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Did Someone Say Fish Fry?

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How has participating in NEMA benefitted you?

As a new state director, the opportunity that NEMA has provided to network and meet other state directors has been great. On the one hand, it is comforting to learn that we all experience many of the same issues, and on the other hand there is much we can learn from our fellow states.

What makes you proudest of Wisconsin Emergency Management?

I am proud of our people and the way they step up as a team to help solve whatever problem needs solving. It happens every day in big and little ways. One recent big example was when we were asked to provide supplies, donations management, and logistical support for Operation Allies Welcome, helping more than 13,000 Afghans transition through Fort McCoy, Wisconsin and start new lives in this country.

I love the culture of teamwork and sense of mission within emergency management, and I know that it is something that is universal around the country at all levels of emergency management.

As adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, what is your favorite topic to teach in your emergency management course? Why?

In my Political and Policy Dimensions of Emergency Management course, each student selects a policy topic to follow and research throughout the course, and they write a policy memo and give a presentation that poses a solution to a problem they identify. It's fun to see how the students take on this challenge and come up with some really creative solutions. This past semester we were also able to do some deep dives into equity issues and the use of executive powers during the pandemic. I find that teaching is a great way to keep me on my toes on emerging issues in the field.



Photos courtesy of Greg Engle

What's your favorite month? Why?

My favorite thing to do is to go wilderness backpacking, and you can't beat September in Wisconsin for that. The days are mild, the nights are cool and crisp, the lakes are framed by fall colors, and no bugs!

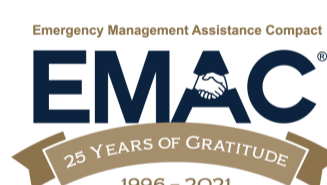
What is something about Wisconsin, or a place to visit, that people are not aware of?

The north woods of Wisconsin was a favorite place for gangsters like Al Capone and John Dillinger to hide out and run their bootlegging operations. You can still visit prime gangster hangouts like the Little Bohemia Lodge, which was the site of an infamous shootout between Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson, and the FBI. It's also a great way to enjoy Wisconsin's supper club tradition and have a Brandy Old Fashioned with your fish fry.

"You got me."

- John Dillinger to Special Agent Charles B. Winstead, FBI

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