

NEMA 35th Anniversary and 2009 Mid-Year Conference
March 6-11, 2009
Hilton Mark Center Hotel – Alexandria, VA

Minutes

March 9, 2009

NEMA President Nancy Dragani called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked Vice President Dave Maxwell to call the roll.

Roll Call of States (P = Proxy)

Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV
Connecticut (P)	New Jersey	District of Columbia	Alabama
Maine (P)	New York	Pennsylvania (P)	Florida
Massachusetts		Virginia	Georgia
New Hampshire	Virgin Islands	West Virginia	Kentucky
Vermont			Mississippi
			North Carolina
			South Carolina
			Tennessee
Region V	Region VI	Region VII	Region VIII
Illinois	Arkansas	Iowa	Colorado
Indiana	Louisiana	Kansas	Montana
Michigan	New Mexico	Nebraska	North Dakota
Minnesota	Oklahoma		Utah
Ohio	Texas (P)		
Wisconsin			
Region IX	Region X		
Arizona	Alaska		
California	Oregon		
Guam	Washington		
Hawaii			
Mariana Islands			

There were 42 States and territories present and 4 proxies. A quorum was declared.

President Dragani welcomed attendees to NEMA's 35th Anniversary and 2009 Mid-Year Conference. She then recognized to date, the nation's longest serving State Emergency Management Director Albert Ashwood (OK).

The Council of State Governments: Vision for the Future – David Adkins, Executive Director & CEO

Mr. Adkins addressed the membership for the first time since becoming the new CSG leader in January 2009. He talked about CSG's desire to provide the most professional support possible for NEMA and stressed the opportunities for the two organizations to work collaboratively in support of State Government in what can be considered ambiguous and anxious times with the economy. Adkins offered CSG as a protector of Federalism issues and a champion of States' rights which he knows is of importance to NEMA as it addresses national emergency management and homeland security issues.

The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Sec. Napolitano focused her remarks on the seamless collaboration that needs to occur between Federal, State and local governments and a clear linkage to the private sector during disaster preparedness, response and recovery. As a former Governor, she understands the importance of those relationships and the roles and responsibilities of each partner. Sec. Napolitano stated that the expectations of FEMA need to be curbed – FEMA is not a first responder – and she asked NEMA's help in tempering expectations. The Secretary was effusive in her praise of President Obama's intent to nominate Craig Fugate to serve as the FEMA Administrator. Fugate is the Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. She asked NEMA to develop a small advisory group to meet with her and with the FEMA Administrator on a regular basis. Sec. Napolitano then took questions from the audience for approximately 15 minutes continually reiterating the role of the States and the Federal government as a supportive and collaborative partner.

Nancy Ward, Acting Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Ms. Ward commented on the fact that the nation needs to renew its focus on recovery and housing issues. What has been done in the past is no longer effective and we all need to work together to devise more effective approaches. She commented on the numerous and growing Federal requirements and the burden that is placed on State and local governments. She plans to recommend to the new FEMA Administrator that a review be conducted of Federal requirements to determine where initiatives can be streamlined and efficiencies gained. She discussed the bureaucratic and burdensome processes associated with the Public Assistance Program and it needs to be fixed. Ms. Ward also discussed opportunities through social networking media to promote emergency management messages to the public.

Lessons Learned from Special Events Planning:

- Presidential Inauguration - Darrell Darnell, Director District of Columbia Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency;
- Democratic National Convention - Hans Kallam, Director, Colorado Division of Emergency Management;

- Republican National Convention - Kris Eide, Director, Minnesota Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Copies of presenter slides can be accessed from the NEMA web site at <http://www.nemaweb.org>.

Voting on NEMA Position Papers and Resolutions

Mitigation Committee – Jim Mullen

A position paper in support of reauthorization for the Pre-disaster Mitigation Program:

Moved: AR DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Second: IA

A position paper in support of reauthorization for the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program and full funding of the Advanced National Seismic System:

Moved: WV DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Second: AK

Note: A position paper was approved during Executive Session on Critical Issues for the Obama Administration and Congress:

Moved: CO DISPOSITION: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
Second: CNMI

There being no further business, the general session was adjourned. State Directors will meet in Executive Session on March 11, 2009.