

Candidate Statement

IAEM-USA Region 8 President

Valerie Lucas-McEwen, CEM, CBCP

First of all, thank you for letting me be your IAEM-USA R8 president the last two years. I have enjoyed every minute of it because we have such wonderful people in this region, and I am honored to be serving them.

In fact, I would like to continue serving as R8 president and I'm asking you to vote for me ... again. 😊

I had several goals for this two-year term, and most of them I accomplished.

- I joined and went to every state emergency management association meeting in R8, sponsored vendor booths at several of them, and learned a lot about how emergency management operates in this mostly rural region.
- I created a monthly newsletter that goes to everybody I have met in R8, whether they are an official IAEM member or not. I truly believe emergency management is a collaborative effort, and we can't put blinders on how we serve each other.
- At the same time, I believe in IAEM's mission and ability to help promote ALL emergency managers. I have encouraged everybody to consider joining, and even sponsored a membership drive last fall. Membership has increased almost 20% in the past 18 months.
- I supported a group of Colorado EM's who created an awesome Region 8 logo. Expect to see it on challenge coins, stickers and polo shirts for the annual conference in Colorado Springs this November.
- On the IAEM-USA Board level, I pushed through an update to the APP's that would guarantee all 10 of the IAEM-USA regions a minimum amount of funding from IAEM.
- What I wanted to do and didn't quite get done was to create a Region 8 Advisory Committee.

What I would like to do in the next term continues and expands on what I've done this term.

- It is time to find other leaders in this region. In addition to the advisory committee, I would like to establish a position to promote student activities in this region. There are several colleges and universities with active emergency management programs and they should know about IAEM student scholarships, as an example.
- There is another issue dear to my heart, especially after spending time with you all this past year. I am going to propose a change to the IAEM membership fee structure to make it tiered – based on your income, or population served, or something like that. The AMS (American Meteorological Society) does this and I think it would make it easier for a lot of rural EM's – especially in our region – to participate in the national and global issues that affect us all.

Whatever you decide, Region 8 deserves great leadership and you can be a part of that --- VOTE!