The “Pres” Corner

Hey there - I want you to start talking with each other!

Do you think EMS should be considered an essential public safety service?
Currently we are NOT - unlike police and fire, meaning we can close our doors at any
time and legally do not have to provide the service.

Is EMS part of the healthcare system? Some of us view ourselves as public safety,
not healthcare providers.

Do we make a difference in patient outcomes? Some of us call “a save” getting a pulse back in the ambulance – “I don’t know what happened once they were dropped off at the hospital.”

The questions listed above are hot topics across the nation for discussion. I came across an article from ACEP (American College of Emergency Physicians) written 5 years ago...

EMS as an Essential Public Safety Service (Approved by the ACEP Board of Directors September 2010)
The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) believes that Emergency Medical Service (EMS) is an essential public safety service. EMS plays an indispensable role in every community’s emergency response system and forms a critical component of the nation’s disaster response infrastructure. All EMS systems must be capable of addressing the daily needs for effective out-of-hospital emergency medical response. An effective EMS system is also essential in any plan to mitigate and respond to the medical consequences of a disaster and other public health events, whether natural or man-made. As the newest of the three primary public safety services, EMS joins with fire and police to maintain healthy, safe, and secure communities. EMS, fire, and police together form a triad of critical services requiring national and community support and funding.

Public health systems protect the community through disease prevention, surveillance, and response. EMS holds a special position at the intersection of public health, health care, and public safety. Cooperation and integration of EMS and public health not only provides an essential infrastructure for daily response, but also can improve a community’s preparedness and response to acts of terrorism as well as other identified public health needs.

Strong leadership and appropriate and consistent funding is essential to ensure the viability, effectiveness and sustainability of public safety and public health systems. In particular, funding for EMS must address the multiple roles that EMS plays in the community and be sufficient to ensure an effective response not only in daily operations, but also in disasters, and other public health crises. ACEP calls on the key stakeholders (local, state, and federal governments and private organizations) to support a unified effort to improve EMS funding and further calls for unified oversight of all aspects of EMS at the federal level.

Changes in EMS are going to occur with or without you. Maybe if we understand who we are, THEN others will start to understand us.

Take Care and Be Safe!
Debbie Von Seggern-Johnson, NEMSA President, dvonseggern@unmc.edu
From the Secretary

Hello NEMSA Members,

As I am writing this it is National EMS Week, a huge Thank You to all of the responders across the state of Nebraska you are the unsung heroes. With everything that has happened in the recent past and is now happening it is very important that we promote EMS and lift up each other to keep moral high and try to recruit new members. This is especially important in our volunteer departments where the numbers are dwindling.

At the NEMSA Board meeting in March there were many new items that were brought up. One of these include the forming of a Suicide Prevention Committee. We are in the early stages of forming a group that will work in conjunction with group Rescue Me. This is an awareness group that focuses on getting responders (EMS, Fire and Law Enforcement) help before it gets to the point of no return. The NEMSA Board is very proactive when it comes to preventing suicide! If you or anyone you know is needing help or needs someone to talk to, please contact anyone listed on the NEMSA website or your local law enforcement agency or even your local hospital. There is help available and we don’t want to lose anyone to suicide. Far too many people make the irreversible choice. There are people that will help. But they can’t help if they don’t know. If you need to talk to someone call 1(877)230-6060 for confidential help. Asking for help is a sign of strength not weakness, nobody on this team fights alone!

The 2015 Spring Conference was held in March at the Doubletree Conference Center in downtown Omaha. Even though it was a learning year for the conference and the committee it was a great success. Many new things were brought in for attendees. Some of these included: night classes and vendor demo classes. Jamie Bowlin did a great job along with Ryan Simpson and Clint Dittmar as well as the entire committee for putting together a great conference this year and we look for to next year at the Doubletree for more exciting learning experiences. The dates for the 2016 NEMSA Conferences are: NEMSA Winter Conference in Kearney will be January 16-17, 2016 and NEMSA Spring Conference will be March 18-20, 2016 at the Doubletree in Downtown Omaha.

One last reminder, NEMSA Scholarships are available to NEMSA members, spouses and dependent children, the deadline for NEMSA Scholarships is June 30th and applications are available on the website http://www.nemsa.org/Committees/Scholarships.aspx. The applications need to be returned to me by the due date and the winners will be announced at the Nebraska Statewide EMS Conference in Kearney on July 11, 2015 at the banquet.

Be Safe and remember, Everyone goes home every time!
Pam Stapleman
NEMSA Secretary
NAEMT Report

I appreciate the sacrifices you and your family make every day so you can give great care to your patients. Thank You!

I am happy to announce that Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.) has reintroduced the Field EMS Modernization and Innovation Act (H.R. 2366 - http://bit.ly/1lnB09D), a.k.a. the Field EMS Bill, in the U.S. House of Representatives of this 114th Congress. The timing of this introduction is especially meaningful during National EMS Week as it reinforces the importance of EMS to our communities and our nation.

The Field EMS Bill would modernize our nation’s EMS System as an innovative, patient-centered and efficient 21st century system that underscores value as the cornerstone for improving the quality and outcomes of patient care, and lowering healthcare costs. The first bill to seriously look at Field EMS issues since the 1960s, the act would improve access to essential and life-saving EMS services and better integrate Field EMS within the larger healthcare system. Read more about the bill: http://www.naemt.org/advocacy/FieldEMSBill.aspx.

Re-introduction is an important step that allows us to continue our efforts to gain support in the House for passage of the bill. I ask you to please visit the NAEMT Online Legislative Service and make a request of your representative to support the Field EMS Bill. It’s easy and takes only a minute or two. Begin here - http://www.naemt.org/advocacy/online-legislative-service.

The Field EMS Bill is so important to our profession and our patients. Thank you in advance for your help! I hope you enjoy the rest of your EMS Week!

Conrad “Chuck” Kearns, MBA, Paramedic, EMD NAEMT President
NEMSA Membership Numbers

Here are the NEMSA Membership numbers as of May 17, 2015. It is not too late to send in your membership! Forms can be found at www.nemsa.org under the “membership” tab.

NEMSA Members 1,898
Department Members 105
Student Members 35

NEMSA Awards

Listed below are the award winners of 2015! Don’t forget... if you’d like to nominate someone for an award, check the “Awards” tab on our website for award details, a nomination form and past winners.

EMT OF THE YEAR:
Michael Dvorak

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD:
Jamie Bowlin 2015 Conference Chair
Clint Dittmar 2015 Conference Chair
Ryan Simpson 2015 Conference Chair

Way To Go, Nebraska!

Way to go, Nebraska! We were successful in getting the state blacked out in support of the Field EMS Bill!

Thank You Senator

NEMSA would like to send a thank you out to Senator Annette Dubas for her service and support! Annette Dubas completed her service as state senator for District 34 as of January 2015.

2015 Spring Conference
Update: NEMSA Board of Directors

Thank you to Jimmie Metzler for his years of service! Jimmie’s term as 1st Vice President ended in July of 2015.

Congratulations to Karolyn McElroy on her move to the 2nd Vice President position on the NEMSA Board!

Congratulations to Matt Ruhrer on his move to the Treasurer position on the NEMSA Board!

Welcome to Sandy Massey as she fills in the position of Board Member at Large on the NEMSA Board!

Welcome to Gail Bargstadt as our new NEMSA Coordinator!
ELECTION TIME IS HERE AGAIN!

If you or anyone you know is interested in running for an office with the Nebraska Emergency Medical Services Association please contact: Dave Huey at ddhuey@hotmail.com or Tanya Faye mneeded@yahoo.com.

The positions being elected this year are:

- President
- 2nd Vice President
- Treasurer
- Board Member at Large

A bio about the person (maximum of 250 words) and a photo need to be submitted by December 31, 2015.

Voting will be done electronically. An e-mail address will be needed. If you have not updated your e-mail address with the membership chairman, you need to do so as soon as possible.

NEMSA Memorial Guidelines

The NEMSA Memorial Committee, upon notification, will send a card and/or memorial to the family or department after receiving knowledge of the death of a Public Safety Professional:

- A NEMSA Memorial Card will be sent to any fire or rescue person that lost their life off duty.
- A NEMSA Memorial Card and $10.00 Memorial will be sent to any present NEMSA Members Immediate Family Member that lost their life.
- A NEMSA Memorial Card and $25.00 Memorial will be sent to any present NEMSA Member that lost their life not on duty.
- A NEMSA Memorial Card and $100.00 Memorial will be sent to any Line of Duty Death (LODD) in the state of Nebraska regardless of NEMSA Membership.
- A NEMSA Memorial Card, $50.00 Memorial, and plant/flowers will be sent for the death of a NEMSA Board Member, Past NEMSA Board Member, NEMSA NIS Board Member, Past NEMSA NIS Board Member, or Immediate Family Member of a NEMSA Board Member, NEMSA NIS Board Member, Past NEMSA Board Member or Past NEMSA NIS Board Member.

If you or your service knows of any such loss, please contact Karolyn McElroy at vicepres2@nemsa.org or (402) 687-2350 and provide the mailing address.