

September 20, 2014

What's Exciting This Month:

- The future of the AHIMTA: Our purpose and vision
- The focused priorities of your incident management association.
- The way forward for AHIMTA—Inspiring Excellence in Incident Management
- Association Provides Liability Insurance for members
- Incident Management Journal
- Draft Position Descriptions and PTBs Released

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The PIO

Letter from the President

Greetings,

It is with pleasure that I present the AHIMTA's inaugural edition of *The PIO*. AHIMTA will produce this newsletter regularly to keep our membership informed of the activities of the association.

AHIMTA has been extremely busy over the last several months with exciting news and progress to share. In this edition, you will read about a Board of Directors' (BOD) workshop that resulted in a fresh outlook for the association.

It is amazing to me how few jurisdictions focus on providing qualified, competent, well-trained, and capable personnel, teams, and resources in order to manage the complexities of emergencies and disasters; AHIMTA exists to change that. AHIMTA exists to define excellent emergency management standards, and to promote those best practices. Ultimately,

AHIMTA exists to inspire excellence in incident management. That is our purpose that will guide our future actions.

BOD elections are in full swing, and we invite you to participate in our electoral process. Please make sure you vote for your AHIMTA leadership.

The BOD also conducted the 2014 member survey. A summary of those results are described on page 3. The primary concern is a desire for better communications from the BOD. We have heard your request and thus this newsletter is born!

The annual conference is approaching and we hope to "Forge a New Frontier" with you in Ft. Worth, in December. We hope to see you all there! Until then, keep making order from chaos...

Randal Collins,
AHIMTA President

Your Association's BOD Meets in Denver

Over a long three-day weekend in mid-August, your association BOD met in Denver, CO, to evaluate today, and prepare for tomorrow. In addition to the articulation of the association's new purpose of inspiration, the association also identified three vision statements designed to fully support that purpose. First, the association made a commitment to cultivate wide-spread adoption of the association's new qualification system (see below).

Secondly, the BOD made a commitment to become "a catalyst for effective collaboration, cooperation, coordination, and influence with nationally-recognized partners." Finally, in the third vision statement, the BOD determined to remain a reliable, influential, organization, that prioritizes fiscal health, longevity, and continuity for the membership and the incident management community.

Renewed Purpose and Vision for AHIMTA

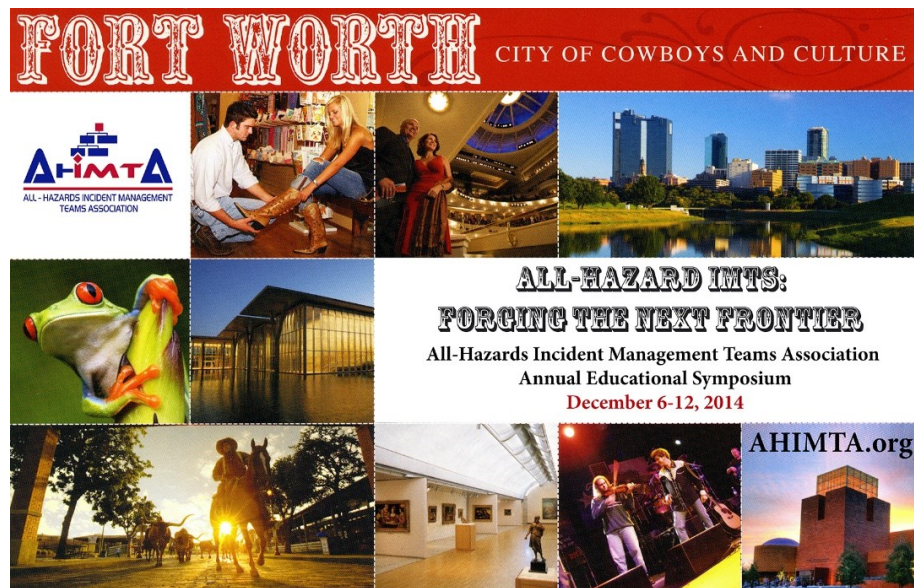
Over the last several years, the AHIMTA has seen highs and lows, ebbs and flows, failures and successes. It was with this in mind, and the determination to make 2014 and beyond successful, that your Board of Directors met in Denver, CO, to embark on a difficult journey—identifying the purpose and vision of the association. After much discussion, analysis, and thoughtful consideration, it was the representative from FEMA Region I, and the association's 2nd Vice President, Bill Austin, who stated simply, "we need to inspire people to join, to develop teams, to be part of this movement." From there, the board found its way to its newly articulated purpose, which is that the "AHIMTA exists to inspire excellence in incident management." It is simple, yet powerful. It is inclusive, yet remains consistent with the spirit in which the association was originally created. Through this compelling purpose, the BOD will forge the "next frontier," and guide the association into the future, with renewed confidence, determination, and focus. The new purpose and supporting vision statements will all be showcased at the 2014 Annual Educational Symposium, in Fort Worth, Texas.



2014 AHIMTA Educational Symposium: Forging the Next Frontier

The All Hazards Incident Management Teams Association is busy preparing for quite the rodeo in Ft. Worth. The association's third conference, and the all hazards community's seventh conference, will be held December 6—11, 2014. Pre-symposium training will begin on December 6 and will include: an ICS/EOC Interface course; a Communications Unit Leader course; a Task Force/Strike Team Leader Course; a Staging Area Manager course; Management of Spontaneous Volunteers in Disaster training; and Moving IMT Decisions through Intent to Action course.

The symposium kicks off on Tuesday, December 9th. AHIMTA is honored to have Tom Harbour, the Executive Director of Fire and Aviation Management for the U.S. Forest Service, speaking about Evolving Incident Management, on the first day of the symposium. Mr. Harbour is followed by William "Billy" Wagner, Jr., who founded the FEMA Hurricane Liaison Team. The symposium will then explore non-traditional IMTs in a panel session. During lunch, the law enforcement unified commander of the 9/11 Pentagon attack, Tom Panther, will speak. In total, there will be 11 general sessions, and 26 break-out sessions. More information can be found online at www.AHIMTA.org.



AHIMTA to Provide Insurance for Deploying Members

The All Hazards Incident Management Teams Association has taken steps to overcome AHIMT challenges identified last year in the association's "Impediments to the Development and Sustainability of Type III Incident Management Teams" document. The AHIMTA procured a general liability insurance policy that covers members of the association when deployed. Members must be in good standing with the association. The policy provides up to three million dollars of general aggregate insurance, with each occurrence of up to one million dollars. Coverage also includes emergency services liability, hired / borrowed vehicles, and pollution liability.

The AHIMTA is excited to provide these services to its members. AHIMTA President Randal Collins stated, "This is an excellent example of what the association is doing for its members. This demonstrates the value of membership in the premier incident management association. The Board of Directors worked very hard to make this provision a reality." This added benefit comes with no additional cost to the association's membership.

Members must be operating in accordance with their duties on an IMT to be covered. If you would like further information about the insurance coverage, contact your regional board of director or email us at AHIMTA2AHIMTA.org.



Garry Briese Mentors & Shares His Experience With AHIMTA Board

It is not every day that the BOD of a relatively-small professional association has the opportunity to be mentored and given advice by someone as experienced and respected as Garry Briese, but that is exactly what happened in Denver, CO, when your BOD met in August. Mr. Briese shared his many years of experience at the helm of several organizations, agencies, and associations, not least of which was as the Regional Administrator for FEMA Region VIII, as well as the Executive Director of the International Fire Chief's Association. The mentorship of Mr. Briese was at times blunt, painful, and honest; however, the advice was priceless. Mr. Briese articulated several powerful principles for the BOD. First, he shared with BOD that "we can do anything we want, we just cannot do everything we want." In terms of the Board's obligation to the membership, Mr. Briese suggested that the BOD doesn't have to do everything, but they must "cause things to happen." It was through the lens of these principles, as well as discussions related to the fiscal health of the association, that the BOD determined to incorporate the suggestions and thoughts of this well-respected mentor, into the spirit of all discussions and debates that would take place throughout the weekend. The BOD was honored for this opportunity, and the membership of the association will truly benefit from this valuable experience, as the association continues to forge the next frontier in 2014 and beyond.

2014 Member Survey Results

In the month of August, AHIMTA sent out a survey to all members with the intention of seeking better understanding of the needs, desires, and direction of the members for AHIMTA. We got an overwhelming response to the survey with over 190 responses. The largest trend that the AHIMTA BOD observed within the responses, with regard to improvement, is the need for better communications between the members and the board. With this newsletter, and several other strategies in development, the BOD has resolved to improve communications with its membership.

Through the survey, the membership was asked to weigh in on our current association title, vision, mission, and purpose. In significant numbers, the members were steadfast in keeping all four issues constant and consistent. There were also questions about the association's core values. The favorites appeared to be leadership, integrity, service, commitment, and knowledge. More discussion with the BOD will occur to finalize these values. The members did favor, by nearly two to one, a focus on AHIMTA becoming a qualification/certification and standard setting entity. The members also acknowledged a desire for AHIMTA to provide liability insurance coverage for deploying AHIMT members. With great relief to the BOD, a high percentage of members remain loyal and supportive of the association.

A complete summary of the results will be emailed to the members in September. The BOD would like to thank all who participated in the survey. Your input and direction is invaluable.

2014 BOD Elections

It is the month of September, which means the Board of Director elections are in full swing for AHIMTA. Regions III, V, VI, IX, and X are all accepting ballots until October 1, 2014. AHIMTA would like to encourage all members within these regions to participate in the electoral process; your vote counts. To date, we have received more ballots than the past three years combined. Continue this fundamental process of choosing our leadership by voting.

Ballots must be submitted by members in good standing. If you have not paid your dues for the 2014 year, please do so through our website at www.AHIMTA.org. If you have any questions, or need a ballot for your region, please contact the election committee chairperson, Colleen Gadd, at AHIMTA@AHIMTA.org.



AHIMTA to Begin the Incident Management Journal

AHIMTA is trying to begin a professional periodical for the incident management community. To do this, the association needs your help. Authors are needed. Send your articles for publication to AHIMTA President Randy Collins at AHIMTA@AHIMTA.org using the following guidelines:

Editorial Policy and Writers' Guidelines

Our basic policy is to fulfill the stated purpose of the *Incident Management Journal* by providing a forum for open discussion and a free exchange of ideas relating to incident management and incident management team capabilities.

The Board of Directors of the All Hazards Incident Management Teams Association, Inc. has given authority to approve manuscripts for publication to the editor. Material submitted for publication is accepted or rejected based on the assessment of the editor as to the applicability of content and compliance with NIMS. The *Incident Management Journal* welcomes material in the following categories: **Incident command; operations; planning; logistics; finance and administration; leadership; teamwork; incident management and leadership book reviews; lessons learned from incidents; and The National Incident Management System (NIMS).**

Commentary on published material: Submit promptly. Comments normally appear as letters (see below) up to three months after published material. Be brief.

Feature Articles: Normally 2,000-3,000 words, dealing with topics of major significance. Manuscripts should be in MS Word, double spaced, and in the font Times New Roman. Ideas must be backed up by hard facts. Evidence must be presented to support logical conclusions. In the case of articles that criticize, constructive suggestions are sought. Footnotes are not necessary, but a list of source material used is helpful.

Ideas and issues: Short articles, normally 750 to 1,000 words. This section can include the full gamut of professional topics as long as treatment of the subject is brief and concise. Manuscripts should be in MS Word, double spaced, and in the font Times New Roman.

Letters: Limit to 200 words or less. Manuscripts should be in MS Word, double spaced, and in the font Times New Roman. As in most magazines, letters to the editor are an important clue as to how well or poorly ideas are being received. Letters are excellent way to correct factual mistakes, reinforce ideas, outline opposing points of view, identify problems, and suggest factors or important considerations that have been overlooked in previous *Incident Management Journal* articles. The best letters are sharply focused on one or two points.

Book reviews: Prefer 350 to 750 words. Manuscripts should be in MS Word, double spaced, and in the font Times New Roman. It is a good idea to check with the editor in advance to see if the book being reviewed is appropriate. Please be sure to include the book's author, publisher (including city), year of publication, number of pages and cost of the book.

The best advice is to write the way you talk. Organize your thoughts in an outline before writing. Cut out excess words. Short is better than long. There will be very little, if any, grammatical editing, so if you want to be received as a credible author, make sure your work is proofread. Photographs must be in JPG format (300 dpi, 5X7 inches, color preferred) and must not be imbedded in the article. Please attach photos separately. Make sure photographs have a caption and photo credit. Include the author's full name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address.



“AHIMTA exists to inspire excellence in incident management.”

Draft Position Descriptions and PTBs ready for Comment

The Standards and Qualification Committee has been hard at work creating position task books and position descriptions. The committee has done amazing work with their previous completion of the Interstate Incident Management Teams Qualifications System Guide, and they have proved themselves again with the release of these draft documents.

The association stands ready for your comments on the position descrip-

tions and position task books for all command and general staff positions. You can find these documents on the association’s website at www.AHIMTA.org. You must log in to your account and look under the resource documents tab.

The Board of Directors tip their hat to the members of the committee. The hours of work and the number of meetings completed by the committee members are staggering. Congratulations and

job well done! If you would like more information, or have questions about these documents, please contact AHIMTA Treasurer Bill Easterling at AHIMTA@AHIMTA.org.

In Next Months Issue

AHIMTA and NEMA partner to define IMTs and standardize a Mission Ready Package for the EMAC

AHIMTs recognized by Evolving Incident Management survey

AHIMTA partners with members of USFS, DOI and other stakeholders to problem solve shadowing and AHIMT ordering issues.

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