



CERT ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS
CONFERENCE CALL – AUGUST 27, 2019 / 1:30PM
MEETING MINUTES

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dan Martin called the meeting to order at 1:32pm and welcomed those on the call. Roll call was taken and the following were on the call:

- Balla, Tonya – Mundelein Fire Department
- Brooks, Connie – LaSalle County EMA
- Clifford, Kurt – Hanover Township Emergency Services
- Crawford, David – Northbrook Fire Department
- Drendel, Beth – North Aurora Police Department
- Drotor, Sheri – Cumberland County
- Frizelis, Rich – Chicago CERT
- Gaonkar, Gaurav – Village of Oak Park
- Geraci, Chick – Village of Alsip
- Martin, Dan – Village of New Lenox
- McKellar, Andy – Madison County Emergency Management
- Small, Marc – Long Grove Fire Protection District
- Stejskal, Pat – Fremont Township
- Tubbs, Latesha – City of Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications
- Ulaskas, Randy – Village of Monee
- Wenzel, Mickey – South Lake County Regional CERT
- Wilson, Rich – Buffalo Grove Fire Department

APPROVAL OF JULY 30, 2019 CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

Dan advised that the Minutes from the July 30, 2019 Conference Call were previously distributed to members via email. Dan asked for a motion to approve the Minutes. Rich Wilson made a motion to approve the Minutes, followed by a second from Chuck Geraci. There was no discussion following the motions and the Minutes were approved by a voice vote with no objections.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership Document

Dan reminded everyone on the call that there was still some missing information on the Membership Document (Excel) that is sent out periodically to members. Dan asked everyone to take a look at the document to ensure that all of their information is complete (address, cell phone, office phone).

Geocoding CERT Teams / Association Members

Dan thanked Edgar Rodriguez from McDonough County and his staff for doing the geocoding work for our Association. To see where our Teams / Members are located, follow this link: <https://wiu-gis-center.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2fc5e94cf46940cf864940bcf83435f2> At the site, users can hover over a dot to see a member's name, jurisdiction, address, email, and phone number. Dan advised that Edgar will periodically update the map as our Association grows. This map is for the use of Association members only and will be useful in many ways moving forward.

Dan used this section to ask members to help identify CERTs throughout the State who may not have representation in our Association. Those on the call were requested to have CERT Program Coordinators and / or CERT volunteers reach out to Dan via email to be added to the group email.

"Basecamp"

Dan advised that everything is going well with "Basecamp" and that it appears that everyone knows NOT to reply to email from "Basecamp" unless they want everyone to read their reply.

Dan advised that he has been periodically sending Michelle Hanneken the Excel document, which has all the current Association members. Michelle then adds our new members to "Basecamp."

Mike Van Bladel from Round Lake Beach, Rich Wilson from Buffalo Grove, Connie Brooks from LaSalle County, and Randy Ulaskas from Monee reported that they have not yet received email from "Basecamp." Dan advised that he will send the Excel document to Michelle for her to add those members (and others if applicable) to "Basecamp."

Facebook Page

Dan advised that the link to the Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/CERTAssociationofIllinois/>. As of this morning, there were 304 "Likes." Dan asked those on the call to please share the page with their volunteers and ask that they "Like" it.

In addition, Dan advised that the following individuals are administrators for the Association's Facebook Page:

Tonya Balla	balla93@sbcglobal.net
Karen Flanagan	Flanagan_k@cityofelgin.org
Beth Drendel	brdrendel@gmail.com
Dan Martin	dmartin@newlenox.net

It was recognized that many of our teams are doing good things (community events, training, etc...). These are all great things that can be shared to our Facebook page. Everyone was asked to PLEASE send content to the administrators so they can share it. For those programs that have a Facebook Page, please bring a recent post to an administrator's attention in case they miss it.

CERT Association of Illinois Newsletter

Kurt Clifford advised that the first newsletter will be going out in a few days. Kurt thanked everyone who submitted content for the September newsletter.

The publishing schedule was confirmed as follows: March, June, September, and December (beginning of the month).

In terms of content submission, Kurt advised that content can be submitted via “Basecamp.” The three newsletter editors can then view and edit the content at “Basecamp.”

Content submission reminders will be sent monthly via “Basecamp.” Everyone will have about 2 ½ months to submit content for the next newsletter.

Dan thanked Kurt for his work on the newsletter as well as Sheri Drotor and Karen Flanagan who are also assisting.

Marc Small advised that he will be attending the IEMA Conference and will gladly bring copies of the newsletter to the conference. Michelle Hanneken previously advised that the newsletters can be placed at the serve Illinois table.

Web Site

Dan advised that PageDesk Incorporated in New Lenox is designing our web site at no cost. With this said, the owner of the web design business advised that there were some technical issues they were dealing with. Dan was told that the issues should be resolved soon and a link to the site will be sent next week for our review.

The purpose of the web site will be, in part, to house our newsletter, By-Laws, training information, conferences, Board of Directors information, etc...

Prairie State CERT Challenge

September 21, 2019 at the Cook County Public Health Facility in Oak Forest, IL (Cicero Ave. & 159th Street). The event will run from 8:30am (opening ceremony) to 3:00pm (approximately).

Dan advised that there are currently eight teams registered for the 2019 Prairie State CERT Challenge. They are:

- Alsip
- Buffalo Grove
- Carol Stream
- Chicago
- Highland Park
- Milton Township
- New Lenox
- Northbrook / Mundelein / Addison (combined team)

Marc Small advised that Southlake County CERT should have a team. Marc said he would follow-up to make sure they register.

Those on the call were asked to check again with their volunteers to see if they were interested in forming a team.

A discussion was held as to WHY the Planning Team is struggling to get teams to register for this year’s event. In summary, the following reasons were given:

- Mike Van Bladel from Round Lake Beach advised that they are doing a Basic Class that weekend.
- Gaurav Gaonkar from Oak Park advised that they do not have a lot of volunteers at this point.
- Sheri Drotor from Cumberland County advised that they are rebuilding and hoped to form a team for next year's event.

Connie Brooks advised Program Coordinators to encourage CERT volunteers to sign-up to assist with the event. Volunteer registration is located at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094bafa82ea3fe3-2019>. All open volunteer opportunities are listed here, along with additional information about the positions. The volunteer opportunities do not require previous CERT experience but you do need to be 18 years of age and older.

Those jurisdictions with active CERT programs that wish to participate as a team in the challenge must register by August 28 at the following website:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=t6xp7jwab&oeidk=a07egeujpij7cf16efc> This website also has all the information for teams about the event. As program manager, you're welcome to share the website with your team for the information but only the point of contact should register the team.

Connie advised that there are scoring and non-scoring stations at this year's event. Again, partial teams are welcome and all volunteers are welcome too.

CERT Association of Illinois By-Laws

Latesha Tubbs provided the update on the By-Laws. The By-Laws are being worked on by a small group who are having regular conference calls. The group's method is to take a small section each time they have a conference call so the entire document is not overwhelming.

There will be two types of membership classifications; individual and supporting organizations. Latesha described the two types and noted what it takes for a member to be in "good standing" (pays dues, ethical standards, abide by the rules, etc...).

One member on the call had a question about membership dues. The discussion once again defined what individual and supporting organization membership would entail. Dues amounts have not yet been determined, but will be nominal.

Once the group is done drafting the By-Laws, it will be shared with the membership for everyone's review. At that time additional feedback and comments will be welcomed.

Not-for-Profit / 501 (c) (3) Status

There has not been any progress in this area. Dan asked if anyone on the call had any experience or knows anyone with experience standing up a not-for-profit organization. Hearing no feedback, Dan advised he will continue to seek (inexpensive) solutions.

Training

Many things have previously been discussed to include:

- Teams having monthly training and willing to open up the training to other teams. Dan cited a recent example where he hosted training and volunteers from four CERTs attended the training with his team. If anyone is interested in doing something similar, please let Dan know and he will send an email out to the group.

- CERT Association of Illinois training, which could be hosted by one of our member teams. Something like this could be done quarterly, for example.
- Annual Training Conference, which would be held over a weekend. Dan mentioned that perhaps 2020 could be our Inaugural Conference. A CERT conference could include key note speakers, a breakout session and perhaps a disaster exercise where everyone in attendance would participate. The conference could also include an “Expo” component with various vendors in attendance.
- The National CERT Conference, which will be held in July, 2020, was also mentioned. It would be great to have a large contingent of Illinois CERT members attending the National Conference. Perhaps some day Illinois could play host to a National CERT Conference as well.

Training Committee (NEW)

A discussion was held regarding putting together a Training Committee that would lead many of the training efforts discussed above. This group, on behalf of the Association, would work together on various types of training. Dan asked if anyone on the call would be interested in being involved in the Training Committee and the following advised that they would:

- Rich Frizelis / Chicago CERT
- Rich Wilson / Buffalo Grove CERT
- Chuck Geraci / Alsip CERT

Anyone else that’s interested in participating with this group please let Dan know.

Sharing Best Practices – Questions and Discussion

Rich Wilson from Buffalo Grove advised that they have a funeral home in their area that is hosting Narcan training. Following the class, everyone is issued a Narcan kit as well. It was mentioned that Narcan training has become very popular and that many CERT members have completed it and been issued kits. Dan cautioned the group that there was a recent case in Will County where a Search and Rescue Team Member was denied life insurance because she carried / possessed Narcan. Although it seems very unfair that someone who is trained and carries Narcan to save lives should be penalized, it’s something that everyone to be aware of.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business brought forward, other than the Training Committee that was mentioned above.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Marc Small advised that the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) approved our Association to place our newsletter at Michelle Hanneken’s table (Serve Illinois) during the IEMA Conference. Dan thanked Marc for offering copy and place the newsletter at the table.

Rich Frizelis advised that the Chicago Marathon will be October 13th and there is a need for volunteers in various areas. Rich advised that he would send an email with additional information and a link to register. Dan thanked Rich and Chicago CERT for providing the opportunity.

NEXT CONFERENCE CALL / MEETING

The next Conference Call will be on **Tuesday September 24, 2019 / 1:30pm.** Call-in / Access Code information will be sent out via email and will be posted on the Meeting Agenda as well. **There will also be an in-person option in the Community Room at the New Lenox Village Hall, 1 Veterans Parkway, New Lenox, IL 60451**

ADJOURNMENT

The conference call ended at 2:28pm.