

# DISASTERCOM

DERA Newsletter

45 Years of Service

December 2007



## Annual Membership Meeting

*And Preparedness Workshop*

Sunday, February 3, 2008

1-5 PM

The Rosen Centre Hotel  
Orlando, Florida

DERA's Annual Membership Meeting is your opportunity to get to know other members and influence organizational policies and programs. The Board of Directors will convene its annual policy session during the meeting and all members are invited to join in the discussion or propose new agenda items for the Board.

The Annual Membership Meeting is regularly held in conjunction with the International Disaster Management Conference. This year, the membership meeting will be preceded by a workshop on the Community Disaster Information System, a project initiated by Miami University of Oxford, Ohio, sponsored by information technology grants, and deployed to local communities through the efforts of DERA and other program partners.

DERA members are encouraged to register for the full conference, which is the premier event for international emergency preparedness and response. (See Page 4 for registration details and instructions.)

DERA will also have an information booth in the exhibit hall for the conference. All members at the conference are encouraged to stop by the booth and network with our team of volunteers and pick up a free members-only gift.

If enough members are interested, we will arrange a no-host reception and informal dinner at the conference center on Saturday evening. There will be a sign-up sheet at the DERA exhibit table.

**Reminder:** The DERA workshop begins on Sunday afternoon, following adjournment of the main conference. There will be time for a quick lunch before our workshop begins.

There is no cost for DERA members to attend this session, but there will be several door prizes including a digital camera and a portable GPS.

(Cont'd Page 4)

Register for full conference: [www.emlrc.org](http://www.emlrc.org)  
Register for DERA meeting only: Email to [attend@disasters.org](mailto:attend@disasters.org)

## Volunteers Needed

DERA is seeking volunteers for several key leadership and project management positions. DERA depends on volunteer members for everything we do. If you would like to help shape the future of this organization while being an important part of our current operations, please consider volunteering for one or more of the following positions. To volunteer, please send an email expressing your interest to: [dera@disasters.org](mailto:dera@disasters.org)

A current resume or brief description of your background and experience would be helpful. If you prefer, you may mail information to: DERA Leadership Team, PO Box 797, Longmont, CO 80502.

**Member, Board of Directors**

**Assistant Newsletter Editor**

**Strategic Planning Task Force**

**Member Services Committee**

**Conference Committee**

**Speaker's Bureau Coordinator**

**Community Disaster Information System (CDIS) Coordinator**

**International Service Committee**

**Online Operations Center Coordinator and Watch Officer**

*For more information or to apply,  
please email  
[dera@disasters.org](mailto:dera@disasters.org)*

DisasterCom is the quarterly newsletter of DERA International. News items and articles are always welcome.

ISSN 1521-1592

Editor: Catherine Lawhun

Membership in this Nonprofit Association is open to all who share our commitment to effective disaster preparedness and response.

See Back Page for Membership Application

The Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association, International

P.O. Box 797, Longmont, CO 80502 (USA)

E-Mail: [DERA@disasters.org](mailto:DERA@disasters.org)

News Items: [editor@disasters.org](mailto:editor@disasters.org)

<http://www.disasters.org>

## **DERA International**

P.O. Box 797  
Longmont, CO 80502

DERA is a Nonprofit, U.S. IRS 501(c)(3)  
Disaster Service and Professional Association  
Established in 1962  
Incorporated in the State of Wisconsin.  
Newsletter ISSN 1521-1592.

### **Officers**

**Robert R. Dockery**  
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**Dr. Marian Olson, Director**  
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**(Vacant), Director**

**Catherine Lawhun, Director**  
Inglis, Florida

**Salvatore Meloro, Regional Programs**  
Jamesburg, New Jersey

**Anne Hutton, Regional Programs**  
Irvine, California

**Robert Rathbone, Regional Programs**  
Tampa, Florida

### **Partnerships & Affiliations Include**



### **In Memoriam**

# **Steven D. Keene**

**Chair, DERA Board of Trustees**



Steve Keene, Chairman of our Board of Trustees, died unexpectedly on November 24, 2007. Steve lived in Fox Point, Wisconsin with his wife, Deborah, and their two sons, Andrew and Benjamin.

Steve had been an active member of DERA since 1990, and became a Trustee in 1998. He was instrumental in DERA's reorganization in 1991-92, and our nonprofit incorporation in Wisconsin in 1993.

Steve organized and led DERA's first "Planning for a Safer Tomorrow" community workshop in Milwaukee in the spring of 1995 and spearheaded a similar workshop in Chicago later that year, followed by annual events in Asheville, North Carolina (1996 and 1997), and Colorado (1998 and 1999).

For many years, Steve was the face of DERA at the International Disaster Management Conference, where he ran our information booth and chaired our membership meetings.

In recent years, Steve's job limited his ability to travel for DERA, but he redoubled his efforts working behind the scenes for DERA on long range planning, volunteer development and our awards program.

Steve left a highly successful career in telecommunications to take a key civil service position with the U.S. Department of Justice, where he specialized in community safety and security. His recent projects included school safety planning and a community education and outreach program aimed at making streets safer for children.

In 1997, Steve and his family established the DERA Heroic Service Award program in memory of his brother Sam, who along with two others perished in an aircraft landing accident in April 1997 at the Tegucigalpa, Honduras airport. Sam was loadmaster aboard a U.S. Air Force C-130 delivering food, medical kits and communications equipment. Steve personally presented the Heroic Service Award to DERA members who had gone beyond the call of duty that others might live.

Everyone on the DERA leadership team joins in sending Debbie, Andrew and Benjamin our heartfelt sympathy. We also extend our sincerest condolences to Steve's parents, Harold and Phyllis Keene, and to his brothers and sisters, Lonnie Keene, Allen Keene, Gail Brinton, Karen DeLorenzo, and Melanie Orlofsky.

A scholarship fund for Andrew and Benjamin has been established by Steve's friends and colleagues in Milwaukee. Please be generous with your contributions in honor of all that Steve did for this organization and the public safety community through his many years of selfless dedication. Please send your contributions, marked for "Keene Education Fund, Account #421-76189," to:

**M&I Wealth Management**  
**Attn: Noelle M. Matkovich**  
**Private Banking Officer**  
**111 E. Kilbourn Ave., Ste 200**  
**Milwaukee, WI 53202**  
**Phone 414-223-1458**

*I was privileged to work closely with Steve for almost 20 years. Steve was a remarkably talented individual with seemingly boundless energy and intense desire to help those in need. He was also a dear, close friend. I have never known a more selfless individual, nor a more honest, focused, and dependable man. He loved his family dearly and was always beaming with joy when he shared news of Debbie, Andrew and Benjamin. Thank you, Steve, for making this world a safer place and for making us all better for having known you.*

*- Jay Wilson*  
*Chair, Board of Directors*

# **SPECIAL THANKS TO SPECIAL MEMBERS**

by  
Robert R. Dockery  
Interim Chair, Board of Trustees

December is that time of year when we find ourselves looking ahead to new opportunities while reflecting on past experiences, lessons we've learned, and the help we've been given by friends and partners. This year, I am particularly mindful of all those who have been generous with their time and resources in helping DERA fulfill its obligations.

First of all, I want to thank every member for continued membership and support. You are the very essence of why this organization exists: To combine our efforts and share our abilities to get things done. Thank you so much for your willingness to be part of this effort.

Many members deserve special recognition. I hesitate mentioning some by name for fear of neglecting others, but the following members have given so much to DERA this past year that no list would be complete without them:

## **Catherine Lawhun**

For many years, Catherine has shouldered far more than her share of responsibility and work. As our Operations Director, she has been at the center of everything we've done. She has coordinated missions and deployed to the field, she has worked with our Regional Coordinators on countless service projects and has continued to fill in as editor of this newsletter. She managed the 2007 Annual Meeting and conference exhibit in Orlando and has planned the 2008 sessions. At her own expense, she traveled across the country to speak about DERA to foundations and seek their support. Somehow, a simple "thanks" doesn't seem quite enough.

## **Salvatore Meloro**

Sal took on the formidable job of coordinating DERA activities in Northeast states and devoted several days in Boston at his own expense seeking corporate and foundation support for DERA. Sal provided technical and executive assistance throughout the year to the Board of Directors and the Trustees. His expertise in contingency communications has been invaluable.

## **Tracy Sondeen**

Tracy spent countless hours working with the Board on fundraising and process

improvement. Her vision and insight into mission development have been most helpful.

## **Dennis I. O'Quinn**

Dennis devoted countless hours to several engineering projects for DERA. Without his expertise and credentials, many of our initiatives could not have moved forward.

## **Robert Rathbone**

Robert took on numerous projects, including our proposed fleet of communications vehicles and provided highly effective leadership.

## **Anne Hutton**

Since the day she joined DERA, Anne has been a powerhouse of ideas and energy. She took on the coordination of all DERA missions for the Pacific region, and has spearheaded the Community Disaster Information System (CDIS) project for DERA.

## **Al Manteuffel**

Al generously shared his expertise in strategic planning while guiding the Board through many financial decisions.

## **Claude Baker**

Claude provided emergency communications support through countless emergencies this year and he donated the proceeds of the sale of professional photography equipment through the eBay/Missionfish project.

## **Randy Helbach**

As our legal counsel, Randy worked tirelessly through the year to assist the Board and guide our decisions, despite having Air Force Reserve duties that sent him on extended travel.

Special thanks to the following members and friends for their kind generosity:

**Linda Altizer, RN**  
**Tonya Croft**  
**Jeanne Dunlevy Culpepper**  
**James R. Hoogesteger, P.E.**  
**William E. Kratch**  
**David and Gaynell Larsen**  
**Jim and Charlene Michaels**  
**Thomas Mitchell, Jr.**  
**Avagene Moore**  
**Mark Moore**  
**Robert P. Moser, Jr., M.D.**  
**Howard F. Pierpont**  
**Stefan Pollack**

In closing, I want to add my final thanks and farewell to **Steve Keene** for all he did for this organization. He set a benchmark of excellence that will endure. Steve was an outstanding leader and he had a heart of pure gold.



## **New Member Roster**

**Mrs. Chelon Rasmussen**  
Prior Lake, MN

**LTC (Ret) Doug Germann**  
Rogers, AR

**James W. Kuemmerle**  
Glenshaw, PA

**Dennis J. Walk, KB9IYO**  
Teutopolis, IL

**Daniel Abreu**  
Chantilly, VA

**Rush Fay**  
Lakewood, CO

**Damon Juarez**  
Alexandria, VA

**Scott Milne, ESM**  
Tuggeranong, ACT, Australia

**Dr. Claire C. Austin**  
Ottawa, Ontario

*Welcome to DERA!*  
*It is our sincere aim to help you*  
*achieve your professional and*  
*personal goals!*



*Many Waters Resource Network, Inc.*  
*Building Teams to Build The Future*

**Linking  
Partners and Personnel  
to Projects  
Nationwide**

**Architects, Engineers,  
Construction Management, and  
Environmental Service Providers  
for Development, Public Works,  
Industry, Federal Contracting and  
Disaster Response**

888-570-1344  
<http://www.manywaters.org>



# Membership Meeting & Preparedness Workshop

February 3, 2008

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

The Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida

This session is free of cost to DERA members

## Agenda

- 1:00-2:15 **Community Disaster Information System -- A "How-To" Workshop and Practical Demonstration**  
Dr. Douglas A. Troy and Anne Hutton
- 2:30-3:00 **DERA Operations Update, Partnership Briefings and Field Reports**  
Catherine Lawhun, DERA Director of Operations
- 3:00-5:00 **DERA Board of Directors Meeting and Member Roundtable. Open Forum for Members.**  
Bascombe J. Wilson, Chair, Board of Directors

**Register to attend DERA Meeting:** Just email a "Yes, I'll attend" to: [attend@disasters.org](mailto:attend@disasters.org)

*There is no cost for DERA members to attend this session*

To register for the full International Disaster Management Conference, use Promotion Code "DERA2" and follow these registration and payment links:

## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual International Disaster Management Conference

presents **Preparing Freedom's Lifelines...**

January 31 - February 3, 2008

Visit [www.emlrc.org](http://www.emlrc.org) for more information.

**Register by Phone: 1-800-766-6335**  
Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center  
3717 South Conway Road, Orlando, FL 32812  
800.766.6335 | Fax 407.281.4407 | [www.emlrc.org](http://www.emlrc.org)

**Please use Promotion Code "DERA2"**

For Full Agenda & Online Registration:  
**[www.emlrc.org](http://www.emlrc.org)**

### Location of Disaster Management 2008

**REGISTER ONLINE**  
[www.emlrc.org](http://www.emlrc.org)

**The Rosen Centre Hotel** · 9840 International Drive  
Orlando, FL 32819 · (800) 800-9840 · [www.rosencentre.com](http://www.rosencentre.com)  
Room Rate: \$160.00 S/D plus tax · Mention *EMLRC Disaster 2008*  
Cut-off date for special room rate: Friday, January 4, 2008

### Exhibit Hall Dates & Hours

**Exhibits Open**

Friday, February 1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00am - 2:30pm
Saturday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00am - 3:30pm

**Provided by the**  
Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center

January 31 - February 3, 2008

# Conference and Workshop Registration


**Registration for the International Disaster Management Conference and the DERA Workshop are separate.**

**DERA Annual Membership Meeting and Workshop:** To register, simply send an email to [attend@disasters.org](mailto:attend@disasters.org) letting us know you plan to attend. You may also send a postal note to: DERA, POB 797, Longmont, CO 80502. There is no cost for members to attend the DERA meeting and workshop, which are held after the Sunday session of the International Disaster Management Conference.

**29th Annual International Disaster Management Conference:** Our nonprofit partner, the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center (EMLRC), annually hosts the premier International Disaster Management Conference. DERA Members are encouraged to attend the full conference. Conference agenda, fee schedules, and online registration are available at: [www.emlrc.org](http://www.emlrc.org)

You may also use the following form and mail in your registration and payment to EMLRC:

**DISASTER 2008 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**



First Name	MI	Last Name	Suffix
<b>DERA2</b>			
Title	Agency	Mailing Label Promotion Code	
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Phone	Fax	Email	
Type of License	State of License	License #	Exp. Date
<i>(License Information Required to receive CME's/CEU's)</i>		National Registry #	Exp. Date

**Registration Fee Schedule** *Check only one if applicable*  
*Before or on January 4, 2008*

- \$360 - Registration (*Conference only*)
- \$330 - 3 or more from 1 agency (*each*)
- \$330 - ACEP Disaster Section Member
- \$175 - General Conference One Day
- \$250 - FCEP Member (*Conference only*)

*After January 4, 2008*

- \$390 - Registration (*Conference only*)
- \$360 - 3 or more from 1 agency (*each*)
- \$360 - ACEP Disaster Section Member
- \$175 - General Conference One Day
- \$250 - FCEP Member (*Conference only*)
- \$20 - Onsite Registration - Add \$20 to applicable registration category

**Preconferences Fee Schedule**

- \$50\* - P-1 DHS – PER 211 - EMS Operations & Planning for WMD (*Limited to 32 participants*)
- \$30\* - P-2 Chemical Agents of Opportunity for Terrorism: The Medical and Psychological Consequences of Toxic Chemicals and Material
- \$100 - P-3 Designing and Conducting Exercises in Long Term Care Facilities

**Indicate Tracks Preferred** *Check only one track per day*

*Friday*     T-1 Response - Fire Rescue/EMS     T-2 Public Health/Hospital  
                    T-3 Disaster Medicine

*Saturday*     T-1 Response - Fire Rescue/EMS     T-2 Outbreak/Public Health  
                    T-3 Planning                                    T-4 Military/Civilian Response

Registration Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Preconference Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Fees Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payments accepted by Visa, Mastercard, Check or Purchase Order. *American Express not accepted. Payment must accompany registration form.*

Make checks payable to EMLRC and mail to 3717 S. Conway Road, Orlando, FL 32812  
 Phone: (407) 281-7396 or (800) 766-6335 Fax: (407) 281-4407 Federal Tax ID #59-3001777  
*Credit card number needed to guarantee registration unless Check or PO accompanies registration form.*

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card Type:     Visa     Mastercard  
 Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\* No fees are being charged for this course presentation or materials. The fee listed for this course covers the refreshment breaks only.

## **Membership Invitation**



Established in 1962

### **MISSION**

**Preparedness - Response - Education**

**DERA is a Nonprofit Disaster Service and Professional Organization.**

***Our members work together as an active, world-wide network of disaster preparedness specialists, response and recovery teams, trainers, consultants, technical experts, researchers and project managers.***

We help disaster victims by improving planning, communications and logistics, reducing risks and mitigating hazards, conducting community preparedness programs, and by sponsoring emergency response missions.

***We sponsor a school awards program that encourages students to study the effects of disasters and to conduct projects that reduce local hazards and improve community preparedness, safety and environmental protection.***

As a prominent international professional association, our membership is composed of key leaders in the field of emergency management from around the world, including key government officials, volunteers, consultants, business managers, researchers, educators, students and wide range of charitable groups.

***Our quarterly newsletter, DisasterCom, brings current information about developments in emergency management and reports on the activities of our global membership.***

We sponsor research projects and the publication of emergency management guides, case studies, technical assessments, and preparedness materials.

***If you share our vision of commitment and service, we would welcome you as a member.***

*Please complete the application that follows or contact us for further information.*

**DERA  
P.O. Box 797  
Longmont, CO 80502**

Also, please visit us at [www.disasters.org](http://www.disasters.org)

# Professional Affiliation Membership Application



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country, if not USA or Canada: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Radio Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Select Membership Classification**  
**Enclose Check, Purchase Order, or Charge Card Authorization for Dues**

**Professional / Technical / Academic**  
 \$50.00 per year  
 \$25.00 for Unpaid Volunteer, Student, Retired

**Nonprofit Organization**  
 \$75.00 per year

**Executive / Management**  
 \$75.00 per year

**Governmental Office**  
 \$95.00 per year

**Lifetime Individual**  
 \$450.00

**Small or Independent Business**  
 \$125.00 per year  
*Please contact us for corporate membership*

*Amounts are in U.S. Dollars. Foreign currency and drafts are credited at commercial exchange rates. All checks must be payable through a U.S. bank. Add \$5 per year if you wish newsletter sent by Airmail, or \$20 for Global Priority Mail. Rates good for 2006-2007.*

**CHARGE AUTHORIZATION**

*I authorize DERA to charge the following account for membership dues as marked above:*

**Please Check:**  VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover  Purchase Order Attached

Card Number:  Expires: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Month / Year

Card Verification Number (CVN) \_\_\_\_\_ Last 3 digits after signature on back of Visa/MC/Discover. On front of AmEx.

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

12-07-NW

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

**DERA - Membership**  
**P.O. Box 797**  
**Longmont, CO 80502-0797**

**Did a member refer you  
for membership?**

Name of Member: \_\_\_\_\_