The “Pres” Corner

Happy spring time to everyone, I do believe we are actually warming up and the white stuff is behind us for a couple of months at least. By the end of summer we will be waiting for the cold weather to arrive.

Like the Nebraska weather, our NEMSA board has seen a lot of changes in the past year. Nearly half of our board has been on for less than one year and our board is now smaller. The committees have also seen a great deal of change; we have a new conference coordinator, January hands-on conference chair, public relations chair, education chair and new members on various committees. I for one am extremely excited to see our members getting excited about NEMSA and wanting to get involved.

I had a new board member send me an email a few weeks ago that said “I never knew what the board did; I am quickly learning what we do and it is a lot. Never realized how much actually goes on!”

I came across this quote, I was drawn to the part “…there is no normal…” and thought to myself that sums up EMS and how some of us feel about change.

“This is your time and it feels normal to you, but really, there is no normal. There’s only change and resistance to it and then more change.” - Meryl Streep

This chart below is what any of us experiencing change will typically go through says the experts. Would you agree? When you are faced with change how do you handle situations? It reminds me of the stages of grief actually. How many of you have experienced significant change within your department, workplace or at home?

I am worried about that word “Crisis”, are we in that phrase already and we don’t even realize it?

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The “Pres” Corner (continued from page 1)

Take time to read on some of the national and regional articles coming out on the new roles and future for EMS and its providers. Community Paramedicine, Mobile Integrated Healthcare, Affordable Care Act and here is a scary one – Decline in Volunteerism and possible Regionalizing EMS departments!

You may feel it won’t affect your area ever or not for a while, look up at the chart and see that word “Denial”? You are just starting the process and YES it will happen or maybe it already has.

Back to the new board member saying “…never realized…”, if you aren’t involved you never will know. Make the choice to be involved and help in making an impact on the future. One place to start is attending our board meetings and general membership meetings, join a committee, become involved and educate yourself on all of these issues.

NEMSA will be sending out a survey via email to our membership soon, please make sure you have all registered your email addresses at NEMSA.org. Our wish is ALL of you participate!

What stage are you in? How long will this take?
Do some of you or someone you know stay in one phrase and never move on?

Change WILL happen with or without you! How are you going to deal with it?

Take Care and Be Safe!

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

Hello from the NEMSA Secretary,

Do I dare say it? Spring is really here! With the arrival of the new season we are all as busy as ever, our kids will be attending proms and some will be graduating. Just a reminder to those interested in applying for a NEMSA Scholarship, applications will be accepted until June 30, 2014. The application is available on the NEMSA website under the Committees / Scholarship tab. These scholarships are available to NEMSA members, spouses and dependent children. The scholarships will be awarded at the Statewide EMS Conference Banquet in July at Kearney.

As some of you have probably heard, we are trying to decide where to hold the Spring EMS Conference that was previously held in Columbus and most recently has been held in Norfolk. What are your thoughts on this? We are a membership based organization; we want to do what you want. But the only way we can do this is to know what your thoughts are. For those of you that attended the Spring Conference this year and filled out the evaluation, we appreciate it and we are taking a serious look at those. But we want to hear everyone’s thoughts on this. Not only where do you want the conference to be held at but what are some ideas for class topics. You as a member are what drives NEMSA! We want your input! All of your board members contact information is available on the website, email us or call us. Do whatever works best for you, but please let us know what you want.

I will leave you with our mission statement so that you are reminded what NEMSA represents:

“Our vision is to be a unified voice and resource for Nebraska Emergency Medical Service providers by being an Advocate at the state and national level, Collaborating with various regional and national organizations, and promoting Quality Educational Opportunities.”

NEMSA is your organization, make your voice heard!

Be safe and remember... everyone goes home after every call!

Pam Stapleman
NEMSA Secretary
**NIS Notes**

Well here we are again! Another Spring Conference has come and gone and so has another Instructor Day. I personally want to say how much I, as the newly elected President of this Society, enjoy seeing all my fellow instructors. That being said I would also like to welcome all the new board members.

As you will soon see, we are heading for some new changes in the Society. First, you will see we have the addition of new board shirts, which will make us more noticeable. Secondly, I hope we have a stronger board. As some of you already know, the vice president is Jamie Bowlin, our secretary is Robyn Fowler-Dimmitt, Terri Van Houten is a new board member along with Matt Ruhrer and the best for last Bruce Beins as treasurer. I feel we have the right people to take the society to the next level.

As a board, we are working for you, the membership. So if you have questions or comments, feel free to contact any of us on the board and we will address these as soon as possible. Thanks for your support and hope to see you all soon.

Arnie Higgins, NIS Vice President
Banquet Corner

Thank you to everyone that came to the NEMSA Spring 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!! 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. A big thanks to all who made the Conference and Banquet Possible. I cannot give enough thanks to Doug Decker of NECC, without his help with all the set up for the Banquet we would not have had the unbelievable display of honor.

Second I want to thank the NEMSA Memorial Committee for presenting the Memorial Table and Candle Ceremony, honoring several members that have passed on. 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 congratulation’s to all the award winners, this conference was filled with many nominations and all the awards were given out this year.

**NEMSA AWARD WINNERS**

Advanced Provider: Brian Urbom - Wood River & Vicki Carini - Valentine

EMT: Robert White - Scribner & Gary King - Bennet

EMR: Cody Densberger - Malcolm

**NEMSA ELECTION WINNERS**

President: Deb Von Seggern
Second Vice President: Dave Huey
Board Member At Large: Collin Warren

Fourth a big congratulation’s is extended to Jack and Penny Fountaine from Fancy Stitching for receiving the NEMSA Presidential Award. For those who don’t know this is Fancy Stitching last NEMSA Conference, he will be at Statewide in July, but after that he and his wife are retiring from the business. He and his wife want to tell you all that he will miss you all and thinks of us all as his family. They will be missed!

The next NEMSA Spring Conference will be March 13-15, 2015 with a NIS Pre-Conference March 12th 2015!!! Location TBA watch: NEMSA's website nemsa.org - and - NEMSA's Facebook page www.facebook.com/pages/Nemsa-Nebraska

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

Collin Warren
NEMSA Board Member, NEMSA Chaplain, NEMSA – MC
NEMSA Award Winners

Cherry County Hospital Ambulance’s own Vicki Carini, EMT-I, received the NEMSA ADVANCED PROVIDER OF THE YEAR at the 2014 Spring EMS Conference in Norfolk, NE. This award is given to an Advanced EMT or Paramedic who has demonstrated outstanding skills, training and service to their community and/or the State of Nebraska. Vicki joined the Cherry County squad in May of 2007. Vicki is an asset to the squad as a skilled and compassionate advanced EMS provider. She relates with her patients and provides quality care at all times. Her fellow squad members view her as a mentor and look to her for her expertise in patient care. Vicki is a critical care nurse, is busy as a youth minister and foster parent, but still has time to give back to the community as an EMT. In the last year, Vicki has taken about 80% of the transfer patient calls and is dependable to be on call for the ambulance several times a month. Vicki earned her “Stork” Award in 2013 for delivery of a baby on duty. The Cherry County Hospital Ambulance is privileged to have Vicki our squad, and congratulate her on this prestigious award.

Theresa Hockenbary, retired EMT with the Cherry County Hospital Ambulance, was inducted into the NEMSA Memorial Wall at the 2014 Spring EMS Conference in Norfolk, NE with a candlelight service. The Memorial Wall is to honor and celebrate the lives of Nebraska EMS personnel who have passed away. The Memorial Wall is placed at the State Spring and Summer Conferences and has a scrolling memorial on the NEMSA website. Theresa started with the Cherry County squad in 1992 and retired in 2006 after 14 years of dedicated service. Theresa was an exceptional EMT and was often looked upon by new members as a mentor and support. The squad lost a good EMT when she retired, Theresa passed away in 2013, and she is greatly missed by many squad members.

Bryan Young was the winner of the 2014 Chuck Woll Memorial - NEMSA Instructor of the Year Award. This award is given to the EMS Instructor who has made the greatest contribution to local, state, or national EMS as an instructor.
NEMSA Board Members (as of 3/2014)

President: Debbie Von Seggern
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Board Member (at large): Collin Warren
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Email: collinwarren@ymail.com

Board Member (NIS): Arnie Higgins
Address: 2200 Mason Circle
Lincoln, NE 68521
Phone: 402-540-3413
Email: arniehiggins@yahoo.com
2014 Committees

The President, Secretary & Treasurer are assigned to every committee. Every board member is assigned to one or more committees to mentor and help the chairs and members.

**Advocacy**
Chair: Bruce Beins
Members at large: Kim Preston
Assigned board: All board members

**Membership**
Chair: OPEN

**Sub-Committees**
- Awards: Jimmie Metzler
- Elections: Arnie Higgins
- Memorial: Julie Mertens
- Archives: Stacey Roberts

Members at large: Robin Dimmitt, Ed Lemburg, Abby Simpson, Jen Grooms
Contracted Coordinator: Kurt Muhle
Assigned board: Collin Warren

**Education**
Chair: Wendy Hayes
Members at large: Robin Dimmitt, Jodi Daily
Assigned board: Arnie Higgins

**Financial**
Chair: Bruce Beins
Assigned board: Matt Ruhrer

**Conference**
Exhibitor Coordinator: Justin Maas
Education Coordinator: Karen Bowlin
Conference Coordinator: Julie Mertens
Co-Chair: Ryan Simpson
Co-Chair: OPEN

**Planning**
- Hands-on:
- March:

Members at large:
Assigned board: Jimmie Metzler

**Public Relations**
Chair: Susan Littleton
Contracted Coordinator: Open
- serve as Newsletter Editor
- serve as Webmaster

**Sub-Committees**
- Booth: Cindy Huey
- Website:
- Newsletter:

Members at large: Jo Helms
Assigned Board: Dave Huey
Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department Press Release

April 24, 2014

The Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department takes great pride in providing the community of Axtell with the best possible emergency services. One of the methods used to achieve this excellent customer service is by actively participating in a comprehensive Quality Assurance Program (OAP). The OAP Program is used to train emergency medical responders, as well as improve their skills. One of the more common calls which Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) responds to is cardiac emergencies. Cardiac emergencies are one of the most traumatic experiences patients endure. They can also be extremely damaging to the heart, if not deadly.

The Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department is pleased to announce that it is now operating two LIFEPAK 12 defibrillators and monitors. With these state-of-the-art cardiac monitoring devices allow EMT’s to quickly and thoroughly diagnose and treat patients. EMT’s can now continuously monitor 12 lead electrocardiographs (ECG) in the field or in the ambulance during transport while simultaneously transmitting data directly to the emergency department at the hospital. One of the more serious abnormal heart rhythms is a condition called ST elevation. A patient with ST elevation is a patient having an acute Myocardial infarction a (heart attack). These patients are referred to as STEMI patients. With these patients every minute counts, and the time frame from the call to 911 to when the patient arrives at the proper receiving hospital can affect the outcome of the patient. Getting the patients from their location to the proper hospital is a collaborative effort between the Axtell EMT’s and the hospital emergency room.

The LIFEPAK 12 will also monitor a patient’s blood pressure and oxygen saturation, End-tidal CO2 levels, along with external defibrillation energy doses of up to 360 joules for difficult-to-defibrillate patients. This will make it a most vital piece of equipment on board the ambulance. The ultimate goal is saving lives, and this new technology is a great way to help us do that.

Thus, with this added life support skill the Axtell Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department will mutual aid with our surrounding departments per your request.

Sincerely,
Jeff England
Chief