Minutes August 26, 2026 - Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting to convene at 11:00 am at PlanRVa Richmond

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

VEMA Board of Directors / Members in attendance:

Voting Members:				**Non-Voting:**
William Drewery	VEMA President	Samuel W. Burnette, Jr.	Region 1 (Local EM)	Gene Stewart (CRC 3)
William Lawson	VEMA 1st VP	Patrick Lam	Region 3 (Local EM)	Harrison Bresee (CRC 5)
Peter McCann	VEMA 2nd VP	Monica McCullough	Region 4 (Local EM)	Rich Mortimer (Certification)
Tracie Giles	VEMA Treasurer	Anna McRay	Region 5 (Local EM)	Brian Misner (Legislative)
Amie Fuller	VEMA Recording Secretary	Timothy Duffer	Region 6 (Local EM)	Jared Hoernig (Legislative)
Danielle Holmstrom	Immediate Past President (ex officio)	Daniel Murray	Region 6 (Local EM)	Katie Moody (Scholarship)
Jessica Winter	2nd Past President (ex officio)	Leigh Ann Erdman	Federal Government	Stephanie Harris (VEMS)
Rachel Slotter	VDEM	Matt Majid	IHE Caucus	Will Drewery (Rep. EMS Advisory Council)
Laura McHale	VEMA Executive Director (ex officio)	Rebecca Heins	NextGen Leader Caucus	Danielle Holmstrom (Rep. IAEM Assoc. Caucus)
Bo Keeney	VEMA Office (ex officio)			Jennica San – Matt Majid's Intern

The meeting was called to order by William Drewery, President, at 11:11 AM. The Board was reminded of the Conflicts of Interest and Anti-Trust policies, and new copies were passed around for signature. Those attending virtually are to send their signed copies to the VEMA Office.

Motion Duffer/Majid to accept the consent agenda as presented; including

**** 2nd VP Report (McCann)**

**** VDEM Report (Slotter)**

**** Treasurers Report (Giles)**

a) to approve the VEMA Financial Summary of Accounts as of July 31, 2026, as distributed.
b) to approve the VEMA Financial Statement as of July 31, 2026, as distributed.
c) to approve the VEMA Financial Statement 2025/2026 Year End, as distributed.

****Secretary's Report (Fuller)**

a) Motion (Fuller) to accept the VEMA Board of Directors minutes from the June 10, 2026, meeting, as previously distributed.
b) Motion (Fuller) to accept the following as members of VEMA since June 10, 2026:

Member Name	Member Type	Effective Date	City	Company Name / Organizational Members / Notes
Dewberry Engineers	*Organizational*	*6/7/2026*	*Fairfax, VA*	*Removed Alexander Haebler, Marcos Valerio & Courtney Welsh; ADDED Caroline Cunningham, Peter Griffin & Mark Montgomery*
Kathleen Hale	*Individual*	*6/26/2026*	*New Kent, VA*	*RESIGNED due to her retirement*
John M. Fugman	*Individual*	*7/1/2026*	*Ashland, VA*	*DECEASED - 5/9/2026*
Virginia Beach Fire Department	*Organizational*	*7/6/2026*	*Virginia Beach, VA*	*Removed Vance Cooper; added Michael Brashear*
Timothy Blumenschine	Individual	7/7/2026	Winchester, VA	Shenandoah University
Carroll County Emergency Services	Organizational	7/9/2026	Hillsville, VA	Monica McCullough - Voting
VCU Medical Center	*Organizational*	*7/20/2026*	*Richmond, VA*	*Removed Madeline Lee*
Hailey Groves	Student	7/20/2026	*Richmond, VA*	Virginia Commonwealth University
Nick M. Yankosky	Individual	7/20/2026	Fairfax, VA	Fairfax County Health Department
Olivia Watson	Student	7/20/2026	Winchester, VA	VA Department of Health
Arlington County Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management	*Organizational*	*7/21/2026*	*Arlington, VA*	*Added Eric Petroski (prev Individual Member)*

Ken Roberts	Individual	8/7/2026	Norfolk, VA	US Navy Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center (MARMC)
Jeremy B. Johns	Individual	8/12/2026	Norfolk, VA	United States Navy
Shawn Monroe	Individual	8/23/2026	Suffolk, VA	City of Suffolk
Joshua Mowery	Individual	8/24/2026	Leesburg, VA	Loudoun County Office of Emergency Management, Safety & Security

Motions in consent agenda passed unanimously.

Under the Executive Director's Report, Laura McHale presented an update on the following:

a) General Membership Overview
   1. Membership Numbers – Increase of 12 members / 6 memberships since June Board Meeting.
      i. 835 people and 458 total memberships
   2. Unpaid members for 2026/2027 – Updated list to be sent to the Board of Directors and Regional Coordinators
   3. Recruitment Campaign
      i. OEMS list for EMTs / Fire Departments from Victor Podbielski is still pending; will need to remove current VEMA members once received.
      ii. Will Drewery and Victor Podbielski are working together to personally reach out to localities that are not members to encourage them to join / find out why they haven't joined.

b) VEMS Updates
   1. 2028 Contract with Marriott Waterside Norfolk has been cancelled without penalty
   2. March 13-16, 2028 Contract with Hilton Norfolk The Main has been signed
   3. Planning for VEMS27 is underway. Kickoff meeting August 20th at 2:30 pm
   4. Discussion of possible themes for VEMS27. Majority voted for *Virginia Forward: Exceeding Expectations for Readiness.*
   5. Registration Fees for 2027 – Same as 2026 or increase?
      i. Motion Lam/Holmstrom to increase 3-day registration by $15 and keep daily registration fees the same as 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

c) 2026-2027 Sponsorship Program is up and running with Vendor Information. 3 sponsors and 6 booths sold to date.

d) VEMA 2025-2026 information has been sent to the accountant for tax preparation

e) Donation to VEMA Scholarship Fund received from James Keck for $2,286.90.

New Business

a) Motion Lawson/Lam to approve Life Membership for the following:
   1. Chief Stephen P. Kopczynski
   2. Jeff Fletcher
   3. Past VEMA Presidents:
      i. Hui-Shan Walker
      ii. Sara Ruch
      iii. Michelle Oblinsky
      iv. Walter English
      v. Robert Foresman
      vi. Bobby Gelormine
      vii. Jessica Winter
      viii. Danielle Holmstrom

   Motion passed unanimously.

b) Jessica Winter presented the 2025-2026 Strategic Plan Annual Progress Report. Committees are encouraged to lay out their workplan and send an update to Jess in advance of the next Board Meeting

c) Review of Merrill Lynch account making less than $1.00 in interest each month. Keeney Group to explore options for CDs and Money Market account options in advance of the next Board Meeting.

d) Discussion regarding making VEMA's app available for VDEM Statewide Unified Readiness Summit. Rachel Slotter to provide feedback and get more information as needed.

Unfinished Business

a) VEMS 2030 Meeting Location - Discussion of possible locations in the western part of the state. Keeney Group to get RFPs from Hotel Roanoke, Omni Homestead, and other hotels in the area that are large enough for VEMS, in advance of the next Board Meeting.

Various Reports were presented:

Committee Reports (Only reports Submitted in Advance. No oral reports to be given under this section)

a) Audit Committee (McCann)
b) Awards & Citations Committee (Hockett)
c) Certification Committee (Rich Mortimer)
d) Constitution / By-Laws Committee *(TBD)*
e) Legislative Committee (Misner & Hoernig)
f) Membership & Marketing Committee (Podbielski/Sullivan/Burkholder)
g) Social Media Sub-Committee (Winter)
h) Nominations Committee (Holmstrom)
i) Scholarship Committee (Moody)
j) Symposium Committee (Lawson)
    1. Planning
    2. Operations
    3. General Update
k) VEMA Representative for National Weather Services' Storm Ready Board (Foresman)
l) Virginia Representative for EM333S (Drewery)
m) Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (Rebecca Heins)

Regional Committee Reports (Only reports Submitted in Advance. No oral reports to be given under this section)

a) **CRC's – Please report on Regional Efforts**
b) **Regional Reps – Please report on locality specific topics**
    1. **Region 1:** Samuel Burnette & Robert Williams
    2. **Region 2:** Melissa Meador & Ethan Longenecker
    3. **Region 3:** Patrick Lam & Vacant
    4. **Region 4:** Monica McCullough & Vacant
    5. **Region 5:** Anna McRay & Jane Wenner
    6. **Region 6:** Timothy Duffer & Daniel Murray
    7. **Region 7:** Jeff Fletcher & Courtney Arroyo

Caucus/Other Reports (Only reports Submitted in Advance. No oral reports to be given under this section)

a) Institutions of Higher Education (Majid)
b) Faith Based Caucus (Shannon)
c) Healthcare Caucus (Bryant)
d) NextGen Caucus (Heins)
e) Student Representative (Weatherly)
f) VOAD (Tamashiro-Loma)
g) Business/Industry (Gilmore)
h) Federal Government (Erdman)
i) Military Affairs (Burrow)

Additional Items & Discussion Items

- Board Vacancies:
    - Discussion regarding who would be a good fit for the following positions:
        - Region 3 Representative
        - Region 4 Representative
        - Constitution & By-Laws Committee Chair
        - Certification Committee Chair
    - Will Drewery will reach out to the suggested members in advance of the next Board meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Holmstrom/Slotter to adjourn the meeting 12:26 pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Amie Fuller, VEMA Secretary