

# Alabama Association Of Emergency Managers

SEPTEMBER 2021

## AAEM QUARTERLY

### Officers:

- Bill Sizemore, President
- Ernie Baggett, 1st V. President
- Scott Wallace, 2nd V. President
- Jim Coker, Immediate Past President
- Ronnie Adair, Secretary & Treasurer (supported by the ACCA)

### Area Directors

- Ronnie Adair, Area 1
- Willie Worsham, Area 2
- Kevin McKinney, Area 3
- Keith Barnett, Area 4
- Jody Hitt, Area 5
- Deborah Gaither, Area 6
- Hub Harvey, Area 7
- Greg Robinson, Area 8

Promote professionalism among your Emergency Management personnel by establishing performance standards and encouraging their continuing education. They are your greatest asset.

## AAEM President Bill Sizemore



I hope you all will enjoy this re-issue of the AAEM newsletter. The decision was made to publish and distribute the newsletter in order to better communicate with you. If you have suggestions for future content please let us know.

A lot has happened over the last couple of years and I want to first thank Jim Coker for his service to the association during the COVID pandemic. Jim served as president for two consecutive terms and led the association through trying times and accomplished most of it over Zoom meetings which is never easy. Thank you Jim.

As we move forward it comes to mind that some of you may not be aware of all that has occurred legislatively. First we were able to get the **Safer Places** legislation passed which will give some liability protection to folks who open their buildings to the public in severe weather. As of now a committee is being formed at AEMA, as required by the legislation, to outline the qualifications for "Safer Places". The association has two members appointed to that committee. We look forward to the completion of their work. Also the legislature approved a **state wide notification** bill which will be of great benefit to many of us throughout Alabama. AEMA is currently preparing the necessary specifications to put this service out for bid.

I also want to mention that a bill has been pre-filed for next year that will alter the law so that EMA personnel will be considered to be public safety employees as are our fire service and law enforcement colleagues. Please pay attention next year as we may need your help to get this across the finish line.

As we enter into the fall season we must not forget the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 attack on our country. I'm sure that most of us can remember exactly where we were and what we were doing that day very well. I pray that we never forget and that our children and grandchildren never have to live through a day like that. If your community is having a remembrance event for the occasion please make it a safe one.

That's about all for now but please let me or any board member know if you have any questions or concerns. The association can only be its' strongest if we work together.

Bill

**Bill Sizemore is the Madison County EMA Accountant and holds his Advanced Level Emergency Manager designation.**

**He encourages you to encourage others to become a member of our AAEM Team.**

Our core values should be Compassion, Fairness, Integrity, and Respect. They are the heart of what our Agency and our employees stand for and represent. FEMA 2019

## AAEM Membership Benefits Mirror NEMA Membership Benefits Join Us Today!



- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Sharing       | Elected Officials    |
| Helping       | Businesses           |
| Cooperating   | Healthcare Providers |
| Participating | Law Enforcement      |
| Supporting    | Fire/EMS             |
| Trusting      | Public Works         |
| Teamwork      | Volunteers....       |

And so much more



**“In TEAMWORK, silence isn’t golden, it’s deadly. “**

*Mark Sanborn*

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**AAEM  
QUARTERLY**

### **What it means to be a member of AAEM**

*When you join the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers (AAEM) you become a “family member comprised of emergency management professionals who work together to enhance preparedness across the State of Alabama”.*

*The bond among this membership is strong and whether you’ve been an emergency manager for (1) one year or twenty you will find mentorship, friendship and professionals who are a phone call away when you need assistance. During your career without a doubt, you will find yourself on both the giving and receiving end of either providing or receiving all the above.*

*There are many opportunities to serve as a member of AAEM. I encourage you to find a committee that you are interested in and join one of them! This is “your” association, and we are only as successful as the team we build and sustain.*

**Be safe!**

**Rita Smith, Lee County EMA Director**

### **September is National Preparedness Month**

**Share with us your activities or ideas on how you are leading your citizens to BE PREPARED!**

Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for downloads you can use on your social media or your county newsletter on being prepared.

*Leadership*

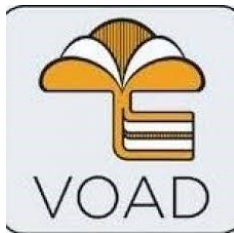
IS ABOUT MAKING OTHERS BETTER AS A RESULT OF YOUR PRESENCE AND MAKING SURE THAT IMPACT LASTS IN YOUR ABSENCE.

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## **National Preparedness Month**

**Prepare to Protect**





*“Alabama is home to 945,000 people with disabilities. That is approximately 19% of the population, according to the 2010 US Census. “This is a real*

*“...provide caregivers with the information they need to begin planning or improve upon emergency planning for those for which they care.”*

**Email us photos and activities that you do within your county, office, business, church or home during National Preparedness Month. We will share them in our next issue so that others may build off of your ideas. TEAM AAEM**

## Use Your VOAD to Emphasize Preparedness for People with Disabilities and Functional Needs

I know we all have experienced several emergencies and disasters this decade. This includes at least Eighteen tornadoes, a derecho event, and 15 winter storms, flooding and a Global Pandemic. When emergencies or disasters like these occur, they tend to cut access to needed resources for people with disabilities and functional needs. This creates a situation where the community’s well-being is in jeopardy. It also creates an extra burden upon the response community. So why not work to assist in the preparedness needs for those with disabilities and functional needs within your county.

Some things to address would be; giving caregivers the information they need to begin planning or improve upon the emergency planning for those for which they care. Plans should include all hazards, how to be informed of emergencies, creating an emergency plan, and building an emergency supply kit.

Functional and Access needs should be addressed also for; children, individuals who do not speak English, and homes with animals. It is easy to focus on older individuals when planning for this segment of the population. However, there are many more groups that we traditionally don’t consider who may need special assistance in planning for emergencies. One of your goals should be to assist these individuals with tools specifically designed for their needs. Closed caption for the hearing impaired, Braille for those who cannot see, Another language version of important planning information., etc.

The purpose of a project like this is to improve the safety and well-being of those with disabilities and functional needs, and lessen the burden of the response community in emergencies and disaster. Let us hear from you on how your county addresses the needs of those who have disabilities and functional needs. [dgaither@cityofgadsden.com](mailto:dgaither@cityofgadsden.com)



*AAEM—A family of emergency management professionals working together to enhance preparedness across the State of Alabama*

## AAEM Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers, an organization of like-minded individuals professionally engaged in the advancement of emergency management and its affiliated fields, to create resilient communities and enhance public safety; provide leadership, training, and certification to our members; and empower all in our profession to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from all types of disasters.

**AAEM Clothing and Accessories COMING SOON Watch for more details.**



Send ideas or updates for the AAEM Website to



Please share your thoughts and comments with your Area Director on ways to improve our Association. Any training requests and ideas that you have will also be beneficial.

Remember, we will only be as successful as the time and effort that our members dedicate to our growth. Please, get involved in your future today!

### Like our AAEM Opened Facebook Page

All are invited to like and follow our AAEM Opened Facebook Page here: <https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaAssociationofEmergencyManagers>

**Our Closed AAEM Facebook Page**, must have a County EMA Director's email request sent to [rsmith@leeco.us](mailto:rsmith@leeco.us) to add anyone to the Closed Page. The Closed Page is for those who are employed by an Emergency Management Agency and are a member in good standing with the AAEM.

# facebook

Info on AAEM Social Media



### AAEM Officer Swearing in at 2021 Alabama Disaster Preparedness Conference



Photo by: Rita L. Smith, Director, Lee County, MLEM

### Submit Articles and Photos

Please submit articles and photos for publication in the AAEM Quarterly Newsletter to [dgaither@cityofgadscden.com](mailto:dgaither@cityofgadscden.com)

Articles should be kept to 175 words or less. Photos should be sent in jpeg format.

The next newsletter will go out on December 1, 2021. Please submit your articles, photos announcements and blurbs two weeks prior of publish date.

*September 11 impressed upon us that life is a precious gift. Every life has a purpose. And I think we all have a duty to devote at least a small portion of our daily lives to ensuring that neither America nor the world ever forgets September 11.*

*– Bill Frist*

*Even the smallest act of service, the simplest act of kindness, is a way to honor those we lost, a way to reclaim that spirit of unity that followed 9/11.*

*– President Obama in a 2011 radio address*



*September 11, 2001 is a day worth remembering. Thousands of Americans died in a terrorist attack on our nation and it's a day to honor their lives. It's also a day to show that we will never forget the horrific events that occurred on 9/11.*

Let's all get ACTIVE. We are 268 Members STRONG! Please work with your teammates and ask them to join us as an active member of the AAEM. Membership brings together ideas, lesson learned, knowledge, experience and more. For membership information and to join us today please contact, Jennifer Datcher at the ACCA - [JDatcher@alabamacounties.org](mailto:JDatcher@alabamacounties.org) or any AAEM Board Member



**REMINDER**—all committee chairs should have their reports to the AAEM President and Jennifer before the next AAEM Board Meeting. This will allow for review and to help with the agenda planning .

**NOTICE: GET INVOLVED...** Numerous committees are looking for AAEM members to serve. Please let committee chairs know if you are available and willing to serve. Your participation matters in your association. We need you to

