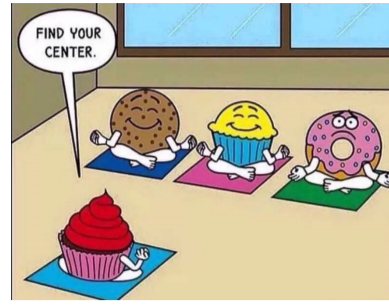


January 13, 2022

## WHAT WILL YOU CHANGE IN 2022?

### RESOLUTIONS OF THE NEMA REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS



**Does anyone wonder why January sparks resolutions?** It seems the closing of one year and the beginning of a new year would be the time to reflect on habits and find how best you want to progress in whatever strategy you feel is necessary. But it also leaves for question why we would challenge ourselves with a path forward of specific strategic markers and milestones after surviving one of the (if not *the*) busiest times of year – no matter if you are a fan of eggnog or that would be a hard pass. January could be the time of reflection and resting before we dive into the deep end of figuring out what to do with our lives for the next year. For those in colder climates, the wintry snow reminds us to slow down and be peaceful (the warmer climates also have a dip in temperatures so maybe that counts). And yet here we find ourselves creating fantastic goals to look forward to another gung-ho year – the filled calendar appointments certainly remind you. Looking forward to opportunities are always welcome, so why not go for it. And go for it was your regional vice presidents’ mantra.

**The NEMA Regional Vice Presidents share their intentions and/or resolutions for the year 2022.** Not everyone develops resolutions. Maybe they follow the lunar cycle and prefer to set intentions throughout the year as the moon waxes and wanes. Or they simply do not set yearly resolutions. One representative admittedly confessed that the track record of accomplishing resolutions was poor. But that does not mean that their commitment to NEMA equates to the status of their personal track record. The NEMA Regional Vice Presidents are board member positions that help NEMA leadership gain a perspective on regional impacts to emergency management in policy and operations. The group is led by the NEMA Vice President, Patrick Sheehan (TN). Currently, the regional leaders are: Marc Pappas (RI, Region I); A.J. Schall (DE, Region III); Chris Stallings (GA, Region IV); Alicia Tate-Nadeau (IL, Region V); Bianca Ortiz-Wertheim (NM, Region VI); John Benson (IA, Region VII); Lynn Budd (WY, Region VIII); Dave Fogerson (NV, Region IX); and Brad Richy (ID, Region X).

Through the VPs’ shares, one resolution stands with passion: **“CONFIDENTIAL PRELIMINARY POLICY DELIBERATIONS.”** This was added with **“Survive COVID”** which the pandemic has most definitely highlighted passions and sensitivities we may need to address as we survive another year of the pandemic. Yet, through this virtual yell, the respect for confidential is noted and the quotes are not tied to the person who created the resolution. Instead, this is a compilation of inspiring intentions for you to take note. Think of it as a game in guessing whose resolution would match up. For those who follow NEMA People articles, you will have the most success because the idea sounds so much like the person, you will smile. This will be great fun as the article is doing **“a better job delegating”** to the readers to use their imaginations. Of course, it may help to **“get your ohm in 2022 by building in meditation to your daily routine to help manage the work”** involved for the guess, but more importantly the tasks that are ask of you as a member of the emergency management community. A peaceful mind will help **“to slow down the decision-making process and be more purposeful in long term investments of emergency management and homeland security within [the state] and region.”** One of the best ways for centering and slowdowns is to go outside with **“the intention to spread kindness in an angry world - and to do more fishing!”** Finding that intention of kindness could very easily lead you to **“improve how to share intelligence with partners”** It just might bring your agency to **“further expand on the concept of yes. Emergency management should be about trying to find ‘yes’ even in the cases where the initial answer may be no.”**



The only people that need a definitive answer of no are the hackers in the world of cyber-security, one method humorously pitched, **“I will change my Username to ‘Password’ and my Password to ‘Username’ . . .keeping the hackers on their toes!”**

Ultimately, even if we may wish a bit of confidential conversations, **choosing kindness helps to find the peace within us – and fishing never hurt anyone.** It definitely starts with the person and the professional intentions **“to try and continue to find ways to make employees feel valued and heard. It’s important for staff success and [agency] success, that everyone feel like their opinions and ideas are heard and their work is valued.”** It also helps in our engagements with partners and finding solutions but sometimes that must happen when we slow down our thinking and find the best person to delegate the job to. Because when all of that comes into fruition, we make **“the greatest State to live, work, and raise a family!”**

Thank you, NEMA’s Regional Vice Presidents, for the inspirational intentions as we begin a new year. Cheers.

**I don’t know where I’m going from here, but I promise it won’t be boring.**

**-David Bowie**




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