

Public Information Officer

COVID-19 Pandemic - Civil Unrest – Elections – 2020 - etc...

Discussion & Support Meet-Up

Mission: Provide a safe environment for PIOs to discuss current topics and issues.

Vision:

- These meetings will provide a safe environment to:
 - Discuss PIO and related current topics,
 - Share thoughts, ideas, questions, frustrations, hopes, dreams,
 - Give and receive support,
 - Independent of any government, agency or jurisdiction,
- Advocate for the appropriate utilization of PIOs through:
 - Education
 - Mentorship
- PIOs to be recognized and appropriately utilized for the betterment of their respective communities, states, and nation.

Structure:

- Weekly meetings
- Thursdays
- 4 PM Eastern Time Zone
 - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84744144683?pwd=NFFPeGZqc1NxbEdxVHRYTjdmRVFYdz09>
 - Meeting ID: 847 4414 4683
 - Password: 333079
 - Only PIOs that you can vouch for should be given THIS document.
 - Security of this group is our shared responsibility.
- 1.5 hours allotted – come & go as you wish
- Zoom-based with security admission
- Active until ??
- Participants:
 - PIOs
 - Alumni of
 - APIO
 - MPIO

- Instructors of
 - APIO
 - MPIO
- Independent website for PIO Resource Collection
 - Collection of PIO resources – submit your suggested resources to share
 - Maintained for PIOs independent of any agency or organization
 - PIO Resources: <https://parfdn.com/pio-materials>
- Agenda:
 - Welcome
 - Overview of Meeting Rationale & Structure
 - Participant Check-In
 - (Emergent Issues)
 - (Education Segment)
 - Sharing Time
 - Self-Care Discussion & Planning

Expectations:

- PIOs only
- Voluntary participation
- Sharing your title, position, organization, etc is **NOT** expected – share only the information that you are comfortable
- Civility and professionalism
- Ask for the help you want and deserve
- Share resources, ideas, and perspectives
- Speak for yourself and avoid gossiping
- Ventilate rumors but communicate truths
- Give and receive support
- Actively participate in personal and family self-care
- Celebrate being a PIO
- We will get through this together

Benefits:

- A safe environment
- Vent with others who understand and “get it”
- No judgments
- Share your needs and get other’s support and perspectives
- Share resources
- Discuss personal and/or professional related current issues as needed
- Feel the welcome and warmth of the PIO family like you did by the end of class
- Acquire new helpful and healthful coping knowledge, skills, perspectives

Rationale:

- PIOs are a recognized member of the NIMS Incident Command Structure,
- PIOs have a unique set of knowledge and skills that are valuable during emergent events,
- PIOs have been selected to function in the PIO capacity due to unique personality characteristics that include their ability to:
 - Communicate effectively with people,
 - Lead and motivate people,
 - Understand their agency's response abilities and expectations,
 - Understand the communication processes,
 - Network,
 - Get the right information to the right people via the right channel at the right time so they can make the right decisions.
- PIOs may experience isolation during “blue-sky days”,
- PIOs may experience being “siloeed”,
- PIOs may be tasked with “do as you are told” – without the freedom to address the informational needs of their customers,
- PIOs may be stifled in the utilization of their education and creativity to address the needs of their customers,
- PIOs may not have other local trusted colleagues who they feel comfortable confiding in,
- PIOs, like other emergency responders, typically “filter” what they share with their families to protect their loved ones from the contaminants they have already experienced,
- PIOs who have completed the APIO/MPIO course(s) have developed a unique camaraderie that provides support by someone who “gets it” because they too are a PIO,
- APIO/MPIO graduates have skills and abilities to mentor other PIOs during both “blue sky” and “gray sky” days,
- The job of PIO can be uniquely stressful by having one foot in emergency management and the other with the public,
- PIOs are people too, and need a safe place/space to vent and both get and give support to other PIOs,

NOTES: