



Minutes of the 2014 VEMA Annual Membership meeting, held Thursday March 20th, 2014 at the Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton, VA. The meeting was called to order by Sara Ruch, VEMA President, who presided. In attendance were 55 Virginia Emergency Management Association Members.

Sara Ruch welcomed the membership and thanked the various sponsors, vendors, volunteers, committee members, board members and staff for their support at the symposium and over the last year. She presented a report on the status of the organization, including an overview of the financial position, membership benefits, strategic plan, the website, legislative updates, the symposium and the VEMA newsletter.

Ken Rudnicki, VEMA Immediate Past President, presented the slate of nominees for the 2014-2015 election. Mark Penn announced his candidacy for President, Michelle Oblinsky announced her candidacy for 1st Vice President, Walter English announced his candidacy for 2nd Vice President, Carrie Speranza and Cheryl Wilkins announced their candidacy for Secretary and Neal Turner announced his candidacy for Treasurer. Ken Rudnicki asked that former VEMA presidents, Hui-Shan Walker and Jim Davis assist with distribution of election ballots. All ballots were collected and tabulated by Ken Rudnicki, Hui-Shan Walker and Jim Davis. Upon tabulation it was announced that Mark Penn was elected President, Michelle Oblinsky was elected 1st Vice President, Walter English was elected 2nd Vice President, Carrie Speranza was elected secretary and Neal Turner was elected Treasurer. Ken announced that the newly elected officers would be installed tomorrow evening during the annual VEMA Awards Dinner and banquet.

Carrie Speranza presented the Secretary's Report. Motion Zach Pope, Second Jeff Fletcher to accept the minutes of the March 28th, 2013 VEMA annual membership meeting as previously distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

Walter English presented the Treasurer's Report. He commented on the overall financial health of VEMA. He notified the membership that the VEMA finance committee and board of directors decided to reinvest \$40,000 into 4 laddered certificates of deposit (CDs) with Wells Fargo financial advisors. This move was done to help VEMA obtain the most return on their investment while keeping VEMA funds in safe and secured financial vehicles.

Bo Keeney presented the Executive Director's report. He commented on the VEMA symposium, making special note of this year's sponsors, vendors, and volunteers. He additionally informed the membership that VEMA began utilizing webinars over the past year to assist with educational training events and board meetings. Furthermore he commented on the financial status of the organization. He provided some additional background as to the board's rationale as to why they chose to invest funds in certificates of deposit rather than stocks and/or bonds. Bo commented on overall membership issues including recruitment campaigns over the last year and overall trends. Along the same line he noted that the VEMA constitutions and bylaws committee and strategic plan committee worked hard over the last year to bring some recommended changes before the general membership. Part of his role as executive director also includes some basic legislative affairs duties. As such he informed the membership of the inaugural VEMA legislative day which took place on February 3rd. A handful of VEMA officers attended the event to represent VEMA and advocate for emergency management professionals. Finally he noted that the board would receive a board of directors training day on Friday in order to make sure all VEMA leaders were aware of the association's expectations, operating procedures and organizational policies. Finally he thanked all of the current board members, the staff, volunteers and committee members for their continued time, effort and energy over the last year.

Under Caucus reports the Institutions of Higher Education Caucus presented a report to the general membership. In this report they commented on the caucuses activities over the past year, their newly revised organizational bylaws, and general issues related to higher education emergency managers. The caucus presented a power point presentation highlighting the overall number of emergency managers whom are associated with institutions of higher education, their purpose and how VEMA may get them involved with the association.

Under New Business Sara Ruch presented the proposed changes to the VEMA Constitutions and Bylaws on behalf of the Constitutions and Bylaws committee. There were some questions raised by the general membership whether or not the final date for approval needed to be moved if any changes were accepted by the committee. It was decided by general consensus that the date for a vote of the proposed changes does not need to be modified at this time. Motion Craig Moore, Second by Robert Truoccolo for the proposed changes to the VEMA Constitutions and Bylaws to be posted in the membership section of the website for review and comment by the membership at large. Motion passed unanimously. Mark Penn presented a report on the updates to the VEMA strategic plan. He commented that the proposed changes would additionally be posted to the VEMA website for comment and review by the general membership. Motion Jim Keck, Second Zachary Pope for the VEMA strategic plan to be published on the website so that the members could view the proposed plan and use it as a living document. Motion passed unanimously.

Following new business the floor was opened to general member's inquiries concerning the association. Jim Keck asked a few questions regarding specifics of the VEMA financials and certain line items. Bo Keeney, Executive Director fielded his questions and answered accordingly. He offered to provide any additional details needed after the meeting if any more questions came up during the course of the symposium.

Motion Zachary Pope, Second Susan Maddox to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Sara Ruch at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Speranza, VEMA Secretary