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Once Upon a Time – A NEMA Story

Once upon a time, the NEMA president pulled into a parking lot, unloaded a number of cardboard boxes full of files from his trunk and passed them along to a colleague with outstretched hands who promptly stacked the boxes into the back of his car. Success! The handoff between the current and incoming NEMA president was done. A made-up story? Hardly!

That was the norm prior to NEMA becoming an affiliate of The Council of State Governments (CSG) in 1990 and hiring full-time professional association staff. Until then, the staff of the president took on NEMA duties on top of their own day-to-day responsibilities, including national conference planning. As the national policy issues being addressed by NEMA continued to grow in complexity and number, the Board of Directors decided it was time for a change and signed an affiliate agreement with CSG to provide



professional services. The rest as they say, is history. While CSG provides NEMA with services such as facilities, human resources, and accounting, it's a shared mission that binds the two organizations most closely. According to CSG Executive Director David Adkins, NEMA and CSG share the same mission of helping state officials understand the complexities of today's public policy challenges, learn from one another and implement cost effective solutions that work. "CSG values its close relationship with NEMA because of the high priority emergency preparedness and response has in every state capitol. We are impressed by the work NEMA, it's officers, and members are doing to help our states be safer and more resilient places to live. CSG champions excellence in state governments and NEMA is a useful partner to help us share the states' success stories."

Through participating on CSG's policy committees, presenting at national and regional meetings, and writing articles for CSG publications, NEMA is able to more broadly share the message of the importance of strong emergency management programs across the broader state government community. CSG's members include the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

NEMA President Brad Richy currently serves on the CSG National Policy Task Force on Healthy States which will also address the issues of disaster preparedness and resilience as part of a healthy state posture. The task force intends to produce a guide for state officials highlighting issues, lessons learned and model practices for all-around healthy and prepared states. NEMA is assisting CSG with their

research. "I hope we will continue to leverage these synergies for many years to come and look for new ways to make a difference," said Adkins. "Together, NEMA and CSG deliver real value to state leaders and both organizations are stronger as a result of our close working relationship."

NEMA is co-located with CSG Headquarters in Lexington, KY and also has staff within the CSG Washington, DC Office.



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