The “Pres” Corner

“If you’re passionate about what it is you do, then you’re going to be looking for everything you can to get better at it.” – Jack Canfield

I saw this quote the other day and it actually made me stop in my tracks. For those of you who know me, that doesn’t happen often. I read it again, NEMSA came to mind. We had just returned home from the NEMSA January Conference that was held in Kearney. It made me think back to everyone I got to see there and how excited everyone was to be at the conference. The conversations we had about the instructors & what they had learned that day. Enthusiasm ruled the moment! “It was the BEST conference ever!”

People in EMS are very passionate everywhere you go. For all of us passionate ones, I have a goal for every one of you “Let’s Make EMS Better – Together”. Some of you are asking, well how do we do that? Take a look in your own back yard. Have you set goals within your own department of where you would like to see your organization in one year, 5 years down the road? Do you have enough active members? Does your organization possess the look and feel of professionalism? How are you viewed by the public and other branches of healthcare? Does everyone on your team take pride in what they do and are willing to respond positive to changes within EMS? If you answered no or maybe to any of these questions – You can make it BETTER!!!

The NEMSA leadership held a strategic planning meeting this past year and identified key points we need to work on to help the membership and the association. It was the ultimate Brain-storming meeting and everyone left feeling like we had “Renewed the Spark”!

Advocacy in EMS is a very hot topic. What is going on at the local, state and national levels? Please keep informed; what happens in Lincoln & Washington does affect us. Our world is changing at an alarming rate and needs to!

If you have ideas or a thought please contact me or another board member, we want to hear what you are thinking! Next time we meet is at the NEMSA March Conference in Omaha, I hope to see all of you there.

Please share how you are going to “Make EMS Better – Together”. I will be waiting to hear from you :)

Take Care and Be Safe!

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

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From the Secretary

Hello from the NEMSA Secretary! As I am writing this we are preparing for NEMSA Winter Conference in Kearney, NE the weekend of January 17-18, 2015 with pre-conference on the 16th. We are also busy planning NEMSA Spring Conference which will be held in downtown Omaha at The Doubletree, March 13-15, 2015 with pre-conference on the 12th. Both of these conferences will have great speakers and lots of exciting learning experiences! Conference information and online registrations will be available on the NEMSA website www.NEMSA.org If you haven’t made your reservations yet for rooms for these conferences the contact information is:

- Winter Conference-Holiday Inn-Kearney 1-308-237-5971
- Spring Conference-Doubletree- Downtown Omaha 1-402-346-7600

Everyone needs to be thinking about nominations for awards. We all know someone that is deserving of receiving an award for his or her service. So take the time and be thinking about who deserves nominating. The forms are available at the NEMSA booth or online under the awards tab. Each award criteria can be found on the website as well. We enjoy giving awards to deserving people but we can’t give them out if they aren’t nominated. You don’t have to be present at conference to nominate someone for an award. If you have any questions about an award please feel free to contact me or any Board Member. We look forward to seeing everyone at the up-coming conferences, there is going to be something for everyone at each one of the conferences.

Switching gears we need to take a look at Nebraska EMS and our response to the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). I recently received an email from the Department of Health & Human Services, CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the ASPR (Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response) According to this information we as EMS providers need to be including in our patient assessments a screening for EVD. If the patients are presenting with fever, headache, joint and muscle aches, weakness, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain and lack of appetite, and in some cases bleeding and have traveled to West Africa (Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone or other countries where EVD transmission has been reported by WHO (World Health Organization)) within 21 days (3 weeks) of symptom onset. If both criteria are met, A) The patient should be isolated and STANDARD, CONTACT, and DROPLET precautions followed during further assessment, treatment and transport. B) IMMEDIATELY report suspected Ebola cases to receiving facility. If patient is not transported (refusal, pronouncement, etc.): a) inform Local and State Public Health Authorities (Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services 1-402) 471-3121 b) Inform the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) available 24/7 at 770-488-7100, or via the CDC Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or via email at eocreport@cdc.gov. This information is available online at http://www.cdc.gov. Let’s just hope that none of us have to deal with this terrible disease.

In closing don’t forget, everyone goes home every time! I look forward to seeing everyone at conference.

Be safe, Pam Stapleman, NEMSA Secretary
NIS Notes

Well time for another installment of NIS Notes. I personally hope all of you had a great Holidays and were safe in all your travels. As we come upon a new year there will be some changes coming hopefully for the better. As we venture into the New Year I believe we can better ourselves in the realm of instruction for both ourselves and our students be it in the way we teach as well as the way our student learn. I myself have learned new ways to instruct, as well as listening to the way others instruct. This last year has been a great learning experience for me.

As a fairly new instructor I have found the most important thing for me is prep time. I felt I was doing fine, but as I get more into the degree setting I was shorting my students on a lot of key information to help guide them on their path to becoming providers in this State. I have also found that if we have shortcomings it never hurts to ask for help. We have a lot of people in our Society that are more than willing to guide us along our path as instructors. With that being said all of us on the board welcome new and various technics on ways to present information to our student. So feel free to contact any Board member with your new idea’s. We will have a new contact list on the web in the near future as well as Board member Photo’s.

As you know we this year we have two positions on the N.I.S. Board up for grabs if you would like to nominate someone to fill these positions. I ask that you all come to the membership meeting following the instructor day. We will have the meeting after the days classes.

Thanks for All You Do!!!

Arnie Higgins
N.I.S. President

NEMSA Conferences

Winter Conference in Kearney had a great turn out with over 250 attendees. The instructors work really hard over the weekend and provided some very good continuing education with Hands On thrown in. If you have never gone to this conference you should try it out next year January 16-17, 2016 in Kearney. Planning is already in progress.

Summer Conference is getting its final touches. This conference is at the Downtown Doubletree Omaha March 13-15, 2015. This conference has some great national and local instructors ready to present. Our National instructors are Twink Dalton, Jason Dush, Jess Fullerton, and Jeremy DeWall. We have an ALS, BLS, Pediatric, Extras and Vendor tracks. Check out the brochure on the NEMSA web site.

There is also a Nebraska Instructor continuing education day on March 12. This will give attendees hours for their instructor recertification. Twink Dalton and Jess Fulkerson will be the educators. The classes scheduled are “Crawl Inside Their Cranium” and “The Nuts and Bolts of Teaching EMS”. Fun stuff so please join us. Registration is on the NEMSA website along with the Spring Conference registration.

Thank you to all of the providers that attend the NEMSA Conferences. You are why we do the conferences.
Banquet Corner

Greetings NEMSA Members,

Wanted to drop a note and let you all know how the NEMSA Winter Conference banquet went. If you weren’t able to be there, you missed great meal and entertainment.

We had an honored guest come and welcome us to Kearney. The Honorable Mayor of Kearney, Stan Clouse. The NEMSA Memorial Committee honored 3 people that lost their lives this past year with the a stunning Candle Ceremony, which is still breath taking. We were all blessed by Dr. David Clark which filled out minds and spirits with his wonderful prayer. Then we ate a wonderful meal prepared by the hotel and staff!! Following dinner we announced raffle prize winners, and gave out 4 awards. 3 of the awards were the NEMSA Hero Award, given to the Jr. High Nurse, Coach, and Asst. Coach of Hastings Jr. High School. All three had a vital role in the life saving efforts in the SAVE of a Jr. High student that collapsed during warm ups before class started. They performed CPR and used the AED. Bravo! And Congratulations! The others award, the NEMSA Presidential Award, was given to Dr. David Clark for his retirement after 30 years with the NEMSA Winter Conference. He will be missed, good luck Dr. Clark!! (We ask... don’t forget to nominate someone for an award!) Once we finish with all the thank you’s and introductions of the NEMSA BOD, Conference Staff, Exhibitors, and all the hotel staff and Paul; we had riveting game of Family Feud. What a wonderful night of fun and entertainment! It was so wonderful to see everyone and meet new people!! Hope to see you all next year!

NEMSA Spring Conference - March 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th 2015
Doubletree Downtown Omaha NE

NEMSA Winter Conference - January 16th and 17th 2016
Holiday Inn Kearney NE

May God Bless your 2015 and keep you all safe!

Collin Warren
NEMSA Board Member, NEMSA MC, NEMSA Chaplain