There will be a session at the Annual Conference on the IAEM-USA Strategic Planning process.
- CEM – IAEM created the certification program for emergency managers to raise and maintain professional standards; it is a program to certify achievements within the profession. Any emergency management professional who meets requirements is welcome to participate. To register for certification consideration, candidates must enroll online at www.iaem.com to receive an electronic copy of the application booklet at no charge. This includes detailed instructions, all necessary forms and other helpful information to aid in successful certification completion. Completed application packages along with the appropriate fee are accepted at any time during the year. Candidates must also take a 100-question examination in order to receive the CEM®/AEMSM designation, and can do so at any time by arranging a proctor with their local high school, college, or at an IAEM event. I strongly believe in the CEM credential and am available to consult by phone or e-mail with any member who has questions, concerns, or needs advice.
- Budget - During the annual working Board Retreat, the IAEM-USA Board faced some difficult decisions regarding how to service the IAEM-USA members when financial projections for 2014-15 showed a significant deficit. Their first goal was to keep membership dues at current levels and this was accomplished. To reach this goal, reductions had to be taken in other areas which included:
 - The presidential travel budget used to cover travel for the president or anyone traveling on behalf of IAEM to represent us at meetings, testify before Congress, and attend state and regional meetings to interact with members.
 - Our partner since 1984, Association & Society Management International, Inc. (ASMI), the company that manages IAEM's day-to-day operations, staffs the Committees and all activities, including the Annual Conference, agreed to no fee increase for the coming fiscal year.
 - Eliminate printing and mailing the *IAEM Bulletin*, to USA Individual, Affiliate and Life members, currently the only members receiving it in this format. It will be sent out electronically, as it is to all other councils, and as it has been to the USA Council as well in an expanded format.

I want to thank members who have responded to my request to become involved in IAEM. I want to still encourage all members to get involved in IAEM, by going to <http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=groups/us-committees> to review the list of committees, caucus, and groups. Once you find one you are interested in, contact the chair and ask to join. The challenges we face, as a profession and as a nation, are simply too great for us NOT to be involved.

It is an honor being your Region 7 President and I want to “thank you” for the support I have received. If you have any ideas, questions, or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teri".

Teri Smith, CEM®