Letter from your NEMSA President

How many of you are ready for spring? I know my whole family is just itching to be outside more, as are many of you and your families. Looking forward into the calendar there are some events coming up that are very beneficial to your department.

EMS on the Hill is May 3-4, 2011. This is an opportunity to go to Washington D.C. and meet with your congressional leaders on Capitol Hill and discuss EMS issues. This will be the second year and is sponsored by NAEMT.

National EMS Week is just around the corner, May 15-21, 2011. What does this mean to you as an EMS provider and your department? Another fund raiser? Another community to be on? We are all so busy with everything in our lives how can we possibly add one more thing to our plate.

This week has been aside at the National level in our honor, to recognize the services we do for our communities. We should be smart with our time and use this week to our benefit. Put your efforts into being recognized within your communities and at the State level during this week. You DE-serve it!

We would like to hear from you. What did your department do to celebrate EMS Week 2011? Email your articles and we can place them in the next newsletter.

Take Care and Be Safe
Debbie Von Seggern-Johnson

E-Newsletter

We are off to a great start with the Web Site and Newsletter. To continue with this success we on the PR Committee would like to introduce a Name the Newsletter Contest. The winner will be given $10 dollars worth of scholarship raffle tickets. You could even be a double winner this way! Send your suggestions and a way to contact you to, mmaloney@kdsi.net. Some suggestions that were made are The Pulse, The NEMSA Pulse, The Unified Voice and even Flat Line. Let’s hear what you have to say. After all it is your newsletter.

Jenie Maloney, PR Chairperson

Wii Bowling Tournament Winners

1st, Dan Magill
2nd Brad Hawkins
3rd Monte Stoufer

Pictured L to R: Brad, Dan, Monte

Poker Winners

1st Place Scott Weekley
2nd Place Lauren Willis
3rd Place Paula Watt

Pictured L to R: Paula, Lauren, Scott

Chris Le Baudour

Chris becoming an “unofficial” Nebras-kka/Husker fan

NEMSA Election Results

We were very excited to have 7 people run for office this year. Jimmie Metzler ran unopposed and retains his spot as 1st Vice President for 2 more years. The secretary position was contested by Christy Peterson, Pam Karmin and Bill Leach. Pam will start her post in July at Statewide Summer Conference. Board Member at Large was also contested by 3 capable candidates. Collin Warren, Ben Kolar and J.J. Wohlers all vied for the seat. J.J Wohlers will also assume his seat in July. We, as a NEMSA board, were very excited to have people interested and engaged in NEMSA. We hope that trend continues. Next year the President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Board Member at Large will all be up for election. Even if being a board member seems a little overwhelming, contact the board via www.NEMSA.org and ask about joining a committee. Most of us on the board started on a committee as a way of “getting our feet wet”. It is a great way to get involved and see the “behind the scenes” of what all goes on.

Respectfully,
Brad Hawkins
Light a Candle

Light a candle for those we mourn.
Into a new life they will be born.
Do not look for them at the graveside.
They are somewhere else radiating their beautiful light.
They have gone to a new world where there is no darkness, no pain.
Their light and essence will always remain.
Light a candle for those who have left this mortal place.
They are free to travel through time and space.
When we think of them, they are near.
When we sit in a beautiful garden. Their voices we hear.
When we listen to a divine symphony,
We close our eyes, their faces we see.
Light a candle for they have not really gone.
With each flickering flame, in your hearts they will always belong.

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The NEMSA Memorial Committee hosts candle lighting ceremony’s at each of the Nebraska EMS Conferences as a way to remember the ones that we have lost over the past year. On March 19th, 2011 the Memorial Committee hosted a service in conjunction with the NEMSA Spring Conference in Columbus. Candles were lit in memory of four people that night. If you have a loss and want to participate in a Memorial Service please stop by the NEMSA booth at any conference or contact a Memorial Committee member to fill out a ceremony form. The next Memorial Service will be held in conjunction with the Nebraska State-wide EMS Conference in July at Kearney.

The NEMSA traveling Memorial Wall appears at each of Nebraska’s EMS Conferences. The Committee makes every effort to update the wall, if you should notice an error or omission please contact a Memorial Committee member so that it can be corrected.

From the NEMSA Booth

We would like to thank everyone who stopped by the NEMSA Booth at the Spring Conference in Columbus. We really enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones. We now have t-shirts in navy & tan with the new NEMSA Logo. We would like to extend a big thank you to Cindy Huey for giving us a hand at the booth. I would also like to thank Terry and Rita Gallagher for pulling the NEMSA Trailer to conferences for our organization.

We were able to raise over $600.00 to support the NEMSA Scholarship fund. Lucky winners were Betty Barker-Marshall Bob’s Seasoning, Jason Kasten-Nebraska Gift Box, both donated by Clint and Chris Dittmar from Gretna and Caron Wetter-Cedar Box donated by Russ Bohling from Grand Island.

Door prize drawing winners at the booth included; Sonja Reznicek, Susan walling, Pam Libra, Fred Swihart Robyn Wilcox, JoAnn Burbridge, Harold Silvey, Marlene Graham, Bryson Monroe, Clarice Boelter, Delorise Miller, Dez Ranslem, Dwight Cole, Gene Libra, Beth Phelps, Randy Howser, Karlyn Billings, Dixie Siemsen, Kendall Brichacek, Dean Fritz, Misty Skavdall, Richard Fletcher, Chris Burbridge, Lisa Wheelcock, Sheryl Gaston, Monica Wright, Lynn Svoboda, Jim Snyder, Robin Dimmitt, Miranda Johnson, Chris Gilmore, Chris Silvey, Wendy Ramaekers, Lisa Kimsey, Patricia Borbino, Deloris Miller, Brent Beekman, Eugene Kratochiv.

On Friday, NEMSA sponsored an early morning ‘Meet and Greet’ for everyone at conference. We look forward to seeing all of you at the 32nd Statewide EMS Conference at the Younes Convention Center, July 8-10, 2011.
NIS NEWS

If you did not attend the NIS Pre-conference Workshop, then you missed a good one. The two presenters were excellent. The house was packed to the gills. The food was great. Twink was first in line with Critical Thinking and passing it on to your students in the classroom. Twink finished up with her second session with information on how to increase student participation and the tools to go along with it. Chris Le Baudour provided information on how to bring Hollywood hits into your classroom. He discussed the legality of using movie clips in the classroom, and the importance of utilizing objective-driven scenarios. The Department of Health and Human Services finished out the day with important information on where we are with the current changes that are taking place regarding the new licensure time tables and related information.

After the workshop, the NIS General Meeting was held with elections taking place. Your NIS Board includes the following: Tami Meyers, President; Fred McMains, Vice President; Cindy Troxel, Treasurer; Cindy Huey, Secretary; Glenn Kollars, Member at Large; and Arnie Higgins, Member at Large. We give a big thank you to Marlys Schmidt, our outgoing Secretary, for her hard work and dedication to the organization for the past several years.

Jones & Bartlett Publishing, Brady, Elsevier and McGraw-Hill joined together to provide hors d’oeuvres at the Instructor Social following the day’s events. We had a great time reconnecting with friends and fellow instructors and had the opportunity to view the new materials that are available. Thank you!!

Join us for the Fall Symposium in Grand Island on October 15, 2011. More information will be provided at a later date.

Submitted by: Glenn Kollars

Spring Conference

Pictured here are Kathy Dernovich and Twink Dalton at the 2011 Spring Conference. Kathy and Twink are pioneers in Nebraska EMS, especially when it comes to ALS. Twink ran the Creighton paramedic program, and Kathy continues to run the McCook paramedic program. These were the first ALS programs in Nebraska, and trained all of the early paramedics starting in the late 70’s.