The “Pres” Corner

Greetings to everyone! The calendar states spring officially started a few weeks ago, however I have a feeling someone forgot to tell Mother Nature. Soon we will be complaining of the heat and wishing for the white stuff!

National EMS week is just around the corner. This year’s theme is “EMS: One Mission. One Team.” How many of you celebrate EMS week? Why is EMS week important?

Let’s start at the beginning. The first ever National EMS Week was held on November 3-10, 1974.

First question: What President declared the first National EMS Week?
The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) helped in establishing the EMS week. In 1992 the decision was made to move it to the 3rd week of May.

Second question: Why was this event moved to earlier in the year?
Email me your answers and you will receive a little something for doing so!

EMS week is a time to thank all the EMS personnel for all they do across the country. Whether we are paid or unpaid professionals, we sacrifice much of our time to our profession. I particularly like the theme this year: EMS – One Mission – One Team. To me, this means we, as in ALL healthcare providers, have One mission – One team for the patient that needs us, a true team approach to the healthcare needs of others. We need to think beyond the 911 calls and ask ourselves what we can do to become more proactive than reactive. In others words, we need to evolve our role into injury prevention and public outreach within our communities. EMS can be and should be seen as a vital public service within our communities and with other healthcare providers. This concept takes our roles well beyond just answering 911 calls. How many of you conduct community CPR courses in your area? Did you know over 78% of all heart attacks happen in the home? In my 20+ years of EMS, I have only seen a person doing bystander CPR once. If we conducted more simple education on just this topic alone, research shows an improvement of over 25% in survival rate within those areas. Who doesn’t want better patient outcomes? We all do! Isn’t that the reason we are in EMS in the first place?

Be Safe, Take Care

Debbie Von Seggern-Johnson
NEMSA President
dvonseggern@unmc.edu
From the Secretary

Hello NEMSA Members,

WOW what a busy couple months it’s been! I don’t know about you but I can’t believe Spring is here. Don’t get me wrong I’m glad it is, but I can’t figure out where winter went.

Spring Conference in Norfolk was a success. Yes, there were some rough spots, but Matt Baker and his committee did an outstanding job with everything! We had great instructors and a very nice facility. If you didn’t make it to conference, you missed out on a lot of great classes and some great entertainment. From what I hear, I really like birds and I am good at licking ice cream cones. For those of you who didn’t go, Saturday night after the banquet we had a comedian/hypnotist, Daniel James, and I was one of the people who volunteered to get hypnotized. I still don’t know what all I did but I’ve seen some videos. All I can say is WOW! There is a possibility that NEMSA will be selling copies of the video taken that night. Watch the website for details. Speaking of the website, I want to urge everyone to double check that their email address is correct. Just select the “Update My Email” tab above the ambulance. It’s very easy and it will insure that you receive important information from NEMSA. You can also sign up for the NEMSA newsletter “The Dispatch” on the website too. The tab for that is under the ambulance where it says “Going Green”. If anyone has ideas for articles for the newsletter please let me or any officer know.

NEMSA needs your help; we are seeking volunteers to help with different projects. One position that we are looking for someone to help with is the NEMSA Archives. We have lots of memorabilia, and it needs to be put into scrap books and possibly saved into digital format. If you are interested or you know of someone that you think would enjoy doing this, please let me or any of the officers know. All our contact information is on the website under the “contact us” tab.

As you know my office was up for re-election this year. I ran un-opposed so I will have the honor of serving all the NEMSA members for another 2 years. If there is ever anything I can do to assist you, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

I will leave you with this -
“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” - Maya Angelou.

We see people on their best and worst days. No matter how difficult it is- smile, hold their hand and let them know that you care. Don’t forget how you make them feel stays with them forever!

Be safe everyone!

Pam Stapleman
NEMSA Secretary
NAAP NOTES

Gimedic69@aol.com  This is my Email address. I am putting this request out to all EMS providers. My request is to open up a dialogue on EMS education. What do you believe is important for continuing education for Nebraska providers? Why is this question for everyone in an “advanced” part of the NEMSA newsletter? As providers we should constantly be trying to advance our education.

Many times comments are made that education is more ALS than BLS. Over time skills such as aspirin administration and epi pen® assistance was an ALS skill. Today it is part of the BLS curriculum.

NAAP is not just about the ALS provider; it is a group for the BLS provider with advanced skills. This group is to promote the “advanced” skills and education of the EMS provider. So I ask you to email me about what you think is important in continuing education in EMS. I extend an invitation to those who are not NAAP members to consider joining this group. Challenge yourself in advancing your education.

J.J. Wohlers

Memorial Committee

The NEMSA Memorial Committee held a Table of Honor candlelight service, at the Spring Conference in Norfolk, to honor our EMS brothers and sisters who have passed. Those honored this year include:

- Michael Novak, LaVista Volunteer Fire Department
- Howard Storm, Decatur Volunteer Fire and Rescue
- Raymond Zucker, Scribner Rescue
- Leo “Babe” Starr, Fairmont Fire and Rescue
- Gerald Hemphill, Valley Suburban Fire District #3

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Memorial Committee (continued from page 3)

The NEMSA Memorial Committee sends a special thank you to the following individuals for serving as Color Guard and Honor Escorts during the Memorial Service Table of Honor.

- Fire Marshall Terry Zwiebel, Norfolk Fire
- Kurt Muhle, Valley Fire and Rescue
- Lt. Bob Nelson, Norfolk Fire
- Officer Joe Greenough, Norfolk
- Lt. Landon Grothe, Norfolk Fire
- TJ Williams, North Platte Fire
- FF Casey Caskey, Norfolk Fire
- Jeff Hankla, North Platte Fire

If you would like to recognize someone not previously recognized, please complete the form that can be found at the Memorial Wall during Winter, Spring and Summer Conferences.

Plans can be made in advance for the family member of the honored loved one to attend the banquet and candle lighting service. Please contact a memorial committee member before the conference so we may add the appropriate number of people for the banquet meal.

The Memorial Wall has a new look thanks to generous donations! These donations also funded a Memorial Booth that will be on display at each conference. The booth displays the NEMSA, Nebraska and United States Flags as well as a picture frame that scrolls the names and pictures of those honored on the Memorial Wall, and an eternal candle. If you or your department would like to donate to the memorial project, please contact any Memorial Committee member.

Memorial project donations received to date:

- Valley Fire and Rescue
- Walthill Fire and Rescue
- Cozad Fire and Rescue
- Carrie and Scott Crawford
- Anonymous
- Wood River Rescue
- Cedar Bluffs Fire and Rescue
- Misty Hemphill and Girls
- Broken Bow Ambulance Service

We are in the process of locating pictures, dates of birth and death for those honored on our wall. Someone from our committee may be contacting your department for this information.

Scrapbookers, we need you! If you like to scrapbook or convert printed material into digital format, we could use help with the NEMSA archives. Please help us preserve this valuable history.

Be sure to check out our new page on the NEMSA web site!

Julie Mertens, Chairperson: jamertens@hotmail.com, (402) 302-4223
Karolyn McElroy: mcelroy@huntel.net, (402) 870-1023
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30th Annual NEMSA Spring Conference

The 30th Annual NEMSA Spring Conference was a huge success thanks to all of you and the Spring Conference Committee. This year there were a lot of new things introduced; a new venue, new entertainment, and some new faces. Matt Baker of Cedar Bluffs took over as the Spring Conference Committee Chair and did a wonderful job, especially handling the little unknown “crises” that were encountered. Our new location for 2013, Divots Conference Center in Norfolk, NE, provided us with some new innovative ways to do things such as holding more general sessions, allowing ambulance vendors to bring their trucks inside, and working with Northeast Community College. Most of you probably are not aware of how much work goes into planning these conferences, but I want to take a moment to recognize Doug Dekker from Northeast Community College. This wonderful man went above and beyond to make things happen. Northeast Community College donated a lot of time, money, effort and even personnel to make our conference successful. So, if you have the opportunity, please thank him if you see him.

This year, we brought back some “old-timers,” Stephen “Murph” Murphy, Kelly Grayson, Scott Crawford and Brian Donaldson. In addition, we had some new faces this year – many speakers sponsored by the Center for Preparedness Education – thank you, Leslie Scofield! We were able to have Gary Smith, John Rod, and Annie talking about their experiences with LVADs and how we can best take care of these patients. Kim Carpenter from UNMC was there to discuss “taking care of ourselves.” All of us need to do a better job of this. And probably our most controversial speaker, Dr. Don Rice… Dr. Rice provided us all with information that a lot of people didn’t like to hear but really needed to hear. We need to do a better job with our patient care reports to include timely submission and better documentation practices. Many of you were very unhappy that we included Dr. Rice as a speaker at our conference as evidenced by the results of the evaluations. A few of us on the planning committee saw Dr. Rice’s presentation at an EMS Board meeting last year and felt this was information that every EMS professional should know. We apologize if you were offended, but the vast majority of you realized the importance of what he shared.

We changed up our entertainment this year to include “Dinner and A Movie” on Friday night. Attendees were able to eat supper together and watch “Mother, Jugs and Speed,” an EMS classic. We had close to 100 in attendance. Saturday night, we brought in Daniel James, a comic hypnotist, to provide entertainment after the awards banquet. This was a blast! Thank you to all of the volunteers that went up on stage! If you only knew… video will hopefully be available in the near future. And finally, Jamie Metzler of Metzler Sounds by Night provided music for the dance following Daniel James.

We are already beginning to plan for next year’s conference. We reviewed your comments on the evaluations and will try to meet most of your expectations for 2014. Already, we have Jason Dush...
30th Annual NEMSA Spring Conference (continued from page 6)

from Texas and Joe Ferrell from Iowa that have agreed to present. We are working on contracting additional speakers, hopefully some new faces and some other familiar faces that we have all enjoyed in the past. Expect some more changes based on your comments for next year – good ones! Visit the NEMSA website for information in the future!

Respectfully submitted,
Tami Meyers, NEMSA Conference Coordinator

Award Winners for Spring Conference 2013

Instructor of the Year -
Chuck Woll Memorial:
Eric Brown of Lincoln

EMT of the Year:
Jon Jacoby of Cedar Bluffs

President Award:
Doug Dekker

NEMSA Advanced Provider of the Year:
The late Gerald Hemphill of Valley
Request for comments, questions & concerns

It was so wonderful to see so many attend the Spring NEMSA Conference Banquet Saturday night! It was a night full of tears and laughter. I cannot thank the Divot Center staff enough for the food and their excellent service!

For those who attended, you will remember our special guest speaker for the evening. From the first moment I spoke to her on the phone, she was more honored to come speak at our banquet than I was honored to ask her! It gave me great pleasure to introduce her that night, and now knowing her passions, I now know why she was so happy to have NEMSA in Norfolk.

Mayor Sue Fuchtman has asked for all of us to send her comments, concerns, and questions regarding our conference in Norfolk and wants to know how they can make it better!! Norfolk loved hosting us and wants us to return!!

Collin Warren
NEMSA Chaplain / NEMSA Master of Ceremonies
collinwarren@ymail.com

Mayor Sue Fuchtman

National Emergency Services Week - May 19-25, 2013
New paper provides actionable options for states coping with emergency drug shortages

The NAEMT Board of Directors has endorsed a new paper by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), “Coping with and Mitigating the Effects of Shortages of Emergency Medications”. NAEMT was one of the thought leaders participating in forming this document, which helps EMS agencies across the nation dealing with EMS drug shortages to help mitigate them.

The document attempts to capture and summarize the current best thinking of national leaders in the public health, EMS, and emergency/trauma care fields, and is intended to serve as a guide to actionable options for consideration. The information in the paper was gleaned in large part from a two-day workshop of national subject matter experts.

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One of “THOSE” Calls

We received a call for a 50 year old female patient attempted suicide and she had been drinking. This is a third party call from her husband who travels over the road. With law enforcement on scene it is noticeable that the lady cut across her wrists with a razor blade and there is some blood (I guess she never heard that to do it right you have to cut with the vein not across). Anyway, this is where the scene always gets interesting. She is combative and does not, will not listen to reason (of course if she was rational we probably wouldn't be there in the first place). Knowing she needs to go in regardless, it comes to the time she needs restraints and a “little encouragement” to take a ride in the pretty bus with lights (Cops love EPC’s). This is when you ask your new recruits to do an assessment and take vitals. Eventually you let them off the hook and just acknowledge the only vital you’re going to get on this patient is to know she has an open airway because she is screaming at you. Since A is before B & C, and it’s only 15 minutes to the hospital, we run with it and hand her off to the hospital staff as quickly as possible (they were extremely excited to hear what we have). In the narrative of this patient care it is noted with a big “F N” (Fricking Nuts). Though these patients are rare, they are a great learning tool on calls that are not your “normal” calls.
EMS pros brave snow to meet with legislators at EMS on the Hill Day

Was your state well represented at EMS on the Hill Day 2013? The morning of March 6, D.C. area television stations reported that federal offices were closed due to a looming snowstorm. However, once the 195 EMS professionals from 37 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico attending EMS on the Hill Day 2013 learned that some congressional offices were still open, they were determined to meet with their U.S. Senators, House Representatives and their staff to let them know more about the EMS profession, the work EMS professionals do to serve their communities, and the challenges facing EMS.

In its fourth year and hosted by NAEMT, EMS on the Hill Day is the only national EMS advocacy event open to all EMS professionals. “We’re EMS. We don’t let something like the weather stop us,” said Don Lundy, NAEMT president. “For those of us whose representatives were not available, we take heart in knowing that EMS advocacy isn’t a one day event, and it certainly doesn’t end in March. It’s an ongoing process.”

On March 5, EMS on the Hill Day participants attended an informative pre-Hill Visit briefing to prepare them for their congressional visits, and a networking reception, hosted by NAEMT, that evening. On March 6, while waiting to hear if their congressional offices were open, participants attended a gathering addressing key legislation and other issues affecting EMS.

If their congressional offices were open, event participants attended scheduled appointments with their Senate and House leaders and their staff. That evening, participants enjoyed a post-Hill visit reception hosted by NAEMT. Congressional leaders and staff, and federal agency staff also attended the event, held at the Renaissance Washington Hotel. At the reception, Congressman Tim Walz (D-Minn.) was recognized for his leadership of the EMS Caucus.

Participants asked for legislators’ support on the following priorities:

• Co-sponsorship by members of the House of H.R. 809, The Field EMS Quality, Innovation and Cost-Effectiveness Improvements Act, also known as the Field EMS Bill.
• Support in the U.S. Senate for passage of The Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act, H.R 235, which passed the House earlier this month, and has been referred to the Senate.
• Joining the EMS Caucus.

We hope to see your state delegation next year!