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Q1

Contact Info

Name	Brenda Emrick
City/Town	Costa Mesa
State/Province	California
Email Address	brenda.emrick@costamesaca.gov
Phone Number	714-906-5248

Q2

Name of CERT Program you are affiliated with

Costa Mesa CERT

Q3

Name of Government Agency you are an employee with if applicable

Costa Mesa Fire & Rescue

Q4

Please indicate your current CERT roles (choose all that apply)

CERT Program Manager,
CERT Volunteer Coordinator,
CERT Basic Instructor,
Staff at a CERT Sponsoring Agency

Q5

Please indicate your region (where you are physically based)

Region IX - Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, America Samoa, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Micronesia

Page 2

Q6

How many years have you been involved with CERT?

26

Q7

Which CERT related courses have you taken (select all that apply)

CERT Basic Training Course,
CERT Train-the-Trainer Course,
Teen CERT Annex for CERT Train-the-Trainer Course,
CERT Program Manager Course

Q8

Briefly describe your CERT experience

I have been involved with CERT since 1998. I have been with my current program since 2004. My background with CERT includes starting a program from scratch (1999) and inheriting a program (2004) that was only geared to business. I began leadership roles with CERT in 2007 in Orange County. I help develop a standard for CERT programs, CERT Instructor development and coordinator collaboration. In 2011, I applied and was selected to the EMI adjunct staff for CERT the train the trainer and program manager courses. I have served the state of CA in CERT program expansion, volunteer development and response capabilities. I have represented CERT training as an instructor trainer in numerous states (Alaska, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Florida, Missouri and in CA) as well as internationally in China and Laos. I believe in the CERT program and its ability to help the individual personally prepare for an emergency as well as the program's connection to community in building resilience to recover.

Q9

Briefly describe a CERT project that you led or were a major part of and how it benefited your CERT program/community

In 2004, Orange County began its quest to expand the CERT program. There were 13 programs at the time and today there are 26. Our goal then and today is to continue to build programs, support leadership, expand training and build collaborative partnerships among all CERT programs including campus, teen, and workplace groups. When we began, we knew we needed to develop a strong relationship with city and county government so we worked to develop a strategy. This strategic planning and hard work gave us our CERT Mutual Aid Program (CMAP). We have a mutual aid agreement, activation and deployment plan, and advanced training modules to develop a volunteer program that could when called for expand to support the county's needs for volunteer needs. We have utilized the CMAP plan and volunteers for wildfires, flooding and most recently at points of dispensing (vaccine and testing site support). This dedicated group of CERT coordinators meet monthly, share training opportunities including approved state train the trainer courses, grant funds/equipment and support the county's mission to improve volunteer coordination. I have served as its chair three times and hold the position currently for 2021. Our county received national recognition and an award in 2015 as a "best practice" in CERT program development by FEMA.

Q10

Briefly describe how your skills, experience, and currently CERT related activities would be beneficial to the NCA and NCA Leadership team:

As a practicing CERT Program Manager, I have the benefit of being part of the program on a daily basis. Through our collaborative work here in the county and the state of CA, we are truly partners in CERT. In both the county and state, we have worked together to build relationships with other states and countries to share our skill sets and our expertise. I have supported the CERT program by becoming an instructor trainer. I have been supported national conferences with training and expertise. I have shared my skillset (and opinions!) with FEMA and the NCA team on CERT instructor and program development. I value my ability to listen and share ideas. I appreciate every opportunity provided that allows me to share the CERT program locally, nationally and internationally. I had the opportunity to coordinate and work with instructors from across the country with the NCA Professional Development Series in both 2020 and 2021. I would be humbled to serve the NCA in any capacity.

Q11

NCA Board Members are required to lead/participate in NCA committees. Please indicate your level of interest in the following current/future NCA committees

CERT Awards Committee	4 - I am interested in joining this committee had have relevant experience in this area
CERT Train-the-Trainer and Program Manager Committee	4 - I am interested in joining this committee had have relevant experience in this area
CERT Volunteer Development and Support Committee	4 - I am interested in joining this committee had have relevant experience in this area
Communications Committee	4 - I am interested in joining this committee had have relevant experience in this area
Credentialing Committee	6 - I am interested in leading this committee and have relevant experience in this area
Elections Committee	3 - I am interested in joining this committee but have little experience in this area
International CERT Committee	6 - I am interested in leading this committee and have relevant experience in this area
Membership Committee	5 - I would be willing to lead this committee but have little experience in this area
National CERT Conference Committee	6 - I am interested in leading this committee and have relevant experience in this area
Training Committee	6 - I am interested in leading this committee and have relevant experience in this area
Youth Preparedness Committee	6 - I am interested in leading this committee and have relevant experience in this area

Q12

What are some projects that you think the NCA should be working on/emphasizing to better support CERT programs and how can you help lead this project?

Development of National Qualifications System - I shared comments as a FEMA instructor and SME

Expanded/continue Professional Development Series - Co-Lead for 2020-21)

Volunteer Insurance & Protections - development of guidelines and resources

Volunteer Credentialing - along with NQS - strengthen programs ability to work within the constraints of a sponsoring agency approval

Supplemental training annex support to FEMA - assist in the development and review of materials

Q13

As a NCA Regional Representative, you are representing CERT programs in your region. Briefly describe your relationship with CERT programs in your region, including your communication channel and how you could represent them accurately.

As the current chair of the Orange County CERT Mutual Aid program we meet monthly. We create and provide a formal agenda and follow up with minutes stored in the county's portal for review and historical purposes. We phone, email and text as we created a master list of coordinators and alternates. We exercise our ability to activate twice annually. CMAP is represented at Orange County emergency management meetings monthly and reports in writing/verbally are completed monthly as well as an annual report due to grantors and County OEM.

In the state of CA, our CERT program liaison shares reports and information. These reports are shared via all programs in the county. I also share this information with all instructor training master lists (beginning in 2007). I also share NCA communications with OC program and these lists that include instructors from all over the country.

My goal for NCA communications would be to connect with programs consistently and share valuable NCA information. I would drive people to the NCA website for additional information and encourage participation and sharing of expertise in NCA committees, conferences and special projects.

Q14

NCA Leadership candidates are required to have a recommendation from their next in line in the CERT Hierarchy. CERT Volunteers need a recommendation letter from their CERT Program Manager CERT Program Managers need a letter of recommendation from their CERT Sponsoring Agencies CERT Program Managers that are also the Sponsoring Agency Point of Contact need a letter of recommendation from their supervisor State/Territory CERT Coordinators need a letter of recommendation from their supervisor and/or FEMA Region

Letter of Rec.Brenda Emrick.NCA Board Aug.2021.pdf (291.6KB)

Q15

(optional) Please upload any additional letters of recommendations or supporting documents

referral letter for brenda emrick.pdf (26.4KB)



CITY OF COSTA MESA

P. O. BOX 1200

CALIFORNIA 92628-1200

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

August 24, 2021

Elections Committee
National CERT Association (NCA)
1865 Veterans Park Drive #203
Naples, Florida, 34109, US

Dear NCA Elections Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I convey my strongest support and highest recommendation for Brenda Emrick to serve on the National CERT Association (NCA) Board of Directors for Region IX. I share with my full confidence that Brenda represents the best of the nation's CERT leadership and she will be a valued addition to the NCA Leadership team. Brenda possesses a strong balance of exceptional interpersonal skills, mindful leadership, sound intellect, subject matter expertise, passion, and unwavering commitment!

This opportunity to engage as a member of the NCA Board comes at an ideal time in Brenda's career wherein her existing blend of demonstrated high performance, ability, experience, training, and education will serve as the strongest of foundations in this role. Brenda recognizes that her active participation in this leadership role comes with great responsibility to not only engage, but to raise the bar; and there is no question in my mind that she is the one to make that happen!

In terms of professionalism and core values, Brenda's background and extensive portfolio of accomplishments and contributions, many revolving around the importance she places on her family, to those she serves, to her profession, and to her ongoing commitment to professional development and life-long learning, make her the right person at the right time to lead in this important role. Simply put, it is my sincere belief that Brenda Emrick is the ideal candidate to serve on the NCA Board, representing Region IX.

In closing, I want to thank you for the opportunity to recommend Brenda Emrick and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Daniel A. Stefano
Fire Chief, City of Costa Mesa
President, California Fire Chiefs Association
(714) 754-5144 (office)
(949) 531-9911 (cell)

August 9, 2021

NCA Elections Committee

Dear NCA Elections Committee,

This is a letter of recommendation for Brenda Emrick. As the State Administrator for the CERT Program in California, I have worked with Brenda Emrick for over 10 years. Brenda has been a key contributor to the California CERT Advisory Workgroup and many California CERT projects including State and National Conferences, CERT Train-the-trainer and Program manager courses and instructor development, and the California CERT Field Operations Guide. Brenda has led CERT development in China and Laos and is one of the best CERT TTT and PM course instructors I know and co-chairs for the CERT TTT/PM committee for the NCA.

Brenda is also a subject matter expert for business CERT, Teen CERT, and campus CERT and often works with these stakeholders to develop their CERT programs.

I have no doubt that the NCA would benefit greatly with the addition of Brenda Emrick to the Leadership team.

Thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suu-Va Tai', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Suu-Va Tai
State CERT Administrator, California