



Lydia Dross
Candidate for IAEM-USA Student Region Second Vice President

My name is Lydia Maria Dross aka Lilly. I graduated in the year 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree in psychology (study of violent behavior), and community organization at Ottawa University, AZ. I am senior graduate student from Regent University, Virginia and with the Lords help, I will be graduating next Spring 09 with a Master's degree in Public Administration and second major is in Homeland Defense-Terrorism. I have completed my first major in HLD and in process of completing my second major.

I am originally from New York born and raised in Long Island NY. I moved to Arizona in 1995 and in 2006 accepted a position with the American Red Cross. As an employee of the American Red Cross, I oversaw the Armed Forces Communication-Services to the Armed Forces unit- which encompasses five branches in the State of OK. I was responsible to oversee 30 counties, including training, mentoring and supervising volunteers and staff. I was the coordinator of Family Reserves to assist families whose loved ones are currently serving in the war against terror. The American Red Cross is the only international organization in the world that has the congressional mandate to be the mediator between civilians and the military branch. It was my great pleasure to serve our men and women at the home front on behalf of their love ones.

In addition, I was also responsible to oversee day to day operations in disaster relief operations, client service delivery, training, volunteer supervision, partner services, community relations and administrative duties. I was responsible to oversee 18 counties in that capacity.

A few months ago, I resigned from the American Red Cross and became a volunteer due to academic reasons. A few days ago, I came back from serving 21 days in the IKE disaster relief operations in TX, SC and San Antonio. I was assigned as the Partner Services Manager for voluntary agencies, working with NGO's, federal and local communities in the pre-planning and landfall operations. It was quite an experience, as it is the highest level of operation I have ever participated in-level 6.

At the home-front, I currently serve as an appointed commissioner for the Greater Tulsa Hispanic Commission Board. This is my second year in service. As a commissioner, the greatest challenge our state and other states are facing is immigration. I can tell you stories about my experience and what the disaster relief operations had to do to overcome those barriers. The commission works on diversity issues as well as specializing on local Hispanic/Latino issues and has made great strides to ensure the safety and well being of illegal immigrants during catastrophic events, through media intervention and other means of communications through higher level of interventions.

Prior to my passion in emergency response, I have served 20 years in social work practice and in various disciplines including, suicide-homicide prevention and intervention, seven years in child welfare expertise-tribal, federal, state and county affiliations, medical background, mental health and counseling practices. In those 20 years of paid and non-paid positions, I received a presidential volunteer pin for serving more than 4000 hours in volunteer services. As you can see, my passion is helping people.

My second passion is establishing, assessing, organizing and assisting local communities, faith-based organization in preparing, planning and organizing disaster preparedness and drills.

Serving as a second VP for IAEM student body will be a learning opportunity for me, as well as utilizing my field expertise, academic training in emergency response and public administration-to engage the body to a new meaning of emergency management based on the IAEM mission and vision for the upcoming year.

I recently was approved as a member of Oklahoma Emergency Management, where I currently am resident of and have been approved to complete my internship at my local EOC with the City of Tulsa Emergency Management/Homeland department.

My desire is to bring our student body to greater level and achieve those goals that were set out for us to do. It will be my great pleasure to give my time to a great organization and to assist as Second VP to our

student body. If not elected, I will continue to assist in any capacity, because the cause is worthy of its vocation and it is what I called to do and that is to serve humanity.