

June 14, 2022

Care About What You Do and Those You Do it With

**Col. Jeremy Slinker
Director
Kentucky Emergency
Management (KYEM)**



Photo courtesy of KYEM

Where you are new to NEMA, you are not new to public service. Almost 30 years you have served the public earning the roles as Director of the Ranger Division of KY State Parks and served in the Kentucky State Police. Now you are the Director of KYEM! What is your motivation to be a leader in public service?

It was not necessarily a goal to become a leader in public service, but I have always been willing to answer the call when and where I could help. Some of those calls for service has placed me in leadership roles, which I take very seriously and give every effort to be a positive part of the respective agency or department. In these roles I have experienced the ability to broaden your scope and influence, which allows you to contribute more to those you serve.

What is the best leadership advice you have received to date? How has that helped you as Director of KYEM?

The best advice came from my late father and grandfather: *"Be humble and no matter what you are doing give it your all. If you are going to do it, do it right. Care about what you do and those you do it with."* To have the opportunity to lead KYEM is very humbling and in turn I do not take the responsibility lightly. I am humbled as well to work along side a very experienced and professional staff to serve the citizens of the Commonwealth in the worst of times. Caring is easy as **KYEM is my new family and the citizens are my neighbors**. In this profession, there is no choice but to do it right.

What's your first impression of NEMA?

Specifically, in my role as the Director of Operations for the Kentucky State Police I quickly learned that challenges do not recognize state boundaries. My colleagues from other state departments were a great resource to collaborate with to develop strategies and solutions. I recognize that **NEMA is that conduit in emergency management**. I've received an outpouring of support and encouragement from the state directors (most of which I met at the NEMA forum in March). I also witnessed the operational benefits of EMAC during the response efforts to the December 2021 tornado event in KY. Many states provided much needed staff to assist KYEM in scaling up to meet the demands of the response. I am very impressed with the organization and professionalism exhibited by NEMA and its staff. As a result, I look forward to KYEM continuing its strong partnership with NEMA in the future.

You've made a huge accomplishment recently in your running career. Tell us about the Goofy race? Besides the fact that we are in awe that you are 'goofy' enough to do it!

Well, I decided to celebrate my 50th birthday by running the Walt Disney World Marathon as it celebrated Disney World's 50th anniversary. I'm still alive so mission complete.

You've made a huge accomplishment recently in your running career. Tell us about the Goofy race? Besides the fact that we are in awe that you are 'goofy' enough to do it!

Well, I decided to celebrate my 50th birthday by running the Walt Disney World Marathon as it celebrated Disney World's 50th anniversary. I'm still alive so mission complete.



Photo courtesy of J Slinker

What is your favorite thing to do with your family?

VACATION! As most families of public servants, mine has and continues to sacrifice a lot of family time. As we all know we are often called away at the most inconvenient of times. On a daily basis, it is tough to spend quality time together, so no matter where we go or what we do, it allows us to be together with less distractions.

What is the best place everyone should visit when they come to Kentucky?

Of course, a [Kentucky State Park!](#) No matter what you enjoy we have a park for that.

But I also realize that winning doesn't always mean getting first place; it means getting the best out of yourself.

- Meb Keflezighi

nemaweb.org

