



Meeting minutes of the Virginia Emergency Management Association (VEMA) Board of Directors meeting held on February 3rd, 2014, at the Virginia Emergency Management Association office in Richmond, VA. The meeting was called to order at 12:46 pm by Sara Ruch who presided. In attendance were Sara Ruch, Mark Penn, Michelle Oblinsky, Walter English, Carrie Speranza, Travis Lindsey Region 1 (Local EM), Anna McRay Region 1 (Local EM), Sara Makley Region 2 (Local EM), William Aldrich Region 3 (Local EM), Kirby Felts Region 3 (Local EM), Pokey Harris Region 4 (Local EM), Steve Davis Region 4 (Local EM), Paul Long, Region 5 (Local EM), Creig Moore, Region 5 (Local EM), Robert Foresman, Region 6 (Local EM), Marc Barbieri, Region 7 (Local EM), Jeff Fletcher, Region 7 (Local EM), Deanna Webster, VOAD, Bo Keeney (Ex-Officio), and Bruce Keeney (Ex-Officio).

Sara Ruch announced that the sole focus of this meeting would be to review and discuss recommended changes to the VEMA Constitution and Bylaws as recommended by the VEMA Constitutions and Bylaws Committee. She reviewed the proposed changes by the committee. She recognized that the committee had worked diligently to put forth a solid proposal for changes and is in recommending moving forward with the proposed changes as presented.

Motion by Travis Linsdey, second by Anna McRay that the VEMA Board of Directors accept the committee's recommendations for proposed changes to the VEMA Constitution. During the discussion period it was discussed whether or not to add the 7 VDEM regional coordinators as voice only, non-voting members of the board of directors. After some lengthy discussion Bo Keeney, Executive Director, asked the members on the call for a straw poll vote to get a sense of the group's consensus. The straw vote had members on both sides of the issue but in the long run it was the general consensus of the board to incorporate this change. The next issue addressed was the IHE caucus representation. Again there was some great discussion with members on both sides of this issue. In the end it was agreed upon by general consensus to change the number of representatives from the Institutions of Higher Education Caucus Representative from two to one. Motion amended by Travis Linsdey, Second by Anna McRay, to accept the committee's recommendations as amended to incorporate the changes as accepted by consensus of the board of directors. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Craig Moore, second by Jeff Flectcher that the VEMA Board of Directors accept the committee's recommendations for proposed changes to the VEMA Bylaws. Sara Ruch, VEMA president, moderated this portion of the meeting. During the discussion period it was discussed that the bylaws should change the number of representatives for the Institutions of Higher Education Caucus from two to one. Additionally it was suggested that the quorum be changed from 51% to 1/3 of total voting members. Finally it was suggested that the names of specific scholarships be removed from Article 5, Section 5. There was not a lot of discussion on these matters as they had all been addressed during the previous portions of the meeting. All of the suggested changes were approved by general consensus. Motion amended by Craig Moore, second by Jeff Fletcher to accept the committee's recommendations as amended to incorporate the changes as accepted by general consensus of the board of directors. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business Sara Ruch adjourned the meeting at 1:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Speranza
VEMA Secretary