

1 **LOUISIANA EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ASSOCIATION**
2 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETREAT**
3 **July 16 and 17, 2009**
4 **JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING CENTER (JESTC)**
5 **ZACHARY, LOUISIANA**
6 **MEETING MINUTES**

7
8 **I. CALL TO ORDER**

9
10 President Jerry Monier called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

11
12 **Members Present:**

13 Dexter Accardo
14 John Boudreaux
15 Obie Cambre
16 Pat Santos for Mark Cooper
17 Eric Deroche
18 Robert Jump
19 Jeffrey Meyers
20 Tuesday Mills
21 Jerry Monier
22 Cindy Montz
23 Andrew Mosher
24 Michael Murphy
25 Karen Price
26 Pat Santos (joined in the afternoon)
27 Rick Webre
28 Sonya Wiley

29
30 **Members Absent:**

31 Dave Brown
32 Ralph Mitchell
33 John Porter
34 Dawson Primes
35 Tommy Thiebaud
36 Tab Troxler

37
38 **Guests:**

39 Bland O'Connor
40 Jolie Howard

41
42 **II. INTRODUCTION AND OUTLINES**

43
44 Jerry discussed the reason for getting together as developing a five year plan for the
45 Association. New Board members Rick Webre, Obie Cambre and Dexter Accardo were
46 introduced.

47
48 Dexter Accardo has been appointed Legislative Chair. Sonya Wiley and Eric Deroche
49 will chair the Workshop.

50 Robert Jump will chair LEM Certification. Jeff Meyers will chair Charter and Bylaws.
51 Karen Price will chair Scholarship. Tuesday Mills will chair Membership. Michael
52 Murphy will chair Newsletter and Communications. Dawson Primes will chair the
53 Nominating Committee.

54

55 Sonya Wiley and Jerry Monier both attended the Louisiana Girls State program. This
56 was the first year that Girls' State included Emergency Management into their project
57 mix. Sonya made a presentation to the Group and they judged the girls' presentations at
58 the end of the day. Jerry voiced enthusiasm for seeing young people as engaged in
59 emergency management as the Girls' State participants were. Next year Boys' State will
60 add Emergency Management to its curriculum and we will partner with them as well.

61

62 Jerry challenged the group to try over the next day and a half to chart a realistic course
63 for LEPA for the next five years.

64

65 John Boudreaux mentioned putting together a local emergency managers' group to
66 address legislative concerns. An in-depth discussion ensued regarding legislative and
67 advocacy concerns for specific segments within LEPA.

68

69 Eric Deroche brought up the issue of having a midyear continuing education or current
70 events workshop separately from the annual workshop. Tuesday Mills suggested several
71 mini-symposiums on basic emergency management, LEM/CEM accreditation, degree
72 management, grant writing, etc. Eric suggested looking at various delivery methods such
73 as podcasting.

74

75 Dexter Accardo brought up the subject of Mutual Aid and stressed that LEPA needs to
76 actively engage its membership to thrive. Jerry spoke of case studies being a very
77 powerful way of communicating and training. Andy pointed out that the state has a
78 tremendous amount of resources and the private sector also has significant resources.
79 Eric pointed out that LEPA has more opportunity for stronger partnership with GOHSEP
80 and other organizations.

81

82 Rick Webre challenged the group to identify the five critical functions of LEPA. John
83 Boudreaux pointed out that Andy's networking theme is a key value delivered by LEPA.
84 Cindy Montz pointed out that field delivery of courses is also a key and the training
85 provides the networking opportunities. John suggested that we need to have localized or
86 regional networking meetings.

87

- 88 1. Networking, relationship building and information sharing`.
- 89 2. Professional training and development and certification.
- 90 3. Executive level outreach (note the 8 hour orientation for all newly elected
91 officials).

92

93 Jerry wants to develop a monthly email to membership telling them what is happening
94 with LEPA.

95

96 A discussion ensued of a summit meeting for representatives of all associations in the
97 state to discuss emergency preparedness.

98

99 Also discussed were holding a Membership meeting at Workshop, hand out suggestion
100 sheets and have them be turned-in on the way out of the meeting.

101

102 Also discussed was insuring against future meeting cancellations for things such as
103 H1-N1 outbreaks and similar eventualities.

104

105 **NETWORKING – INFORMATION SHARING**

106 Identify

107 Increase opportunities for networking (Mid-year meeting in 2010, Workshop(s))

108 Pod casts

109 Social networking (cyber)

110 Website update

111 Status of Association

112 Networking

113 Member profiles

114 Holiday Social

115

116

117 **LEADERSHIP – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

118 Certification – continuing education, what will be accepted

119 Scholarships

120 Educational opportunity (relates to networking)

121 Recruitment to the profession

122 Sustainment of the profession

123 Develop a guidance program document for training required for each position

124 (recommended curriculum) Mandated vs recommended

125 By end of calendar year 2010 add a second midyear conference.

126

127

128 **LEM**

129 Discussion of strengthening the criteria, perhaps requiring a full application from all.

130 Perhaps LEPA needs to define what “Comprehensive Emergency Management

131 experience” and “emergency management training” really is and perhaps other terms.

132 Discussion also ensued regarding doing away with the Grandfather Clause.

133 It was noted that reminders needed to be sent on LEM renewal.

134

135 Definition of terms

136 Grandfather sunset

137 Award certification only twice per year

138

139 Benchmarks for LEM:

140 1. Clear picture of what the requirements are to the Board.

141 2. Tie training programs into LEM.

142 3. Digital application

143

144

145 **SCHOLARSHIPS**

146 Liberalizing the specifications for the post-secondary scholarships (expansion of the
147 academic criteria) was discussed and is being worked on.

148

149 Also discussed were HotZone scholarships vs LEPA Workshop scholarships vs adding
150 Regional Workshops.

151

152 Benchmarks for Scholarships:

153 1. Maintain \$5k and \$8k student and Hotzone scholarships.

154 2. Establish a LEPA Workshop scholarship

155

156

157 **TRAINING**

158 Rick Webre distributed a handout as a visual aid for an Institutional Level of Training
159 model for LEPA and the State.

160

161 A Training resource page needs to go up on the website.

162

163 Is there anything LEPA is uniquely suited to provide and is not readily available
164 elsewhere?

165

166 Benchmarks for Training:

167 Define the goal (3 to 6 months)

168 Link into LEM

169 Website benchmarks – Links developed

170 Identify training hierarchy on website

171

172

173 **MEMBER SERVICES/LEGISLATION**

174 Issues requiring attention include:

175 Website,

176 Membership Form

177 Demographic information captured about members

178 Mid-year symposium,

179 Public information officer symposium.

180

181

182 **WEBSITE**

183 Cascading style sheets

184 Mobile devices

185 Calendar of Events (central location for all training)

186 Click on something and get LEPA's recommendation on how to achieve competence at a
187 certain level...course work or training for accomplishing a skill set.

188

189 Bland must provide a status report on the web-portal association management system
190 ("AMS") in September and a recommendation is due at the December 11 meeting.

191

192

193 **COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING**

194 What associations do we need to send an olive branch to?

195

196 Discussion ensued on obtaining a legislative monitor.

197

198

199 **EXECUTIVE OUTREACH BENCHMARKS**

200 Key legislative representatives

201 Legislative orientation

202 Command college

203 Plug into existing outreach/orientation programs

204 Develop a consistent message from LEPA that communicates the diverse landscape

205 Make it a Workshop module that then gets updated every year so it is evergreen

206

207 We need to position LEPA as the standard-bearer professional certification association of
208 emergency management professionals within the State of Louisiana.

209

210

211 Respectfully submitted,

212

213

214

215 H. Bland O'Connor, Jr.

216 Executive Director

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