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IAEM-USA Region 7 Monthly Update

Region 7 Members:

IAEM-USA Operation Invite a Friend in four weeks gave away 1,179 free memberships. 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. The first quarterly newsletter included articles on EMPG, Membership, Awards, State Organizations, and Annual Reports. A special “thanks” to Rick Shellenbarger for being the editor! To make this newsletter successful, increase awareness of what is happening, and a benefit for all emergency management staff within the four states, Rick needs your assistance. Please send him 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 Randy Duncan, U.S. Government Affairs Chair of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM-USA) remarks as delivered at the NEMA legislative committee. Highlights include:
 - President’s requested amount of \$350 million for Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding in his FY 2015 budget. The FY 2015 budget proposal posits that EMPG, Fire Fighter Assistance, and training partnerships will be moved under a “First Responder Assistance Program” located in the State and Local Programs section of the

budget. Congress rejected this proposal last year and we all need to urge them to reject it again. It is vital that EMPG remains a separate account due to its fundamentally different nature from all the other Homeland Security and FEMA grants.

- The EMPG funding opportunity announcement for FY 2014 was released by FEMA on Monday, March 11, 2014 and contains some language that we find of note – particularly on page 4, “The purpose of the EMPG program is to provide federal funds to States to assist State, local, territorial and tribal governments in preparing for all hazards...” We believe this demonstrates the commitment of the federal government to make sure that all levels of government have the ability to develop capabilities utilizing this funding. We would especially like to pass along our thanks to those states that have emphasized building capabilities at the local emergency management level – where all disasters begin and end.
- The Disaster Savings Accounts Act of 2014 (HR 3989 / S1991). These bills would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a deduction – not to exceed \$5,000.00 – for amounts contributed to Disaster Savings Accounts to help defray the costs of preparing their homes to withstand a disaster and to repair or replace property damaged or destroyed in a disaster. This takes the revolutionary step of placing disaster mitigation and recovery – at least partially – directly in the hands of individuals, and providing an incentive for homeowners to allocate their funding for mitigation and disaster recovery. These bills will be referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee for consideration. I encourage all association members to contact their members of congress to co-sponsor these bills.

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 March meeting include:

- ASMI Accreditation - IAEM’s management firm, Association and Society Management International, ASMI was recently awarded accreditation by AMC Institute, the global trade association representing the association management industry. Among 500+ association management companies (AMCs) worldwide, only 74 have achieved *AMC Institute Accreditation*, demonstrating the commitment and the ability to deliver the highest level of professional management services.
- 2014 Annual Conference – November 14-19, Grand Hyatt, San Antonio
<http://www.iaem.com/page.cfm?p=events/annual-conference>
- Strategic Planning – This committee, with member representation from every region, committee, and caucus met virtually during the 3rd week of March to finalize the annual work 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.

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®