



Teri Smith, CEM
Region 7 President
111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200
Lawrence, KS 66044
tsmith@douglas-county.com
(785)838-2460

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IAEM-USA Region 7 Monthly Update

Region 7 Members:

IAEM-USA Operation Invite a Friend is a six-month membership drive that runs **through Aug. 31, 2014**.

USA Council members have a chance to give away free memberships by inviting their U.S. friends, colleagues and stakeholders to join IAEM. The simple requirements are as follows:

- You must be a current, dues-paying Individual Member in good standing of the IAEM-USA Council to give away memberships.
- The giveaway may not be used for renewal of an existing IAEM membership.

As of week 18, 2,532 new Individual members have been sponsored as part of the IAEM-USA Operation Invite a Friend campaign. **88** of these new members are in Region 7! 572 individual members sponsored the IAF members. That is 20.3% of those eligible to sponsor. As a member-based organization, each one of us has a responsibility to grow the organization, to ensure that we are truly representative of our profession. There's still time, so tell your friends about this incredible opportunity, how to join, and be sure to give them this link: [JOIN NOW!](#)

I want to personally 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. If there is anything we can do for you or answer for you about IAEM, please let us know!

I also want to take this opportunity 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:**
 - Distributed information to all members on pertinent Emergency Management issues including:
 - FY 2015 Appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security
 - Quadrennial Homeland Security Review
 - Webinar opportunities
 - "Getting the Most out of Your State Emergency Management Association"

Each year at the IAEM conference we have a special discussion session for state associations of local emergency managers. This year it will be held on Sunday, November 16, from 2:30 to 4:15. The session will be moderated by Eddie Hicks, former President of IAEM-USA and former President of Alabama Association of Emergency Managers, and Teri Smith, former President of the Kansas Emergency Management Association and the current IAEM-USA Region VII President.

This session will begin with a few short presentations by state associations on a best practice. If you have a best practice you would like to share, please send me a one pager by August 1 to MSBraddock@gmail.com. Presentations selected from the one pager will be followed up with a coordination call.

President, legislative chair and other persons who care about their state association of locals are encouraged to attend and exchange best practices or concerns with the representatives from other states. We hope you will join us for this important exchange of ideas.

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 May meeting include:

- 2014 Annual Conference – Registration is open for the IAEM-USA 62nd Annual Conference November 14-19, Grand Hyatt, San Antonio <http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=events/annual-conference>. This five-day training and education event provides many benefits to all levels of government, the private sector, and non-government agencies alike. The conference includes a multitude of topics across the emergency management spectrum, enhancing your knowledge, competency level and strengthening your network. IAEM accomplishes this by attracting relevant high-profile speakers to address current topics and practical solutions. In addition to this annual event, EMEX, IAEM's Emergency Management & Homeland Security Expo, draws a myriad of exhibitors who are the top suppliers to the fields of disaster preparedness and homeland security.
- IAEM-USA Administrative Policies & Procedures (APPs) – Updates to sections of the APPs pertaining to strategic planning (to accurately reflect the process and structure currently in place for IAEM-USA) and to the description of the Individual membership category (to reconcile language in the bylaws making clear that members in this category are individuals and not organizations).
- FIRST Lego League Update – A team from Massachusetts was awarded the Global Innovation Award earlier this month for its “low-tech” solution to signage and communications during disaster.
- 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. 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.
- Social Media – Facebook likes have grown to 1,263. There are now 2,615 active participants in the IAEM LinkedIn Group. IAEM has 8,535 followers on Twitter.

I 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.

I am honored to be your Region 7 President and want to “thank you” for your continued support. 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®