

Minutes of the Virginia Emergency Management Association held Wednesday February 1, 2017 at the VDEM headquarters. The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by President Walter English who presided. The following individuals were in attendance: Michelle Oblinsky, Walter English, Robert Foresman, Jennifer Maul, Cheryl Elliott, Benjamin Ruppert (Region 1), Kirby Felts (Region 3), Jessica Swinney (Region 4), Creig Moore (Region 5), Will Flagler (Region 7), Jeff Fletcher (Region 7), Michael Mulhare (Colleges & Universities), Jim Keck, Sherri Laffoon, Adam Crowe, Bruce Sterling, Lori Dachille, Gene Stewart, Hui-Shan Walker, Terrance McGregor, Bo Keeney (Executive Director – Ex. Officio), Bruce Keeney.



Bo made updates and corrections to the agenda before reminding all members of the VEMA conflict of interest and anti-trust policy.

Under the President’s Report, Walter English thanked Michelle Oblinsky for her service and continued guidance. He noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> 18 days of his presidency have been extremely fast paced and exciting. He reminded all regional coordinators to submit their reports to the VEMA office for the “VEMA Voice” so VEMA may continue this valuable member benefit. Additionally, he informed the board that VEMA would soon offer a webinar to members, exact timing and topic are yet to be determined. Finally, he updated the board on the implementation and member usage of the new Global Momentum product. He deferred additional comments to committee reports and the Executive Director’s Report.

1<sup>st</sup> VP Report – No Report

2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report – 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Report

Under the Treasurer’s Report: Motion Maul/Fletcher to accept the following motions in a block:

- to approve the VEMA Financial Summary of Accounts as of December 31, 2016 as distributed.
- to approve the VEMA Financial Statement as of December 31, 2016 as distributed.

Motions considered in a block passed unanimously.

Under the Secretary’s Report: Motion Elliott/Fletcher to accept the following motions in a block:

- to accept the VEMA Board of Directors minutes from the November 2, 2016 meeting as previously distributed.
- to accept the VEMA Executive Board minutes from the January 30, 2017 meeting as previously distributed.
- to accept the following as members of VEMA since December 1 2016:

• **Individual Members:**

Member Name	City	Organizational Members / Notes
Cara Howard	Fairfax, VA	Fairfax County
James Hartnett	Manassas, VA	City of Manassas Fire & Rescue
Jason Petrie	Chantilly, VA	Centremis
Jeffrey C. Fox	Rocky Mount, VA	
Joe Tull	Fort Lee, VA	US Army
Karl Fippinger	Fairfax, VA	Dewberry
Kristy L. Plourde	Yorktown, VA	US Coast Guard
Lauren Opett	Providence Forge, VA	REINSTATED
Mark A. Salmon	Norfolk, VA	Eastern VA Medical School
Mark J. Morgan	Ashburn, VA	Engility
Matthew Cronin	Harrisonburg, VA	Harrisonburg Rescue Squad
Michele M. Donoghue	Farmville, VA	Centra Southside Medical Center
Paul Dill	Arlington, VA	MBL Technologies
Robert W. Millner	Brookneal, VA	Person County Emergency Services
Tracie A. Giles	Chesterfield, VA	Chesterfield Fire & EMS
James Spicer	Suffolk, VA	
Richard Stephens	Suffolk, VA	Fire & Resuce
Donald Mertz	Suffolk, VA	General Dynamics IT

• **Student Members:**

Member Name	City	Organizational Members / Notes
Ginger Gutting	Richmond, VA	Securitas Security Services, Inc.

- **Organizational Members:**

Member Name	City	Organizational Members / Notes
American Red Cross in the NCR	Fairfax, VA	David Chesler (voting), Tessa Lovro, Rose Madison
American Red Cross	Roanoke, VA	Paula Poston, Meredith Snellings, Patrick Campbell
Sun Coast Resources	Houston, TX	LeeAnn Barnes & Kyle Lehne
Brian Pierce	Norfolk, VA	ODU

Motions considered in a block passed unanimously.

Under the Executive Director's Report, Bo Keeney presented a variety of issues including, but not limited to:

- General Membership Issues – Dues collections are on pace; membership is up. Symposium 2017 is going well. February is a big month for exhibitors.
- VEMS 2017 Update- Most exhibit and sponsor applications arrive in Feb.; even so, to date there are 23 vendors and 5 sponsorships sold.
- VEMA Legislative Monitoring Report – Bo reminded the VEMA board of what the Keeney Group's Legislative Monitoring entails and reviewed the 1<sup>st</sup> report.
- Global Momentum Implementation – Reviewed the current implementation of Global Momentum and spoke to the grand launch at the VEMS 2017.
- 2020 VEMS Agreement with Hotel Roanoke – Contract is signed for 2020 in Roanoke. It will be a great location for VEMS and we've secured a great deal.

Under Committee Reports, the following were presented:

- Conference Committee (Walter English) – The program/agenda is set and we'll provide updates as they become available. The Wednesday evening social will be at a speak-easy. The pre-convention social events will include a golf tournament and wine tour. Finally VEMA will continue to raise funds for scholarships. Staff and committee members have done a great job with logistics and promotion.
- Legislative Committee (Hui-Shan Walker) – The legislative committee reviewed the legislative monitoring report and brought particular attention to HB 2077 which may allow firearms in shelters during times of emergency. The committee discussed their legislative hill day, volunteer efforts and reviewed how legislative policy should be handled for an association. More regarding legislation was discussed under New Business.
- Audit Committee (Robert Foresman)- The committee has reviewed the November and December VEMA financials and has found them to be in good condition. The committee approved these financial reports.
- Constitution/By-Laws Committee (Creig Moore) – The proposed bylaws amendments are posted to the website and will be voted upon by the general membership at the annual meeting.
- Scholarship Committee (James Keck) – The committee is receiving applications and will review them in the immediate future. Encourages regions to submit applications or encourage others to do so. New due date of Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Membership & Marketing Committee (Sherri Laffoon) – Will attend a CNU event to promote VEMA and VEMS 2017. May examine the possibility of creating a marketing video and/or looking at additional conferences to attend for recruitment purposes.
- Awards & Citations Committee (Adam Crowe) - The newly revised awards descriptions are posted and the committee is actively encouraging members to submit nominations for consideration.
- Certification Committee (Keith Dowler) – No Report
- Technology Committee (Neal Turner) – No Report
- Nominations Committee (Sara Ruch) – Report presented on behalf of the nominating committee. The nominees for the 2017 slate of officers is posted on the VEMA website under the members only section. Elections will be held during the 2017 annual convention.
- VEMA Representative for National Weather Services' Storm Ready Board (Robert Foresman) – No new applications received.
- Rep. for VDEM/VFP Stakeholders Group (Ad-Hoc) (Corey Beazley) – No Report
- Fire Programs (Ad-Hoc) (Cory Beazley) – No Report
- Strategic Communications (Ad-Hoc) (Jeff Fletcher and Scott Hudson) – No Report
- VOAD Rep (Amanda Reidelbach) – No Report
- Student Representatives (Brooks) – No Report

### Regional Committee Reports

- Kenneth Smith, Ben Rupert, Lori Dachille - Region 1 (State EM) - Regional CERT training, March 11 Survivor Day event, App for CCTA grant, regional planning and training exercise.
- Jeff Hensley, Sara Makely, Mark Stone - Region 2 (State EM) – No Report
- Jon Taylor, Kirby Felts, Gene Stewart - Region 3 (State EM) – gas rupture, active shooter exercises. Hosting 3-day FEMA course, hosting SAR intro courses, holding rapid assessment event, and working with National Guard to address communication and infrastructure issues.
- Jessica Swinney, JT Clark, Willie Richardson -Region 4 (State EM) - No Report
- George Glazner, Creig Moore, Bruce Sterling - Region 5 (State EM) - Mostly quiet in the area, worked with Busch Gardens on an active shooter event exercise.
- Neal Turner, Dustin Campbell, Michael Pruitt - Region 6 (State EM) - Mostly quiet in the area, held a few regional exercises.
- Jeff Fletcher, Will Flagler, Rob Brown Region 7 (State EM) – Busy since last reporting period with inaugural events, protest, marches, and airport events. Overall no active events, just event management. Foundations class should be offered nearby soon and will offer great opportunity for region.

### Caucus Reports

- Institutions of Higher Education – Michael Mulhare reported that they have two spots coming open this year with the caucus, Secratray and vice President. They just recently did a webinar and great feedback and will be looking to do some more in the future. UVA is hosting the College COOP symposium coming up as well.

### Old Business

- No old business to report

**Under New Business, the following issues were discussed and motions presented accordingly.**

- 2017-2018 Meeting Dates – Walter English, President, will determine the 2017-2018 Board meeting dates soon and distribute them to the board members as appropriate.
- New Certification Policy – Motion Elliott/Moore on behalf of the certification committee to approve the changes to the certification policy as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
- Life Membership for Suzie Parsons – Motion Maul/Foresman to grant honorary membership to Susie Parsons and Mark Penn for their distinguished service. Presentation of honorary membership shall be made at VEMS 2017. Motion passed unanimously.
- VEMA Audit Committee Report – Motion Maul/Foresman to accept the report of the VEMA audit committee with a note that the committee found the VEMA books to be in good fiscal condition. The committee recommends no additional action by outside entities. Motion passed unanimously.
- HB 2077 - Motion Foresman/Mulhare for the VEMA Executive Committee to work in conjunction with the VEMA legislative committee to oppose HB 2077 in its current form and to authorize the workgroup to adjust the organization's position accordingly if amendments or substitutes are presented. Motion passed with abstentions from all VDEM employees and Jeff Fletcher.
- The VEMA president has asked the legislative committee to begin working on a draft policy regarding the legislative decision making process that occurs both in and out of the Virginia General Assembly session for presentation at the next board of directors meeting.

**For the Good of the Order, the following items were presented.**

- a) Awards Nominations Now Open
- b) Candidate Statements for 2017 Election posted on VEMA Website
- b) VEMS Locations
  - March 21-24, 2017 – Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, VA
  - March 20-23, 2018 – Omni Homestead, Hot Springs, VA
  - 2019 – Newport News Marriott
  - 2020 – Hotel Roanoke
  - 2021 – Newport News Marriott

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Cheryl J. Elliott  
Secretary