

Dustin Willett, CEM®

June 6th, 2024

Rebecca Campbell
Member Relations Coordinator, IAEM
201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA 22046

RE: Candidate Statement for IAEM Region 8 Vice-President

Dear Ms. Campbell and the IAEM Members of Region 8,

My name is Dustin Willett and I'm running for the position of IAEM-USA Region 8 Vice President. I'm married, have 3 sons, 2 granddaughters, and live in Rapid City, SD (think Mount Rushmore).

I joined the Marine Corps right out of high school, and after an honorable discharge I began my public safety career which has spanned over 30 years. 12 years ago, I was appointed to my current position as the Rapid City / Pennington County Emergency Manager and my passion for our profession has done nothing but grow.

I joined IAEM and attended my first annual conference in 2014 and in 2017, began serving on the Conference Committee. My desire to advance the work of our profession, Association, and Region has compelled me to seek the office of Vice President for IAEM Region 8.

So, why should you elect me for this office and what would I hope to accomplish?

- I believe in servant leadership. If elected as Vice President, I hope to discover more of our members' unique passions, talents, and ideas, then serve as a champion for operationalizing those ideas that advance our Association, Region, and profession.
- I believe in beginning succession planning on day one. I will seek out, encourage, and mentor those members in Region 8 who are interested in exploring leadership or service roles within our Association and Region. I have found the more engaged I have become with IAEM, the

more rewarding my experience has been and I hope to encourage and facilitate others to experience the same.

- I believe in the power of effective communication. I will support efforts to share all pertinent information regarding IAEM with our members' and will work to ensure that information is not just passed on, but placed in appropriate context and understood. I will also listen to, and seek to understand, information being communicated to me from our membership. I pride myself on being accessible and friendly.

I understand the duties of Vice President as outlined in our Bylaws and have regularly participated in our Region 8 meetings held at conference. I will support the work of our Region 8 President and the IAEM-USA Council. My previous board work includes the following:

- 2 terms as Chair of the South Dakota Emergency Response Commission
- Chair for the CISA Region 8 All-State Partnership Engagement Group
- 2 terms as a region vice-president for the South Dakota Emergency Management Association and one term each as the president-elect, president, and immediate past-president.

IAEM, and the people I've met from Region 8 over the years, have given me so much in terms of comradery and professional development that I humbly ask for the opportunity to give back by serving as your Region 8 Vice President. This is an amazing profession practiced by incredible human beings, and I am grateful for the opportunities I've had to be a part of it all.

Thank you!

Dustin Willett, CEM®