

Issue Paper

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Issue: I would like the Board to approve the formation of an IAEM Caucus for State Associations. The primary targets for membership in this caucus would be people involved in the leadership of State Emergency Management associations, but the group would not restrict its membership.

Reference: The formation of a caucus of State Associations supports the IAEM-USA mission of providing networking opportunities and advancing the profession of Emergency Management. Specifically, it supports the following goals identified in the Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1.1 – Expand legislative and regulatory dialogue, contacts and information exchange for all disciplines and levels of government.
- Goal 1.3 – Enhance networking opportunities for members.
- Goal 2.1 – Support and facilitate the professional development of Emergency Management Professionals.
- Goal 2.2 – Support and facilitate the professional development of emergency management programs.
- Goal 3.2 – Leave no practicing Emergency Manager or Program wanting for representation.
- Goal 3.4 – Engage in active and meaningful partnerships with organizations that have similar or complimentary goals with IAEM USA.
- Goal 4.2 – Provide relevant and valued products and services for diverse member audiences. Build demand for services and build services that are in demand.
- Goal 5.2 – Shape policies and procedures that can serve as standards for the profession.

A caucus appears to be the appropriate title for the group based on the definition in the IAEM USA Bylaws (Article VII, Section 3), “Caucuses are groups with a special focus or function within the practice of Emergency Management”. The Ad Hoc Committee definition doesn’t fit as there is no anticipated limit to the duration of the group.

Background: *(Facts that supports the history behind the development or current situation surrounding the development or root cause of the issue.)*

As a State Association President, it would be tremendously helpful to me to have the ability to network with my colleagues in other states. I would like to know what other State Associations are doing, how they are supporting their members, what kinds of programs and training that they sponsor, and legislative issues that are impacting them at the state level. I suspect that the other State Association presidents would also find the ability to network equally valuable.

Although we all receive information coming from IAEM and are regularly asked to provide comments on proposed Federal legislation, we currently have no organized means of networking with each other. The IAEM Regions allow for networking within a region but are not effective in providing for networking across regional boundaries. I believe that a caucus of State Associations would be an effective way to meet the need.

Analysis:

In order to determine the level of support for the creation of a State Association caucus, a simple 5 question survey was developed using Survey Monkey and sent to the IAEM State Association Presidents e-mail mailing list. The survey questions and detailed results can be found at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-9FNWBWKR/>. The results are summarized below:

Of the approximately 50 contacts on the mailing list, 36 responses were obtained (72% participation).

Q1 – Do you support creation of an IAEM Caucus for State Association Presidents? 72% yes, 22% Maybe, 6% No

Q2 – If a Caucus were created, how likely would you be to participate? 33% Very Likely, 56% Somewhat Likely, 11% Not at all likely

Q3 – How valuable would a state association caucus be to you? 35% Very Valuable, 56% Somewhat Valuable, 9% Not at all valuable

Q4 – Would you be interested in helping to form and/or lead the caucus if we move forward? 14% yes, 53% Maybe, 33% No

Q5 – What kinds of activities should the Caucus undertake? Policy and Standards, Communications, Training/Education, Collaboration/Coordination, Financial and other (please see attached analysis for additional details)

Recommendation(s): *(Suggestions to the Board for resolving the issue. Include the Pros and Cons for each Recommendation including a Cost/Benefit analysis if applicable.)*

There is clearly general support from the majority of respondents to create a caucus of State Associations. The few negative responses received were: 1) The respondent feels that there is an existing group / mechanism that could be used to accomplish the goal without creating a new group; 2) time/travel/budget limitations (which I think we can overcome mostly by holding our meetings by conference call); 3) The respondent doesn't understand the purpose of the caucus or feel that they have enough information to make a decision.

As with most endeavors, the value of the caucus will largely depend on what the participants put into it. I believe that the survey indicates that this caucus has the potential to be tremendously successful, and I encourage the Board to give the Caucus due consideration.

Next Steps:

- Develop an agenda for and schedule a meeting with those who have expressed an interest in helping with the development and leadership of the Caucus.
- E-mail notification to state associations that a caucus has been created and inviting participation.
- Develop a short article for the IAEM Dispatch.
- Establish a preliminary schedule for Caucus conference calls.
- Develop a preliminary set of goals/activities for the group, including a meeting at the annual conference in Savannah. Coordinate with Clay Tyeryar.

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