



Alabama Association Of Emergency Managers

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3



Kathrine Carson
is the Lee County
EMA Director
and also holds
her CEM and
MLEM.

**She also encour-
ages you to en-
courage others
to become a
member of our
AAEM Team.**

**Numbers matter
and you are "1".**

***Unity of purpose
is the foundation
for unity of effort
during incident
management and
support opera-
tions.*** FEMA 2011

JULY 15, 2015

AAEM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Officers:

- Kathy Carson, President
- Mike Evans, 1st V. President
- Jonathan Gaddy, 2nd Vice President
- Anita McBurnett, Immediate Past President
- Ronnie Adair, Secretary & Treasurer (ACCA)

Area Directors

- Johnny Brock, Area 1
- Ronnie Dollar, Area 2
- Deandre Kimbrough, Area 3
- Bob Franklin, Area 4
- James Burnett, Area 5
- Scott Worsham, Area 6
- Hub Harvey, Area 7
- LaTonya Stephens, Area 8

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AAEM President Kathrine Carson

I am honored to serve as the President of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers for the 2015-2016 term of office. I welcome your communication and would like to hear from each of you regarding concerns and issues that the Association can assist you with. On behalf of the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Area Directors, our door is always open to you, the membership, for suggestions.

Our goals for this term include continuing with our goal of "Unity of Effort" in order to increase the effectiveness of our team and achieve success more quickly. I am dedicated to maintaining the effective relationship established by our past-presidents and continue to improve upon them. During the coming year, we intend to work to build our ability to manage resources and people to provide a more stable platform to assist each other with county to county mutual aid. The state of Alabama has one of the best emergency management programs in the nation, however we should never stop working to improve our network and resources. We are also working toward better communication with our membership and we would like to see more two-way communications. It is only with your support that we can reach these goals.

I would like to thank all of the outgoing Board Members, Committee Chairs and Area Directors for their service and leadership over the past year. I would also like to thank Past-President Anita McBurnett for her hard work and dedication and for her willingness to continue to work with me during the coming year.

Bless you and please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or suggestions.

AAEM Summer Conference 2015

Rita L. Smith, MLEM

The AAEM Summer Conference was held in Mobile at the Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel. It was great to see a large number in attendance and always wonderful to see our EMA family

members and to catch up.

"Unity of Effort" was the theme and numerous breakout sessions encouraged teamwork, communicating effectively, and how relationships with elected officials and department heads create efficiency. A delicious

meal at Felix's Fish Camp gave all the opportunity to discuss new ideas and to encourage each other. The 2015-2016 AAEM Board was sworn in. The rest of the week was filled with the Alabama/ Mississippi Hurricane Conference and the Governor's Preparedness Conference.



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"...provide caregivers with the information they need to begin planning or improve upon emergency planning for those for which they care."

Visit this website or click on this link to help you, help others be prepared:

<http://www.ready.gov/individuals-access-functional-needs>

Etowah County VOAD Emphasizes Preparedness for People with Disabilities and Functional Needs

By Michael Amberson, ALEM, MEP - Gadsden/Etowah EMA Operations Manager/Planner

The Etowah County Voluntary Organization Active in Disaster (ECVOAD) is emphasizing preparedness for individuals with disabilities and functional needs. At its January meeting, members of ECVOAD discussed a new project to put information in the hands of those with disabilities and functional needs, and their caregivers. ECOVAD member and 211/First Call for Help Program Director Susan Carter indicated that Alabama is home to 945,000 people with disabilities. That is approximately 19% of the population, according to the 2010 US Census. "This is a real issue, and one in which I feel we should be emphasizing," said Carter.

Etowah County has experienced several emergencies and disasters this decade. This includes five tornadoes, a derecho event, and 13 winter storms. When emergencies or disasters like these occur, they tend to cut access to needed resources for people with disabilities and functional needs. This creates a situation where the community's well-being is in jeopardy. It also creates an extra burden upon the response community. It is because of this situation that ECVOAD has made it a priority in 2015 to place special emphasis on assisting in the preparedness needs for those with disabilities and functional needs.

As part of the emphasis, ECVOAD has formed a committee to review, edit, and publish a document called "The Etowah County Caregiver's Guide to Emergency Planning." This will provide caregivers with the information they need to begin planning or improve upon the emergency planning for those for which they care. The scope of the guide will cover all hazards, and will emphasize being informed of emergencies, creating an emergency plan, and building an emergency supply kit.

In addition to helping people with disabilities, ECVOAD is assisting those with functional and access needs as well. This includes children, individuals who do not speak English, and homes with animals. Gadsden/Etowah County Emergency Management Agency Director Deborah Gaither said, "It is easy to focus on older individuals when planning for this segment of the population. However, there are many more groups that we traditionally don't consider who may need special assistance in planning for emergencies. One of our goals is to assist these individuals with tools specifically designed for their needs."

ECVOAD hopes to have the caregiver's guide out by the end of the year. ECVOAD members will emphasize emergency preparedness at its public presentations. It is the goal of this project to improve the safety and well-being of those with disabilities and functional needs, and lessen the burden of the response community in emergencies and disaster.

Coast Guard Exercise – River City Slam

By Anita McBurnett, ALEM, AAEM Immediate Past President



Morgan County EMA/EOC hosted the “River City Slam Exercise” held on May 12, 2015.

The Purpose of the exercise was to align, coordinate and assess local response agencies with the SOP's and to interface with the USCG assets. To also validate the information and procedures in the Area Maritime Security Plan.

Some federal participants were FBI, USACE, TSA, DHS, TVA, and USCG.

State participants included ALDHS, AEMA, AMP,

ALEA, CST, Alabama Fusion Center, Mississippi Homeland Security and Highway Patrol.

Locals brought together law and fire from multiple municipalities and jurisdictions such as Decatur, Florence/Lauderdale, Guntersville, Huntsville/Madison, Lawrence, Limestone Marshall, Morgan and Tishomingo MS EMA and Sheriff's Office.

Industry included 3m, Alabama Farmers Coop, Ascend, BP, Bunge North America, Cherokee Nitrogen, Baikin, Guntersville

Marine, Kinder Morgan, Murphy Oil USA, New Corp Spill, OLIN Chemical, Parker Cowing, Smurfit Stone, ULA and Warren Distribution.

This Functional Exercise supports two of Alabama's three Maritime Ports of Morgan, Guntersville and Mobile.



Please share your thoughts and comments with your Area Director on ways to improve our Association. Any training requests and ideas that you have will also be beneficial.

Remember, we will only be as successful as the time and effort that our members dedicate to our growth. Please, get involved in your future today!

facebook

Coming soon our AAEM TWITTER account. Watch for our tweet...



Like our AAEM Opened facebook Page

All are invited to like and follow our AAEM Opened facebook Page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaAssociationofEmergencyManagers>

Our Closed AAEM facebook Page, must have a County EMA Director's email request sent to dgaither@cityofgadsden.com to add anyone to the Closed Page. The Closed Page is for those who are employed by an Emergency Management Agency and are a member in good standing with the AAEM.



Swearing in of 2015–2016 AAEM Officers and Area Directors by Rusty Russell, Madison County EMA Director and President of IAEM USA Council and ALEM

Thank you to the 2014/2015 AAEM Board members for a job well done!
Your hard work and dedication to the association has not gone unnoticed.



As of the end of June we are 259 members strong! Let's all get ACTIVE. Please work with your teammates and ask them to join us as an active member of the AAEM. Membership brings together ideas, lesson learned, knowledge, experience and more. For membership information and to join us today please contact, Jennifer Datcher at the ACCA - JDatcher@alabamacounties.org



REMINDER—all committee chairs should have their reports to the AAEM President by August 1, 2015. This will allow for review and to help with the agenda planning for the next meeting. More information on the next meeting can be found on page 6 of this newsletter.

NOTICE: Numerous committees are looking for AAEM members to serve. Please let committee chairs know if you are available and willing to serve. Your participation matters in your association. We need you to succeed.



NWS Daily Operations Visit and Briefing

By Michael D. Evans, Deputy Director, Mobile County EMA, CEM, MLEM and 1st Vice President AAEM



On February 23, 2015, as part of our AAEM Legislative visit to Washington DC we attended the National Weather Service Daily Operations brief and then met with Dr. Louis Uccellini and his primary staff at their office in Silver Spring, Maryland. The daily operations briefing was conducted in the Operations Center at the NWS headquarters and is an executive summary of weather nationwide for Dr. Uccellini and his primary staff to have situational awareness regarding the current and forecasted weather trends along with any serious incidents or problems related to the weather. The AAEM meeting with the NWS staff directly followed the daily operations brief and in this meeting Dr. Uccellini discussed the NWS Strategic Vision for a Weather Ready Nation that is “Ready, Responsive and Resilient”. He said to get where they wanted to be the NWS needed to provide better forecasts and warnings, consistent products and services and impact based decision support services (IDSS). He also briefed us on the current status of the NWS Supercomputer and their goal of increasing its overall capacity by the end of 2015 to better support all of their products and capabilities. He also discussed the opening of the National Water Center in Tuscaloosa, AL in May 2015 and how this office would work collaboratively and in conjunction with the local offices to support them and their customers. He made us aware that filling the vacancies in the local offices was a top priority and their ongoing plan fill current vacancies while projecting future vacancies and filling them quicker by using the NWS Enterprise Staffing Analysis. He also explained a 10 year glide path with milestones that would enable a weather ready nation while keeping the NWS capable of change and innovation. During this meeting the following topics and concerns from AAEM were discussed with Dr. Uccellini: **1.** The radar issue at Columbus Air Force Base related to the trees that limited the radar capability, **2.** We also discussed the importance of maintaining the local weather offices and not consolidating them to regional offices, and **3.** We talked specifically about the vacancies to the NWS offices in Alabama. Since that meeting and with continued discussion with our legislators the radar issue at Columbus Air Force Base has been solved, the bill to consolidate local offices and regionalize them has been removed and a substitute bill was introduced which removes the sections about establishing the regional offices, and finally there have also been several hires to fill vacancies in the Alabama NWS offices since our meeting back in February. Based on some of the outcomes of these particular topics since our meeting and continued follow up it appears that it was a success well worth the time and effort.



NEXT AAEM WORKSHOP & TRAINING

Have you registered? Make plans to attend December 1 & 2, 2015, AAEM Workshop in Auburn at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center. To register visit or click here http://www.alabamacounties.org/event/aaem-workshop-2/?instance_id=476

JOB OPENING:

Emergency Management Agency Coordinator
Bibb County Commission | Centreville, AL
 Deadline: 2 p.m., Friday, July 17, 2015

Upcoming Board Meeting Members are Welcomed to Attend

The next AAEM board meeting will be held on August 7th at the ACCA office in Montgomery. The meeting will begin at 10am. Members are welcome to attend, even if they are not members of the board or committee chairs. Please RSVP to Rita Smith rsmith@leecoema.com or 334-275-6327 by July 27th.

To register for the **ACCA and Affiliates Conference in Perdido Beach on August 18 thru 20, 2015** visit or click here http://www.alabamacounties.org/event/acca-annual-convention/?instance_id=611

VISIT

WWW.AAEM.US

Submit Articles and Photos

Please submit articles and photos for publication in the AAEM Quarterly Newsletter to dgaither@cityofgadsden.com

Articles should be kept to 175 words or less. Photos should be sent in jpeg format.

We accept training announcements, blurbs and other EMA Community news.

Article suggestions:
 Training, Exercise,
 Awards, Recognitions,

Retirements, New Employee's, Planning, Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Lessons Learned.

The next newsletter will go out on October 15, 2015. Please submit your articles, photos announcements and blurbs two weeks prior of publish date.

Thank you, Editor of the 2015/2016 AAEM Newsletter.

Send ideas or updates for the AAEM Website to

johnston@monroeema.com

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