



MOCERTA

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
2ND QUARTER 2024 - ISSUE 2

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STATE COORDINATOR'S NOTE:



Welcome, since the last newsletter in 2022, there has been dynamic growth and transition within MOCERTA and at the local state level. I accepted the role of State CERT Program Coordinator in June 2023 after the retirement of Tina Brown. Tina Brown is a founding member of MOCERTA and currently serves as the Vice Chair and Region G Coordinator of MOCERTA.

My passion to serve as the State Coordinator comes with passion and twenty-year-plus history of emergency services, with most of the time vested in volunteer organizations active in emergency response. In just under a year as the State Coordinator, I have been actively involved with supporting CERT development throughout various counties in Missouri, including Maries County, which is active and serves in a unique role under the Sheriff Posse; Dekalb County; and

Gasconade County, which are in the process of developing CERT teams. I am actively involved with the St. Louis Regional CERT planning team, which consists of various fire departments and both St. Louis County and St. Louis City Emergency Management. I am involved in class scheduling and practical applications for CERT Basic course skills. Other roles of involvement as the State Coordinator include serving as the advisor on behalf of the State of Missouri for MOCERTA. To date, I have been active in board meetings and member meetings to stay engaged, provide insight, and build capacity. One of the ways I serve with MOCERTA is by helping with the planning committee, as MOCERTA plans its first symposium for October 2024. Prior to serving as State Coordinator, I was involved as an assistant to the State Coordinator, assisting with planning for the 2023 Volunteer Symposium and assisting with teaching the CERT Break Class on Incident Scene Size Up. Priorities and focus for 2024–2025 include building CERT capacity in Regions G and E, located in South Central and Southeast Missouri, in preparation for the New Madrid earthquake. I am working with members of the State Training Program, Mid-American Regional Council, and St. Louis Area Regional Response System to provide opportunities for CERT teams to advance their training and skills with courses such as CERT Train the Trainer and CERT Program Manager. I look forward to helping facilitate the growth of CERT teams in rural Missouri. Additionally, I am actively working to seek alternate funding to sustain CERT programs as certain federal funding is no longer available, which spurred the growth of many CERT chapters just a few years ago. Please feel free to reach out to me and connect with me. I look forward to learning and growing together as we embark on serving our fellow Missourians.

Respectfully,
Wayland Taylor, State CERT Coordinator

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SUPPORTING THE
TEAMS WHO
SUPPORT THE
COMMUNITIES OF
MISSOURI



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REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Region A

Rural - Darrin Tobias; mocertaregarural@gmail.com

Urban - Michael O'Neal; mocertaregaurban@gmail.com

Region B - Tish Dwiggins; mocertaregb@gmail.com

Region C

Rural - Sidney Casey; mocertaregcrural@gmail.com

Urban - Sam Stephens; mocertaregcurban@gmail.com

Region D - Phil Amtower; mocertaregd@gmail.com

Region E - Jim Watkins; mocertarege@gmail.com

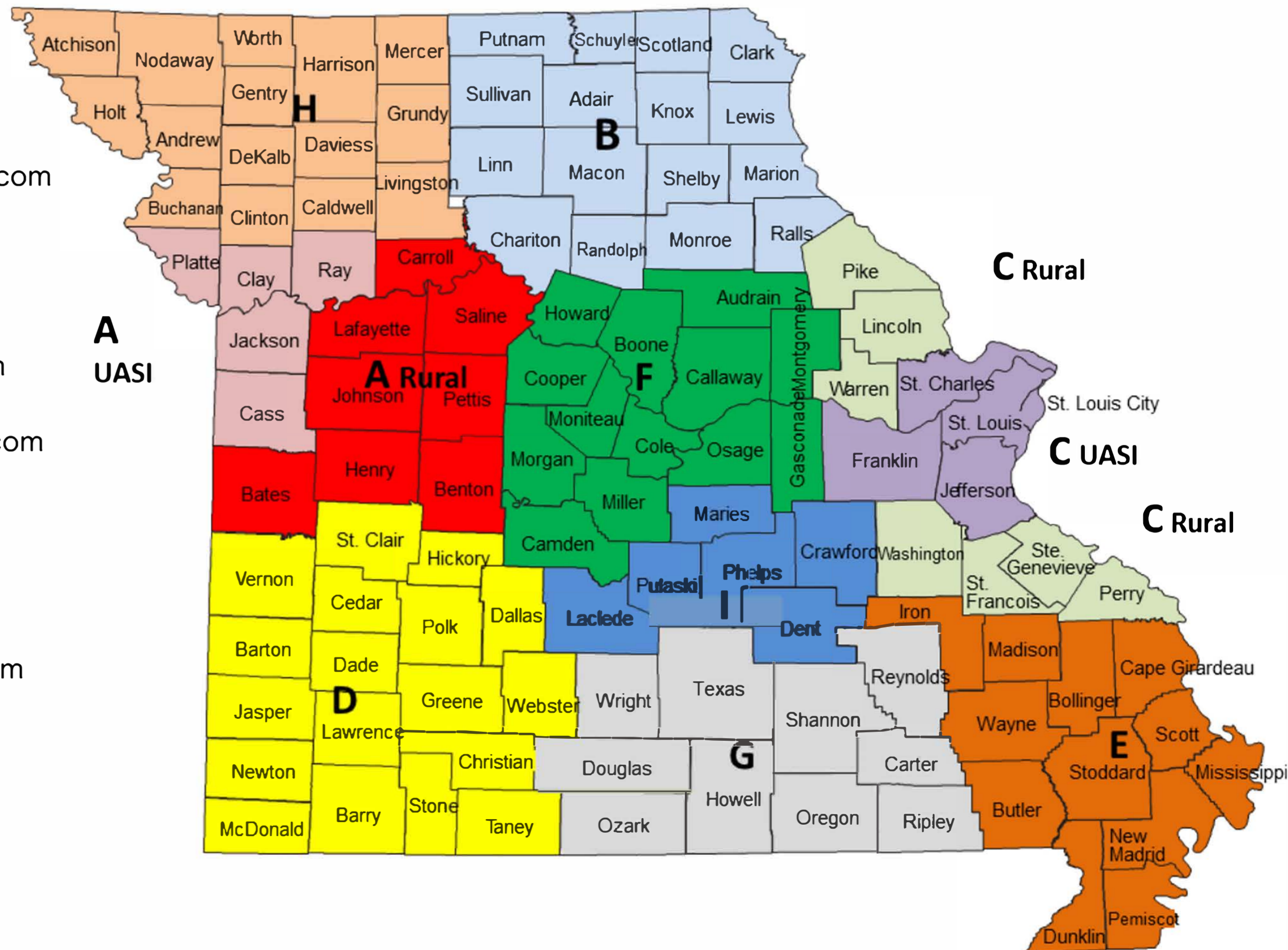
Region F - Michelle Kidwell; mocertaregf@gmail.com

Region G - Tina Brown; mocertaregg@gmail.com

Region H - Mike Guyett; mocertaregh@gmail.com

Region I - James Vaughn; mocertaregi@gmail.com

MO CERT ASSOCIATION MAP





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MEET THE MOCERTA BOARD OFFICERS:

MICHAEL O'NEAL - CHAIR



Michael O'Neal is a deputy sheriff and the Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator for the county of Platte, Missouri. He has been in the emergency management field for the past 20 years. He retired as deputy chief of police of Weatherby Lake police department after 34 years of service. He began work at Weatherby Lake as a patrolman in 1987 to July 2021. He began working at Platte County Sheriff's Office in 1981 to 2000 as a deputy and was promoted to sergeant in detention. From 2002 to the present he has worked as a deputy sheriff working in emergency management as the Assistant EM Coordinator.

Michael is a member of the following groups: Metropolitan Emergency Managers Committee in the K.C. Marc region, Local Emergency Planning District, Area Maritime Security Committee for the Coast Guard for the port, Lead CERT coordinator for the Northland to include Clay and Platte counties, and is the Missouri co-chair of the UASI CERT group which coordinates regional activities with local CERT teams. He is a member of the Citizens Education Committee which does outreach with local emergency management volunteer groups in the region. Michael is also a member of IAM since 2009. He is also the current chair of the Kansas City regional community organization active in disasters, for the eight counties in Missouri and three counties in Kansas.

Michael is the MOCERTA Chair and the representative for Region A Urban.

MOCERTACHAIR@GMAIL.COM

TINA BROWN - VICE CHAIR



Tina Brown is one of the founding members of the MO CERT Association. She continues her dedication to CERT by providing support in a local capacity as the Callaway County Volunteer Coordinator. Tina retired from the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency after 21 years of service. During the last few years at SEMA, she was the State CERT Coordinator.

Tina is married, has three (3) children, and two (2) grandchildren.

Tina is the MOCERTA Vice-Chair and is the representative of Region G.

MOCERTAVICECHAIR@GMAIL.COM



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SIDNEY CASEY- SECRETARY



Sidney Casey, Paramedic/Firefighter, has been a member of Boles FPD for 22 years. She retired after 16 years on a 911 ambulance service and 12 years with SSM Health in Emergency Preparedness. She is an instructor for EMS, Fire, and CERT.

Sidney is married with three children and eight grandchildren.

Sidney is the MOCERTA Secretary and is the representative for Region C Rural.

MOCERTASECRETARY@GMAIL.COM

MICHELLE KIDWELL- TREASURER



Michelle Kidwell is the Director of Emergency Management for Callaway County and the City of Fulton. Additionally, she is the designated floodplain administrator for Callaway County and the City of Mokane. She has served in this position for the past 15 years. Before her appointment with Callaway County, she served as the Miller County 911 Director.

Michelle's career and Emergency services began in 1988. She will earn her BA Degree and Emergency management disaster response this year from the American public university in West Virginia. Miss Kidwell it has a perpetual passion and ensuring individuals within her community are better prepared for disaster, instances and enjoys every opportunity afforded to provide public education presentations to further preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. Working closely with residential care, facilities, education, institutions, homeless shelters, businesses, and the faith community, as well as non-governmental organizations.

Michelle is the Treasurer and represents Region F.

MOCERTATREASURER@GMAIL.COM



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SAM DALE



Samantha (Sam) Dale serves as the Director of Emergency Management for the County of Camden, Missouri, the Public Information Officer for the Sleeper & Stoutland Volunteer Fire Departments, and the PIO for both the Camden and Laclede County CERTs.

Samantha has over five years of experience in the emergency management and the public relations fields, as well as over 20 years of experience in the communications field. She holds a General Class Amateur Radio license as call sign KEOLMY.

Samantha is an amateur photographer and an amateur graphic designer, managing six websites and six Facebook pages.

Samantha provides continuous training and support of Basic CERT classes all over the State of Missouri to encourage the growth and continued success of the program. She has written and conducted numerous additional CERT training programs and exercises, including Emergency Communications for CERT and Emergency Operations Center for CERT. She piloted and performs emergency preparedness programs for adults as well as the "Buzzer the Bee" program for children, partnering with schools and the Camden County Library District.

Samantha is the PIO for MOCERTA.

MOCERTAPIO@GMAIL.COM

CHECK OUT OUR NEXT ISSUE
WHERE WE WILL INTRODUCE THE
REGIONAL DIRECTORS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING
NOMINATED AS A NEW BOARD MEMBER
OF REGIONS A URBAN, B, C URBAN,
E, G OR I,

PLEASE CONTACT

TOM SULLIVAN: FYRBOSS@AOL.COM

MATTHEW BROWN:

MBROWN@BOONECOUNTYMO.ORG

OR

SHARI SIMS: SSIMS@JOCOEMA.COM



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REGIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

RURAL REGION A:

JOHNSON COUNTY



2023 proved to be a year to reinvigorate the CERT program. In an effort to foster working relationships, Johnson County CERT partnered with Missouri and Kansas canine search and rescue to assist their members in training and certification in October 2023. Over three days of coordinated efforts, 10 teams completed the certification process. CERT members participated as survivors to enhance the quality of training. Additionally, two small classes graduated CERT, a basic total of 15 graduates, five of which joined the team. Teen CERT also proved to be a success as 30 students graduated the program within the year. To better prepare the CERT team, a land navigation exercise was conducted in Knob Noster State Park. Johnson County strengthened the workforce through hiring a new program manager, Deputy Director Shari Sims. This addition will allow for a more focused effort on incorporating the CERT team in ancillary community efforts and effective partnerships with the first responders, while gaining interest in the program for potential CERT members. In recognizing the dedicated efforts of the CERT team, the annual awards banquet in January was a success with over 30 attendees. A midsummer cookout family day allowed the team to come together socially with 20 members and family in attendance. On a final note, Johnson County EMA's knowledge base was bolstered through attending and participating in the first MOCERTA conference.





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REGIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

RURAL REGION A:

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

In joining community efforts, the CERT team helped at the annual Fourth of July celebration. Additionally, proactively working to establish a teen program with Lafayette/Higginsville High School. In an effort to build membership, the county is utilizing the potential interest in amateur radio.

SALINE COUNTY

Focusing primarily on building a strong CERT program, the county is also utilizing the potential interest in amateur radio.





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REGIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

REGION D:

CHRISTIAN COUNTY

Building a strong CERT team is paramount for community readiness. Christian County had a successful CERT class with 24 graduating the program. Additionally, the volunteers dedicated 1,865 hours of volunteer time to several events including: Light the Way Music Festival, Ozark Craft Fair, Fire Prevention, Active Shooter Drill, NWS open house, Red Cross Sound the Alarm, Storm cleanup, Nixa Sucker Days, and the Disaster Animal Response Team Dog Walk.



GREENE COUNTY

Another county with a strong CERT class attendance is Greene County, with 15 members graduating the program. Additionally, 260 hours of volunteer time was logged while supporting 7 community events: the Fair, Route 66 Music Festival, and the NWS Open House.





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REGIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

REGION D:

MO CERT 1

January, MO CERT1 assisted Webster County Sheriff and Webster County Emergency Management with a search for a missing woman.

20 personnel from Christian, Greene, Webster, Lawrence CERT Teams assisted with the search. The Red Cross assisted with food and hot drinks, since the temperatures were in the 20's, windy and light snow. Unfortunately, the lady was not found, Webster County Sheriff's Department continues to investigate.

In August, MO CERT 1 assisted Stone County Sheriff with a search for a missing gentleman. 14 personnel from Christian, Greene and Branson assisted with the search. Gentleman was found deceased.





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MISSOURI CERT CONFERENCE



Check us out at:
<https://mocerta.org>

SAVE THE DATE

Missouri CERT Association
2024 Symposium

Date: Oct. 5, 2024

Cost: \$30 for MOCERTA Members
\$60 for non-Members

Location: Columbia, MO

For questions contact MOCERTA Secretary at: mocertasecretary@gmail.com