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InfoLetter

December 2021

ARMA Year 2021-2022

Keeping Our Eye on the Targets

Preservation, Protection, Compliance, Usability, Training, and Access



Bits and Bytes from the Board

As 2021 comes to a close, we find ourselves still in troubled times. Last December, there was so much hope and anticipation for a better 2021—

little could we predict that we would still be battling a stubborn pandemic that never seems to end; dealing with catastrophic weather events and fires; and many other unfortunate events that we would prefer to forget. But there were positives, too. From our chapter's perspective, we presented a full series of interesting and well-attended webinars; after a lengthy development process, our chapter published updated bylaws; and we continue to incorporate technology into our chapter operations to bring a better experience to our membership.

In this holiday season, I choose to believe that we can again look toward the next year with hope and anticipation. Celebrate and be thankful for the good things, and do what you can to help those in our communities who are less fortunate. We are strong, we are resilient, and better times are coming! Happy Holidays to all!

Your President,
Carol Agayoff, CRM

Pandemic and ARMA – Revolution or Evolution

Even before the pandemic, ARMA Chapters have been questioning how to best provide value to their members. Is it networking, educational content, availability of resources, or does it just vary depending on the individual? How can our Chapter expand participation and meeting attendance to extend its reach and resources to justify membership? Then the pandemic hit, and the question became how do we survive? METRO Maryland Chapter leadership quickly embraced Zoom, pursued relevant topics, and planned free virtual meetings, anticipating that this would be the bridge back to normal. Surprisingly (or maybe not) availability of speaker and topic options expanded. Individuals outside of our normal area attended webinars. Being smart, information professionals took advantage of the quality programs being offered for free by many different ARMA chapters and organizations. It also became much easier to get certification credits or even study for certification exams.

So what happens next? The pandemic revolution undoubtedly expedited the inevitable evolution to increasing on-line access to education and resources. Now as we (hopefully) return to more “normal,” once again we need to determine the combination of leadership and membership participation needed to continue to take advantage of the incredible resources uncovered by the pandemic revolution. The virtual webinars – free or not – did not happen without the support of individuals willing to contribute time and knowledge. To continue to expand this knowledge evolution and revolution, we will need your support, participation, and continued Chapter membership. Do not hesitate to contact a board member or go to ARMAMetroMD@gmail.com to find out how to become involved. This does not need to be a lifetime commitment, but it guarantees a learning experience (and a bit of fun). Let's see where this goes. Stay tuned.

A Season of Giving

Due to the big hearts of our members, the chapter has given to two charities in 2021:
[Tip Me Frederick](#)
[Manna Food Center](#)

Many thanks for your contributions!

Looking for Speakers

We are looking for speakers for our monthly webinars. Do you have a presentation that would be of interest to our members? Perhaps you've briefed on a project at work that could easily be updated for a broader audience. If so, then how about being a speaker for one of our upcoming webinars? Also, if you've heard a good speaker at another event, please let us know and we will reach out to them for one of our online chapter presentations. The speakers do not need to be local. With Zoom technology, we have the ability to accommodate speakers and audiences anywhere in the country. Please contact one of your board members or email us at ARMAMETROMD@gmail.com for volunteering, or volunteering others.

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