

Trip Report

IAEM 2010 Annual Conference: Oct 31st – Nov 4th, San Antonio, TX

Sunday, October 31st:

- **IAEM-USA Government Affairs Committee Meeting (0800-1200)**
 - The committee meeting was opened by our own Randy Duncan, CEM, Chair of the Committee. Randy welcomed the attendees and commented on the key legislative priorities of IAEM-USA for the past and upcoming year. Noting that the expected turnover of congressional members would present a potential challenge to IAEM in terms of making contact with and educating newly-elected members.
 - Randy then introduced The Honorable Elizabeth M. Harman, Assistant Administrator, Grant Programs Directorate, FEMA who presented an update on EM/HS grants. Ms. Harman, spoke on the EMPG program guidance for 2011 (objective-simplify and make more flexible). She discussed the emphasis of the use of metrics in grant analysis and evaluation. She talked about the very critical issue of sustainment of equipment and capabilities provided by the HS grants. There was a discussion of the role of FEMA HQ and the FEMA Regions in grant administration. The objective being to transfer much more responsibility and authority to the regions while maintaining consistency of program guidance.
 - Andy Mitchell, Assistant Administrator National Training and Education, National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA, provided an update on preparedness issues. His presentation included a discussion of EMI, the future of the Higher Education Program, the role of the regional preparedness coordinators and the status of HSPD 8 (soon to be released).
 - Lyn Gross, IAEM Liaison to EMI, gave a short update on the improvements taking place at EMI with emphasis on the significant efforts to update and field the basic emergency management courses (PDS) as well as new professional development courses for local emergency managers.
 - Our own Nick Crossley and IAEM-USA President, Pam L'Heureux gave an update on the final report to Congress by the Local, State, Tribal and Federal Preparedness Task Force. The report is available online at <http://www.fema.gov/preparednesstaskforce> or at http://www.iaem.com/publications/news/documents/perspective_on_preparedness.pdf . Nick and Pam were both members of this important task force.
 - Beth Zimmerman, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Response and Recovery, FEMA presented an update on disaster response and recovery issues. She announced the office's intention to perform a complete policy review beginning next year and requested local involvement in that effort. She also indicated that the office was working on the development of a National Recovery Framework as a parallel effort to the National Response Framework. She also reported on the success that has been achieved due to the

new process of arbitration and alternate dispute resolution which FEMA has established to resolve post-disaster issues primarily related to Public Assistance projects.

- The FEMA Region III and VI Administrators briefly presented a regional administrators' perspective on the changing role of the FEMA Regions; (How does policy of rules and tools at headquarters and implementation at regions actually work?) They also talked about the need to revitalize and more effectively use Regional Advisory Councils.
- Partner reports were given by the FEMA Intergovernmental Affairs Director, the NEMA President and the NACo Assistant Legislative Director for Public Safety.

- **IAEM-USA Forum for State Associations of Emergency Management (1300-1500)**

This forum was lead by Eddie Hicks, CEM, the incoming IAEM-USA President and presented a great opportunity for the members of KEMA present to highlight the “best practices” which we’ve implemented over the past year or so. The trip to DC and the experiences of our attendees was one major topic we presented. Lon and Teri were very effective in their recounting of the number of initiatives KEMA has undertaken. A number of states were very interested in receiving a copy of K.A.R. 56-2-2, since they were looking for ways to better define the role of local EMs in their states. Lon and Teri also outlined the success we’ve had with the new State Agency Liaison position as well as KEMA’s work with the state regarding standards and mentoring of new county EMs. I presented a report on the State Association Survey Project (attached)and received numerous valuable suggestions from the state associations represented at the forum.

Monday, November 1st

- **IAEM-USA Past Presidents’ Breakfast (0700-0800)**

President Pam L’Heureaux and President-Elect Eddie Hicks hosted a breakfast for all the past presidents in attendance at the conference. Both Randy Duncan and I attended. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the idea of past presidents becoming involved as a resource for the association. A number of suggestions were discussed, including the idea that past presidents should become more active in promoting mentorship of new EMs. Both Randy and I presented the KEMA mentoring initiative as an example of the kind of things we ought to be encouraging in IAEM.

Tuesday-Wednesday, November 2nd and 3rd were spent attending workshops, visiting with vendors and networking

Thursday, November 4th

- IAEM USA Board of Directors Meeting (0730-0900)

At this meeting, I was given the opportunity to present the results of the State Association Survey and to request further direction from the board regarding next steps in the State Association Project. The survey report and the issue paper presented to the board are attached. The board gave its approval to continued pursuit of the project and to working with the IAEM HQ staff to develop an "affiliation structure" to increase the involvement and partnership of state EM associations.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Selves", written in a cursive style.

Michael D. Selves, CEM, CPM
KEMA Policy Advisor