

Greetings to ALL OEMA members:

The conference for 2011 is over and the evaluations received thus far are very positive and many contain suggestions for future themes and presentations. Thanks to all who participated. I think it is appropriate at this time to take a moment to thank the 2011 Conference Committee members; (alphabetically by first name); Dawn Blalack, Jeff Sargent, Mary Davis, Mike Harryman, Patty Hopkins, Rosanna Brown, Sharon Kennedy, Sue Lamb and Todd Felix. An awesome committee that made **YOUR** 2011 conference a great success. Thanks, TEAM!!

As we begin this new year of OEMA activities, I encourage all members to become engaged by assisting on any committee of your choice, especially the soon to be organized 2012 Conference Committee that will be chaired by Joe Rizzi - and if you're already engaged – thanks for your efforts in continuing to build our organization.

Working with me and for all of us will be returning e-board members; Mike Harryman, Past President; Mary Davis, Secretary; and Gene Strong, West Side Representative. We will be joined by newly elected members, Joe Rizzi, President-Elect; Dawn Blalack, Treasurer; and Karl Tesch, East Side Representative. Congratulations to all.

We have long recognized the need to more fully engage the private sector in OEMA membership and activities and to that end; I am making the private sector a priority for the coming year. None of us in the public sector can manage a major emergency or disaster without help and support from our private sector partners, so I'm asking each and every one of our OEMA members to reach out to the private sector partners with whom you engage or are familiar and invite them to join us in this endeavor.

For the next year, in addition to working with the private sector, I am focused on and committed to increasing training opportunities across the State of Oregon, increasing our membership and continuing to build a great partnership with OEM. In light of consistently shrinking budgets and funding streams, these activities seem more important than ever.

OEMA is a terrific organization that has earned a great reputation and enjoys substantial influence in the emergency management arena locally, regionally and in some cases, nationally. We now need to take the organization to the next level, by expanding our horizons and augmenting professional opportunities.

Thank you for placing your trust in me to take the helm of OEMA for the next year. With the assistance of all OEMA members and the diligence of the executive board, I know we will learn and grow together.

Thank You.



Doug McGillivray