

Sara Ruch, candidate for IAEM Region 3 Vice President. I have been an active member of IAEM for 18 years and feel I have the right background and passion to continue to move IAEM Region 3 forward. I believe we can accomplish this through the continued use and expansion of technology such as video conferencing and virtual conferences.

Region 3's members come from a wide range of areas from rural to some of the largest metropolitan communities in the Country. It is important to ensure everyone can participate in the projects, initiatives, trainings, and other offerings without needing to travel to participate. One of my goals is to find more opportunities to use virtual collaboration platforms it more members to be involved in the region. This greater diversity and number of members participating allows the work and projects done by the board to reflect the region more accurately.

As Region 3 Vice President I started the awards committee with Jeff Fletcher, led the update of our regional by-laws, led the strategic planning committee, and accomplished one of our first goals of the strategic plan to hold a mental health webinar. We still have much more to do for our membership such as supporting our student members and members that are new to the field. I will continue to advocate for more opportunities for membership engagement using multiple methods to reach members where they are.

As IAEM Region 3 Vice President, I have had the honor of representing IAEM Region 3 on the IAEM USA By-Laws Committee, and Awards Committee. Below are a few other relevant positions I hold or have held that represent my commitment to emergency management and moving the profession forward.

A few relevant experiences I am proud to have achieved are:

- Current IAEM Region 3 Vice President
- Current IAEM Membership Vice Chair
- Current Hampton Roads All Hazards Advisory Committee/ Urban Area Working Group Chair
- Past IAEM Region 3 Secretary/Treasurer
- Graduate of FEMA's Executive and Advanced Leadership academies
- Held several VEMA Executive Board positions: President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, and Secretary
- Former member of FEMA Region 3 Advisory Council
- Recipient of IAEM's Region 3's top 40 under 40
- Graduate of the Center for Homeland Defense and Security's Radiological Emergency Preparedness Executive Education Program
- Assisted EMI with reviewing and providing comments on ICS Positions Training course
- Assisted FEMA's National Preparedness Directorate with reviewing CPG documents and National Planning Systems documents

I am currently a CEM Mentor and have successfully assisted several emergency managers to obtain their CEMs. I will continue to engage and assist those who are new to emergency management, promote and create new opportunities, and contribute to moving the profession forward. My passion for continued personal growth and expanding the emergency management profession make me the ideal person to continue as IAEM Region 3's Vice President.