The “Pres” Corner

“No institution can possibly survive if it needs geniuses or supermen to manage it. It must be organized in such a way as to be able to get along under a leadership composed of average human beings.” ~ Peter Drucker

After recently attending a leadership academy, I came across this quote I have posted above. If you didn’t really read it, I will post again.

“No institution can possibly survive if it needs geniuses or supermen to manage it. It must be organized in such a way as to be able to get along under a leadership composed of average human beings.” ~ Peter Drucker

Are we in “EMS” normal, average human beings? I would like to think we are in some aspects. I believe I am normal... for the most part! Some of you who actually read this and know me may be chuckling at this moment.

Are we in “EMS” geniuses or supermen? This all depends on who you ask. If you were part of a team that just helped saved the life of a family member, I am going to bet the family will consider you nothing but AWESOME! What about the day to day business end of things? Are we geniuses or supermen?

Is being on your EMS department all about your calls and nothing else?

Your new EMS students probably think so. Even those newbies become seasoned, not only on patient calls, but within your own system. They have been watching and learning the dynamics and culture of your department. They have identified those who are in leadership roles, have probably identified current and past conflicts, have learned many habits, both positive and negative, from everyone. How is everything going in your department? Put yourself in a newbie’s shoes. What type of organization does your group portray?

I would like you to think outside of your department, and as a whole, how is our EMS system doing? We are based off of a volunteer system. Over 80 % of us do this and do not receive an actual paycheck. Even if your department is full of members, what is going on elsewhere in the county, the state, even the nation? Are there people rushing in to volunteer their time like they did 30 years ago? Do you actively discuss within your department goals for 5 and 10 years out? Our state provided us with some numbers, and we are declining dramatically in the area of EMS on the volunteer side. Nebraska is no different than what the national statistics depict. So are people just not volunteering anymore? The answer is actually more people are volunteering their time now more than ever, just not in the area of EMS.

How many of you are worried about the direction leadership is going with EMS, yours, the state and national leadership? My belief is many are very concerned. Our current system as a whole needs to be revamped. I believe all of us can agree on that fact. But how do we go about this endeavor? What

(continued on page 2)
The “Pres” Corner (continued from page 1)

will work best for everyone, for the future of EMS? Now is the time to think about all these issues. Now is the time to look outside of your own ambulance doors and into the future for the betterment of our system, for the betterment of healthcare within our communities.

EMS is a valuable link in the healthcare system; we do make a difference in patient outcomes! Other healthcare providers do value us. If EMS was no longer in existence, what would happen to patient outcomes?

Change is so scary and full of uncertainties. The fear of the unknown can be exciting or terrifying. Most of us in EMS do not fear the “bad call”, we are prepared. Let’s take that same approach into our future and plan ahead for the next generation.

I have one more quote to share with you. “The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been.” ~ Henry Kissinger

I have left you with a lot of unanswered questions and a goal of seeking solutions. We can’t start until we ask and look outside our bay doors.

Thank you for reading our newsletter. We would love to receive feedback from you.

Take Care and Be Safe!

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

From the Secretary

Hello NEMSA Members! As I sit down to write this we are finishing up with the NEMSA Winter Conference that was held in Kearney. Planning has already started for next year’s conference for the conference committee. If there is anything is particular that you would like to see offered at Winter Conference, please let me or any other board member know so we can pass it along to the committee. NEMSA is all about the membership and bringing things to our conferences that you want, but this can’t happen if no one expresses their thoughts. We are always available to hear your thoughts, ideas and concerns. All of our contact information is available on the website, so feel free to drop us an email or give us a call.

(continued on page 3)
From the Secretary (continued from page 2)

The Board and the Spring Conference Planning committee are finishing up on the final details for the NEMSA Spring Conference, which is being held in Norfolk again this year March 14-16, 2014 at Divots. We have great instructors coming this year including: Roberta (Bert) Baldus, Jason Dush, Joe Ferrell and Sarah House. So there will be lots of great classes, sure to be something for everyone. The NEMSA Memorial Committee will be presenting the Table of Honor ceremony on Saturday night at the banquet. If you have had a loss on your department please let us knows so that person can be honored. The memorial form is found under the committees tab and then under memorial. You can print that of and send it to me if you aren’t planning on attending. Don’t forget about the Instructors Pre-Conference for all of the EMS Instructors on Thursday the 13th of March, this is also held at Divots. You can register for both of these online at www.NEMSA.org. For motel information check out the Norfolk Visitors Bureau website www.visitnorfolkne.com.

Something for everyone to be thinking about is the awards. Not everyone knows what the criteria for the awards that can be given at Spring Conference are so here they are:

**Chuck Woll Memorial - Instructor of the Year**
This award is given to the EMS Instructor who has made the greatest contribution to local, state, or national EMS as an instructor. The person must been an instructor for a Nebraska Department of Health approved program providing on-going training for EMR, EMT, EMT-I, Advanced EMT ,or EMT personnel.

**NEMSA Paramedic of the Year**
Awarded to the EMT-Paramedic who has demonstrated outstanding skills, training, and service to their community and/or the State of Nebraska this year.

**EMT of the Year**
Awarded to the EMT who has demonstrated outstanding skills, training, and service to their community and/or the State of Nebraska this year.

**Emergency Medical Responder of the Year**
Awarded to the EMR who has demonstrated outstanding skills, training, and service to their community and/or the State of Nebraska this year.

We all know people on our departments that are deserving of these. It’s easy to nominate somebody, just fill out the form from the website and send it to me. Something that not everyone knows, we forward on our state award winners to the national level. So take a few minutes and nominate that person that is deserving.

I look forward to seeing everyone in March.

Take Care and Be safe!

Pam Stapleman, NEMSA Secretary
NIS Notes

Welcome again to next installment of NIS NOTES. As you all know it is that time of year again as we are heading into another Spring Conference. Instructors we have both Roberta Baldus and Jason Dush as our Speakers for this year. We all know Bert but this is a first time we have had Jason here. I would like all of you to make him feel right at home in Nebraska.

We are going to cover some new topics and some old but I hope you enjoy your Instructor’s Day. Just some new news for our membership recently I took over duties as the NIS rep to the NEMSA Board, I will work as hard at this as I have being the Vice President of this great Society. We have a mission to expand and grow but we can not do this alone it takes help and commitment from you all as well.

In closing I want to thank you all for your hard work and the education that we give to all our students and commitment to your Training Agencies. Remember our students are only as good as their INSTRUCTOR’S.

Be Safe and see you in Norfolk.

Arnie Higgins, NIS Vice President

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NAAP NOTES

I want to thank everyone who participated in the ALS track at this year’s NEMSA winter conference. The feedback being received from all those who were involved and took the class has been positive. The goal was to be able to help departments who had members that needed the ALS modules. We understand in today’s busy times, getting one or two members these skills can be difficult.

Many think NAAP is only for “paramedics”. NAAP is for anyone wanting to become an advanced provider. The classes at the NEMSA winter conference is just that. EMT’s receiving the training in an advanced skill. In the future NAAP will continue to have these classes along with other advanced level training. We are about Continuing Education, not just Maintaining education!!

To those who are thinking of joining NAAP and to those who need to renew. A bit of blatant capitalism. Anyone who joins NAAP this year or pays their dues will be entered in a drawing for an iPad at the NEMSA spring conference in March.

Remember, your EMT license is like a car. The CE hours and classes we take is the maintenance and upkeep on this car.

Sincerely,

JJ Wohlers, NAAP President
Banquet Corner

Thank you to everyone that came to the NEMSA Winter Conference and Banquet! It was an unbelievable display of honor and learning.

First off I want to thank all that attended the conference, without all of you we would not be able to make this all work!! I want to thank the Holiday Inn and Staff for all their wonderful help and willingness to get us whatever we needed. As some of you know a conference is not a conference without the instructors and the conference committee, without them we would just sit around and twiddle our thumbs. And last but not least thanks to the AV staff on the committee, I know they do so much and no one knows how much they really do. Thanks to you all.

Second I want to thank the NEMSA Memorial Committee for presenting the Memorial Candle Ceremony, by honoring one member of the Weeping Water Fire Department for a LODD, Robert Hanes Sr. In all my years of attending or being part of a banquet, this is still one of the most awe-inspiring and memorable display of honor for those men and women that have died in the service of EMS.

Third a big congratulation’s is extended to the NEMSA Memorial Committee for receiving the NEMSA Presidential Award.

The next NEMSA Hands-On Conference will be held in Kearney, NE January 16th – 18th, 2015 so mark your calendars and we will see you next year!!!

Also hope to see you all at the Spring Conference in Norfolk, March 14th -16th, 2014!!! Stay safe and God bless!!

Collin Warren
NEMSA Master of Ceremonies
Election Time is Here Again!  2014 NEMSA Election ~ February 20th to March 10th

Voting will again be done electronically so if you have not updated your email address, do so as soon as possible! Read on for more about this year’s candidates!

**President Candidates:**

**Debbie Von Seggern-Johnson**  
402-718-0105, dvonseggern@unmc.edu

Greetings! I am your current NEMSA President and requesting your vote for re-election. I have learned so much in the past 4 years as your president, and would love to continue to serve the membership.

We have implemented many changes in the past 4 years. Our NEMSA organization is truly a group who exists due to the hard work of all our members and especially our dedicated committee members. We have re-established long and short term goals, though Strategic Planning meetings held annually. All of our goals reflect the vision and mission of our organization.

A lot of energy has been placed into making sure our members know what NEMSA is and stands for. It is vitally important to create a recognizable image for NEMSA. Being financially sound in a time where less funding is available and still be able to offer our membership remarkable benefits is a continuous goal of mine. NEMSA’s future depends on responsible leadership and I feel with my help we can preserve what the previously leaders have built and develop innovative designs to move into the future of EMS and Healthcare Reform.

I have over 22 years experience in EMS as a provider and 18 years in various leadership roles across the state, regional, national and international levels. My true love is mentorship, we need to provide a map to those who will follow in our footsteps to maintain tradition and accept the ever changing world of medicine and education.

Thank You, Debbie Von Seggern-Johnson

**Dick Smithson**  
308-946-5811, smithson@cablene.com

My name is Dick Smithson and I am running for the position of NEMSA President. My full time job is Police Officer with the Central City Police Department. I started as an EMT in 1992 with the Clarks Rescue Squad. I currently serve on the Wood River Fire and Rescue Department. In my EMS career, I have held every position from member to service director. I am also the Surrogate PMD for Clarks Rescue. I am a CPR Instructor, EMS Instructor, PEPP Course Coordinator/Instructor, and sit on the Region 2 Trauma Board.

I have been a NEMSA member since its creation in 1998 and serve on the Winter Conference Committee. I was honored to receive the NEMSA EMT of the Year Award in 2004. I am a firm supporter of NEMSA and believe that through a strong organization, we can continue to improve the EMS system throughout Nebraska.

I believe strongly in EMS and providing the best patient care possible. With new changes this past year to the EMS Regulations and Protocols, this is a great opportunity for NEMSA to take the lead in communicating these to their members. We also need to work on keeping federal and state funding available to our EMS system. I have seen NEMSA as a positive influence with the State Legislature and as President, I would encourage that NEMSA stays on that course. It would be my honor to work for you in this position. Thank you for your vote.
Election Time is Here Again! 2014 NEMSA Election ~ February 20th to March 10th

Voting will again be done electronically so if you have not updated your email address, do so as soon as possible! Read on for more about this year’s candidates!

2nd Vice President Candidates:

**Brad Hawkins**
402-870-1877, Bennettsglory@yahoo.com

My name is Brad Hawkins, and I am running for the office of 2nd Vice President. I have served on NEMSA board of directors for 4 years, and have served on numerous committees for 10 years within NEMSA. In 2011, I was honored to be awarded the NEMSA presidential award. I have been an EMT for 15 years, have been the Rescue Captain of Tekamah Fire and Rescue for 6 years. I chose not to run NEMSA board 2 years ago to spend more time focusing on my career, but now I am in a position where I can dedicate the time necessary to focus on the needs of NEMSA. I am running for office in hopes of serving pre-hospital medical providers around the state focusing on the core values and mission of NEMSA. Far too often, organizations like NEMSA are so focused on growth and change that they steer away from the purpose of why the organization was started. NEMSA was started to provide quality educational opportunities and provide advocacy at the federal and state level. I am running for office to make sure that this continues to happen. I am proud of what NEMSA has accomplished since inception in 1998, and I would like to help NEMSA continue to represent and support emergency medical professionals from all over Nebraska. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you.
Brad Hawkins

**Dave Huey**
402-510-4569, dduy@hotmail.com

My name is Dave Huey and I am currently serving as the second Vice President for NEMSA. I am asking you to vote for me as second VP so I can continue to serve you and the other EMT’s in Nebraska. I have been an EMS provider for over 30 years and an EMS instructor for over 25 years. I am currently the VP for NAAP and have served as the NIS president for 8 years. I am the Asst. Chief for the Carter Lake Fire and Rescue Department. I served in the US Army for 26 years as a medic and LPN. NEMSA is an organization that has not yet found its full potential in the field of EMS in Nebraska. I want to be a part of the change that is occurring in EMS and be a voice for the EMS provider at all levels. I would like to say Thank You for allowing me to serve as your second VP for the last 6 years.
Election Time is Here Again! 2014 NEMSA Election ~ February 20th to March 10th

Voting will again be done electronically so if you have not updated your email address, do so as soon as possible! Read on for more about this year’s candidates!

Board Member at Large Candidates:

**Collin Warren**
402-870-1646, collinwarren@ymail.com

My name is Collin Warren and I would like your vote for the position of Board Member at Large. I was nominated to this position as of November 8th by the NEMSA board. I bring knowledge, education and experience to the world of EMS. I will maintain the ideals and principles that NEMSA was founded on. When asked what I can bring to the associations I tell people “Keep the traditions of NEMSA alive and bring new ideas to the members and the departments across the state of Nebraska.” I have also been working on the NEMSA Facebook page as well as the NEMSA Twitter account.

I am currently serving as the NEMSA Chaplain and Board Member at Large; I am on the NEMSA Memorial and other Committees, as well as a CISM Member and Master of Ceremonies for the NEMSA Winter and Spring Conferences.

My experience comes from being a past member of the Tekamah Fire and Rescue and as well as a past member of the Murray Fire and Rescue and the Cass County Emergency Management, I am currently Safety Officer for Conestoga Public Schools, CPR Instructor for UNMC, and a Nebraska State Boating and Safety Instructor.

With this I ask for your vote to remain in this position. I am excited about EMS, and it is this excitement I will bring to the NEMSA board. Thank you and God Bless.

**Matt Ruhrer**
402-214-6031, mruhrer@live.com

I would like to run for Board Member at Large. I started in EMS in 1990 in Fremont and worked as a volunteer firefighter and EMT there until 2005. I started teaching CPR through the Fremont Hospital in 1998 and then took my EMT instructor course in 2001 through Central Community College. In 2000 I moved outside the city and also joined the Nickerson Volunteer Fire Department serving there from 2000 to 2007. When I joined the department they were licensed as a first responder agency. I was able to get the department licensed as a basic life support service and they purchased a used ambulance and began transporting patients for the first time. During this time I served as the Rescue Captain for the department. In 2007 I moved to the Wahoo area and joined the Wahoo Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. I continue to work as a volunteer firefighter and EMT there and teach EMS courses throughout eastern Nebraska. I am a State Licensed EMT Instructor and have been a member of NEMSA since it was formed from the former NEMTA. I have also been on the NEMSA Spring Conference committee for the past three years. I am also a member of the Nebraska Instructor Society and look forward to the opportunity to serve the EMS community in continuing to provide the best possible care for the citizens of the State of Nebraska.
**Election Time is Here Again! 2014 NEMSA Election ~ February 20th to March 10th**

Voting will again be done electronically so if you have not updated your email address, do so as soon as possible! Read on for more about this year’s candidates!

**Treasurer Candidates:**

**Karolyn McElroy**  
402-870-1023, mcelroykar@gmail.com

My name is Karolyn McElroy, I am the incumbent for the NEMSA Treasurer position. I have served as Treasurer for 2 terms. I have enjoyed this time and the people I have met and worked with. NEMSA does important work for EMS and the State of Nebraska.

I am married and we have 2 Sons and a Granddaughter. We live in Lyons, NE and I have been a member and an EMT on the Lyons Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department for 20 years. Wow how time flies when you are having fun! For 17 years I have been Rescue Captain for Lyons. I truly feel that Nebraska and each of our communities are very lucky to have such wonderfully dedicated emergency medical and fire volunteers. I am proud to be a part of this volunteer work! I serve as Secretary/Treasurer for Burt County Mutual Aid Association and an AHA CPR Instructor. Thanks to each and every one of you for the work you do!

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**Don’t Forget to Update Your Email Address!!**

**Visit our website and get your email address updated before election time!**

Elections will again be held online and that means we need your correct email address! Please update your address by February 16, 2014 in order to vote in this election. Don’t miss out on your chance to cast your vote!! Simply go to www.nemsa.org/UpdateEmail.aspx and submit your current email address.

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**Mark Your Calendar!!**

**Be sure to visit our website for more information and to register online!**

The NEMSA Spring Conference will be held on March 14-16, 2014! We look forward to seeing you!
One Voice For The Good Of All EMS

Our nation's changing healthcare environment is an added incentive for all in EMS to “speak up” in support of the important role we, as practitioners, fill in determining positive and cost-effective patient outcomes. Quality patient care in emergency settings begins with EMS, and so it will take all of us to speak up to our Congressional leaders – those who we have elected – to create awareness of the challenges that we face in responding to the needs of our communities.

Where Do We Stand?
Our top national legislative priority – H.R. 809, the Field EMS Bill – continues to gain support and momentum, but it is going to take the effort of all of us to obtain passage of this bill. Sponsored by Rep. Larry Bucshon (IN-8), this bill has co-sponsor support from 18 U.S House Representatives (as of January 29, 2014). Our Co-sponsor Campaign goal is to obtain 100 co-sponsors by EMS On The Hill Day, March 26th. We also have received 37 official letters of support from EMS organizations across the nation. The success of the Campaign depends on each of you speaking up for our profession and our patients.

What Can You Do To Support EMS?
Members of Congress and their staff need to hear from you on the challenges you face in delivering quality care, and how H.R. 809 will address those challenges. ENGAGE! your U.S. House Representative today through our new online legislative service (replacing Capwiz). You can also follow the progress of our efforts, by visiting the Field EMS Bill page at www.naemt.org. Be sure to share the information contained on these pages with your EMS peers. There is strength in numbers and the more we speak out on behalf of EMS, the louder our voice will be in Washington DC.

What Else Can You Do To Support EMS?
Make plans to attend EMS On The Hill Day on Wednesday, March 26th, with a briefing on Tuesday, March 25th. Your Congressional representatives need to hear from you on how the changes in healthcare are impacting EMS. Never before has EMS had an opportunity to secure a recognized place in the delivery of quality medical care. Never before has it been more important for all of EMS to speak up for our profession… and our patients!

EMS On The Hill Day is an excellent forum to speak one-on-one with Members of Congress, and we are there to support you every step of the way. Registration is open! Visit our website (www.naemt.org/advocacy) and go on to the “EMS On The Hill Day” page for information and to register.
One Voice For The Good Of All EMS (continued from page 10)

Why Speak Up For EMS?

1. To ensure quality and effective patient care.
2. To obtain direct funding for EMS agencies (all delivery models), based on community need.
3. To access the important training and education that is needed to respond to the full scope of emergent needs.
4. To educate legislative leaders that EMS is the starting point in directing patients to an appropriate path of care (hospital, home care, etc.)
5. To help your community transition to a mobile integrated healthcare system.
6. To reinforce field EMS as an integral component of emergency medicine.

What Should You Know About Community Paramedicine / Mobile Integrated Healthcare?
Join us for a “Mobile Integrated Healthcare Summit: Policy & Payer Update,” on March 25th in Washington, D.C. Held prior to EMS On The Hill Day, attendees will explore the payer’s perspective and learn how the Field EMS Bill (H.R. 809) can help further the CP/MIHC mission. Contact info@naemt.org to learn more.

Code of Ethics for EMS Practitioners

Professional status as an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Practitioner is maintained and enriched by the willingness of the individual practitioner to accept and fulfill obligations to society, other medical professionals, and the EMS profession. As an EMS practitioner, I solemnly pledge myself to the following code of professional ethics:

• to conserve life, alleviate suffering, promote health, do no harm, and encourage the quality and equal availability of emergency medical care.

• to provide services based on human need, with compassion and respect for human dignity, unrestricted by consideration of nationality, race, creed, color, or status; to not judge the merits of the patient’s request for service, nor allow the patient’s socioeconomic status to influence our demeanor or the care that we provide.

• to not use professional knowledge and skills in any enterprise detrimental to the public well being.

• to respect and hold in confidence all information of a confidential nature obtained in the course of professional service unless required by law to divulge such information.
Code of Ethics for EMS Practitioners *(continued from page 11)*

- to use social media in a responsible and professional manner that does not discredit, dishonor, or embarrass an EMS organization, co-workers, other health care practitioners, patients, individuals or the community at large.

- as a citizen, to understand and uphold the law and perform the duties of citizenship; as a professional, to work with concerned citizens and other health care professionals in promoting a high standard of emergency medical care to all people.

- to maintain professional competence, striving always for clinical excellence in the delivery of patient care.

- to assume responsibility in upholding standards of professional practice and education.

- to assume responsibility for individual professional actions and judgment, both in dependent and independent emergency functions, and to know and uphold the laws which affect the practice of EMS.

- to be aware of and participate in matters of legislation and regulation affecting EMS.

- to work cooperatively with EMS associates and other allied healthcare professionals in the best interest of our patients.

- to refuse participation in unethical procedures, and assume the responsibility to expose incompetence or unethical conduct of others to the appropriate authority in a proper and professional manner.


EMT Oath

Be it pledged as an Emergency Medical Technician, I will honor the physical and judicial laws of God and man. I will follow that regimen which, according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of patients and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, nor shall I suggest any such counsel. Into whatever homes I enter, I will go into them for the benefit of only the sick and injured, never revealing what I see or hear in the lives of men unless required by law.

I shall also share my medical knowledge with those who may benefit from what I have learned. I will serve unselfishly and continuously in order to help make a better world for all mankind.

While I continue to keep this oath unviolated, may it be granted to me to enjoy life, and the practice of the art, respected by all men, in all times. Should I trespass or violate this oath, may the reverse be my lot.

So help me God.

Written by: Charles B. Gillespie, M.D.
Change to Omaha Trauma System

Beginning February 1, 2014, there is a change in the Omaha Trauma System with regards to pediatric trauma transports from the scene. The Nebraska Medical Center will accept all pediatric trauma patients less than 12 years of age who require major resuscitation 24/7 regardless of the current “trauma center of the day” system (see protocol below). The trauma team will now be in house 24/7 to care for these patients. Children’s Hospital & Medical Center will accept scene transports of stable pediatric trauma and all pediatric patients with asphyxiation. Creighton University Medical Center will no longer accept pediatric trauma under 12 years of age. If there is a situation where both an adult and pediatric family member are involved in a trauma, both parties should be transported to The Nebraska Medical Center so as not to separate families regardless of the “trauma center of the day”.

If you have any issues or concerns, please contact:

**The Nebraska Medical Center**
- Diane Yetter: 402-559-9156, dyetter@nebraskamed.com
- Dr. Schenarts: 402-559-5248, paul.schenarts@unmc.edu

**Children’s Hospital & Medical Center**
- Lisa Reichter: 402-955-5131, lreichter@ChildrensOmaha.org
- Dr. Abdessalam: 402-955-7400, sabdessalam@ChildrensOmaha.org

**Creighton University Medical Center**
- Susie Werner: 402-449-4686, susan.werner@alegent.org
- Dr. Clancy: 402-280-4351, keith.clancy@alegent.org

**Pediatric Trauma EMS Scene Transfer Protocol**

*For the purposes of this protocol, a child is defined as less than 12 y/o.*

*This protocol applies 24/7 regardless of “trauma center of the day” for adult patients.*

The following injured children are best served by evaluation and treatment at The Nebraska Medical Center:

- Traumatically injured children who DO require major, immediate resuscitation
  - Code 99 (Traumatic Cardiac Arrest except asphyxiation – see below)
  - Hemodynamic instability or poor perfusion
  - Respiratory compromise, including need to maintain airway and intubation
  - Neurologic compromise, GCS <9 or deteriorating status
  - All burn patients
  - Traumatic amputations
  - Significant vascular injuries
  - High risk mechanisms: i.e. ejection, GSW
  - Unstable pelvic fractures
  - Spinal cord injury or paralysis

(continued on page 14)
Change to Omaha Trauma System *(continued from page 13)*

The following injured children are best served by evaluation and treatment at Children’s Hospital & Medical Center:

- Traumatically injured children who do NOT require major immediate resuscitation
  - Hemodynamically stable
  - GCS greater than 9
  - Low risk mechanisms of injury
  - Victims of asphyxiation (example: drowning, hangings, smoke inhalation without burns)

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NEMSA Legislative Report - January 2014

The 2014 Legislative session is underway in Lincoln. This is the “short” or 60 day session with many bills held over from last session. NEMSA is tracking those bills while also identifying which of the newly introduced bills may impact EMS providers. Please see the chart for a listing of all bills NEMSA is tracking. You can get more information on a particular bill by using the unicameral website at http://nebraskalegislature.gov/ and clicking on “bills and laws” to do a bill search. This will allow you to download, read or print any pending legislation.

NEMSA has already provided testimony on a couple of bills of interest this session. LB752 would add EMS and Fire personnel to definitions of assault on an officer. This is a priority of ours in light of recent violence on EMS providers. LB807 would make violation of seat belt laws and texting while driving primary offences. Data has proven that this would save many lives each year. LB895 would change Workmen’s Compensation laws to ensure volunteer EMS and fire personnel would be covered under the maximum amount allowed if injured while on duty, and would allow reasonable compensation such as mileage or a minimum per call payment would not affect their volunteer status. We have also asked for an amendment to be added to LB911, a bill to move toward a “next generation” 911 system. Our amendment would add an EMS professional to the advisory committee created under this legislation.

Perhaps our most important piece of legislation is LB889, introduced by Senator Dubas. LB889 would insert line items into the Health and Human Services budget for program No. 514 which provides for initial and continuing education for licensed EMS providers. Even though NEMSA has been successful in the past, we feel that securing these funds with individual line items is in the best interest of our profession.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bruce Beins, the Advocacy Committee chairman at bbeins@frontiernet.net or any NEMSA Board member. Also keep watch on our website at http://www.nemsa.org/ for upcoming changes to those pages and further legislative updates.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Beins, Chair of NEMSA Advocacy Committee
Nebraska EMS Association - Legislative Action List

Carryover Bills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LB #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LB 10</td>
<td>Makes seat belt violation a primary offense.</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LB 440</td>
<td>Would create a $500 refundable tax credit for volunteer responders who meet criteria.</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LB 62</td>
<td>Restores property tax levy authority to fire protection districts.</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LB 365</td>
<td>Requires First Aid, CPR, and AED training to graduate high school.</td>
<td>Education</td>
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<td>LB 118</td>
<td>Makes texting while driving a primary offense.</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB 393</td>
<td>Would allow motorcycle riders over 21 to choose whether to wear helmets. Adds eye protection.</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 181</td>
<td>Would prohibit motorcycle passengers less than eight years old.</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 428</td>
<td>Would allow nurse midwives to attend homebirths.</td>
<td>HHS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 189</td>
<td>Makes seat belt violation a primary offense, increases penalty, and includes all seats in vehicle.</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 439</td>
<td>Would increase cigarette and tobacco taxes to fund many health projects. (LB 440)</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 403</td>
<td>Prohibit retail sale of novelty lighters. Penalty a Class IV misdemeanors</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
<td>Select file</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Bills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LB #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LB 741</td>
<td>Would require schools to have a policy and have three tornado drills a year.</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>27-Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 752</td>
<td>Adds EMS and Fire personnel to definitions of assault on an officer.</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
<td>23-Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 807</td>
<td>Makes violation of seat belt and texting while driving laws a primary offense. Adds bus drivers</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>28-Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 889</td>
<td>Appropriate $250,000 for initial training, $110,000 continuing ed, $220,000 for EMS Conferences.</td>
<td>Appropriations</td>
<td>10-Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 895</td>
<td>Sets Workman’s Comp rate for volunteer fire and EMS. Allows reasonable reimbursement and fees.</td>
<td>Business &amp; Labor</td>
<td>27-Jan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(continued on page 16)
Nebraska EMS Association - Legislative Action List *(continued from page 15)*

**New Bills**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LB #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LB 931</td>
<td>Establishes a mental health first aid training program.</td>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>30-Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 786</td>
<td>Establishes an Emergency Contact Registry for law enforcement to contact family in emergency.</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>28-Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 820</td>
<td>Allows an interstate compact for control of forest fires and provides status for volunteer firefighters.</td>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>27-Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 772</td>
<td>Increases from $10,000 to $25,000 for hazmat and aerial fire suppression without proclamation.</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>22-Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 887</td>
<td>Wellness in Nebraska Act (Medicaid expansion)</td>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>29-Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 1015</td>
<td>Would include volunteer fire and rescue in the Tort Claims Act</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 1082</td>
<td>Would allow ATV's and Utility type vehicles to be operated as authorized emergency vehicles</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 911</td>
<td>A move toward “next generation 911” system. Creates an advisory council</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>27-Jan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>