The 2016 NEMSA Convention is just around the corner, March 18th – 20th. The location of the convention is at the DoubleTree in downtown Omaha again, so reserve your hotel rooms soon!

We have some wonderful speakers this year to include; A.J. Heightman, Dennis Edgerly, Stephen “Murph” Murphy, and returning this year, Jess Fulkerson. We also have some of the best regional speakers from Nebraska joining us. We will have multiple tracks to include an ALS track, BLS track, Trauma track, Cardiac/Stroke track, and an Agricultural track. The Exhibitor track will be held on Saturday. We have selected a variety of topics that should meet everyone’s educational needs and desires. We have also scheduled three evening classes on Friday.

On Friday evening, there will be an Exhibitor Appreciation event so you have the chance to visit the many different exhibitors, and as always, the Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday after classes end. This year, we decided to forego the dance following the banquet so you have the opportunity to explore Omaha’s many exciting entertainment options.

We look forward to seeing you all in March, and on behalf of the NEMSA Convention Planning Committee, thank you for all that you do!

- Tami Carlson
  NEMSA Interim Convention Chair
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 as a whole. We developed legislative talking points we will be working on this session. EMS needs to be recognized as an essential service just as police and fire are already. EMS is unique as we are also licensed healthcare providers. We have one foot in public service and one in healthcare. We straddle this line, and no one healthcare provider practices in this manner. Doors will open. Funding opportunities will come our way once others can easily identify us. First, we need to know who we are. We are the only healthcare system that operates primarily off of a volunteer based system. We don’t pay a wage for our employees currently in 80% of our state. Is this system working for retention and recruitment in your area? If it isn’t, maybe it is time to look outside of the box, outside of how it has always been done. What other EMS models could we use? Do we need to use a blended system of paid and volunteer professionals to cover our communities? Our state is very spread out with over 70% of our population on the eastern side. The further west we go, there is a completely different set of needs compared to the eastern part of the state. The plain truth is, soon, and very soon, our Baby Boomer population will take over the elderly population. This generation didn’t have as many children for the next generation to care for them in all facets of healthcare or the state’s workforce. They are retiring! Since we have a lack of people to pull from, of course, you will see a decline in all areas including volunteers. They were our volunteer system for so many years. Just some food for thought.

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 and Washington does affect us. Our world is changing at an alarming rate and needs to! If you have ideas or thoughts, please contact me or another board member. We want to hear what you are thinking! The next time we meet is at the NEMSA March Convention in Omaha. I hope to see you all there.

Debbie Von Seggern-Johnson

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

president@nemsa.org

Don’t forget the 2017 NEMSA Hands On Conference is doing a brochure cover contest!! Submit your photos to info@nemsa.org by July 1st for a chance to win a free Conference Registration!!
NEMSA CONVENTION 2016
March 17, 18, 19 & 20

Visit NEMSA.org for brochure and online registration!
The 31st annual NEMSA Hands On Conference is in the books. We had over 300 attendees and 25 exhibitors present. Topics this year included cardiac, soft tissue injuries, mass casualty, geriatrics, OB, toxicology, and an update presented by Mission Lifeline. We are working very hard to improve this conference every year with new ideas and technology. This year, we implemented the use of electronic scanning to track all attendees. With a few minor issues, this was a success. We would also like to announce a contest for next year’s brochure cover photo. If you are a NEMSA member or service, please submit a photo to be entered into this contest. If your photo is selected as the winner, it will be featured on next year’s brochure cover. As always, follow us on Facebook, or visit NEMSA.org for future dates and information.

-Ryan Simpson
NEMSA Conference Chair
conference@nemsa.org
HANDS ON CONFERENCE
Our downtown Omaha, Nebraska hotel provides luxurious amenities to make your stay with us as convenient and comfortable as possible.

Starting with our DoubleTree signature warm chocolate chip cookie, the staff of the DoubleTree by Hilton Omaha Downtown is here to provide for all your needs and to make you feel welcome from check-in to check-out. Take advantage of our on-site luxuries like pool, fitness center, and wireless Internet. Travel off-site and take advantage of our complimentary shuttle service within four miles of the hotel.

www.doubletreeomahadowntown.com
Phone: 402.346.7600
1616 Dodge Street, Omaha NE 68102
(mention NEMSA for conference room rates)
Hello NEMSA Members!

As I am sitting here writing this, I realized that the 2016 NEMSA Convention is just around the corner, approximately two months away, Marcy 18-20, 2016. It will be held as the the DoubleTree in downtown Omaha. If you need their contact information, it will be provide at the bottom of this article. I would encourage you to reserve your rooms quickly as I have heard they are going fast.

This year’s convention is packed with exciting presenters such as A.J. Heightman, Editor-in-Chief for JEMS magazine, and a great group of national and regional speakers. There is sure to be something of interest for everyone. On Friday, March 18th, there is going to be an Exhibitor Appreciation event where you have the opportunity to have one on one time with our great vendors. On Saturday night, we will hold our NEMSA Awards Banquet.

I want to ask a personal favor from all of the NEMSA members across our great state. Look around you. Do you see someone who is deserving of recognition? NEMSA is dedicated to serving our members, and we have awards that we want to give out! We all know people who are deserving, and we need to nominate them so they can be recognized for the great job they are doing. It is simple to nominate someone. Simply go to the awards section on the NEMSA website, www.nemsa.org, and click on the “About” tab, then select “Awards.” The form is straightforward and easy to complete. You can either submit it electronically, or print it off and mail it, or bring it to the convention. Fill out the information, and select the award that is fitting. It is very important that the form is filled out in its entirety, and that you provide a fitting description of why the person deserves that specific award. The more details you provide, the better. You can have other people write letters of support as well if needed. We want to recognize our great members, and we need your assistance to do so! All of the NEMSA awards can be given at either the January NEMSA Hands On Conference held in Kearney or the March NEMSA Convention held in Omaha. You don’t need to be present to nominate someone. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

NEMSA Award Winner

The NEMSA EMT of the Year Award goes to:
Shawn Kiting
Loup City Fire and Rescue

Join Us!!
March 7th 2016
9:00am
Lincoln, NE
Meet your Senator!!!!
It was a day like any other. Carrie was at the local store when she overheard someone talking about how their little boy needed a kidney. For most people, this would have been the time to stop and show concern, hope and pray that this little boy would find a kidney. Not for Carrie! Soon after overhearing this conversation, she went in to see if she was a match for the little boy, and if she, herself, could donate a kidney.

The definition of a hero is “a person who, in the opinion of others, has heroic qualities or has performed a heroic act and is regarded as a model or ideal.”

Today, Ethan is a healthy, happy boy able to jump, play and act as such. When asked if she would do it again, Carrie replied, “In a heartbeat.” It is, without a doubt, a fact that Carrie Schwaderer deserves the NEMSA Hero Award! Congratulations, Carrie, and thank you for your selfless act!
"Stop the Bleed" Campaign is a federal initiative that aims to save lives and build resiliency in our communities.

The “Stop the Bleed” campaign was launched during an event at the White House, to provide bystanders of emergency situations with the tools and knowledge to stop life threatening bleeding. Working with the private sector and nonprofit organizations, the “Stop the Bleed” campaign will put knowledge gained by first responders and our military, into the hands of the public to help save lives.

NAEMT participated in the launch of this White House initiative, and has endorsed the Stop the Bleed campaign. NAEMT was recognized at the launch for its work in developing the Bleeding Control for the Injured (B-Con) course to teach basic life-saving medical interventions, including bleeding control with a tourniquet, bleeding control with gauze packs or topical hemostatic agents, and opening an airway to allow a casualty to breathe. The course is designed for NON-tactical law enforcement officers, firefighters, security personnel, teachers and other civilians requiring this basic training.

Uncontrolled bleeding injuries can result from natural and manmade disasters and from everyday accidents. If this bleeding is severe, it can kill within minutes, potentially before trained responders can arrive. Providing bystanders with basic tools and information on the simple steps they can take in an emergency situation to stop life threatening bleeding can save lives. Research has shown that bystanders, with little or no medical training, can become heroic lifesavers. Similar to the use of CPR or automatic defibrillators, improving public awareness about how to stop severe bleeding and expanding personal and public access to Bleeding Control Kits can be the difference between life and death for an injured person.

Our national preparedness is the shared responsibility of all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and individual citizens. The goal of this initiative is to build national resilience by empowering the general public to be aware of the simple steps that can be taken to stop or slow life threatening bleeding, and to promote the general public’s access to Bleeding Control Kits in public spaces, while they travel, and in the home.

EMS practitioners are asked to help build awareness of this initiative. For more information on these efforts and how you can get involved in the “Stop the Bleed” campaign, please visit dhs.gov/stopthebleed.

Article from: http://www.naemt.org/about_ems/stop-the-bleed-campaign
When you become a member of NEMSA, you become part of a wonderful EMS family that will always be there for you, no matter what. Our membership extends from the Missouri River to Chimney Rock, and from South Dakota to Kansas.

NEMSA is the largest association in the State of Nebraska, as well as the largest EMS association in the United States. NEMSA is here for its members, and continues to provide the education and continuing education of EMS providers across the state.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please let us know.

boardmem2@nemsa.org

Membership Benefits

- VFIS - All active NEMSA members with 24 Hour Business and Pleasure
- $10,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance policy
- $1,000 Child Care Expense
- $1,000 Education Expense
- $1,000 Home Alteration or Vehicle Modification
- Quarterly Electronic Newsletter provided to each member with local, regional, state and national news and information
- eVoting - Voting privileges to individual members
- Legislative representation by registered lobbyist
- Educational activities
- Access to Board networking and databases for information
- Eligible to run for NEMSA Board positions

- Speakers Bureau reduced cost for department members for annual events and meetings
- Nebraska Instructor Society resources
- Representation at regional and national levels
- Eligible for membership in the Nebraska Instructor Society (NIS)
- Reduced registration fee for NEMSA Educational Events (Hands On Conference/Convention)
- Scholarships for members and their families

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP
Will be live February 15th 2016

Always stop by the NEMSA Booth
A New Club Started at the 2016 NEMSA Hands On Conference

Guidelines to be in the D. E.M.S.C

Must be an EMS Provider
Must have been an EMS Provider for 20 years
   NO Dues
   NO Set Responsibilities
   NO Board of Directors (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Board Members)
   Basic Greeters and Giving Directions

   Only Requirement: Buy a T-Shirt

After they reach 20 members, the D.E.M.S.C. can become a society under NEMSA.

For Questions Contact Bruce Beins at: bbeins@frontiernet.net
Greetings! I am your current NEMSA President and requesting your vote for re-election. I have learned so much as your president, and would love to continue to serve the membership.

We have implemented many changes. 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 NEMSA and EMS.

I have over 20 years experience in EMS as a provider and 18 years in various leadership roles across the state, regional and national 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

Hi, my name is Karolyn McElroy. I am currently serving as NEMSA’s 2nd Vice President, and served as NEMSA Treasurer for about 8 years. I have grown and learned a tremendous amount during these terms. I enjoy talking, learning and working with you as fellow EMS providers.

My husband Larry and I live in Lyons, NE. We have been blessed with two sons Josh, his wife Maggie, son Jarrod, his wife Brandy and two grandchildren Karley and Lane.

I have been an EMT since 1993 for Lyons Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department, currently serving as Rescue Captain. My husband has been an active Firefighter for over 20 years as well. Lyons is a town of around 900 people, we enjoy living in the small town rural atmosphere. That atmosphere also has its challenges, such as keeping a full roster of well trained, equipped volunteers. I know a lot of departments, big and small have trouble keeping a full active volunteer roster. As you all know, it’s truly a challenge, with everyone’s busy schedules, to find the time, and the energy for calls, training, meetings, and also maintenance and cleaning of our emergency vehicles, equipment and buildings. Somehow we do it and I am very proud to be a part of it! I feel it is very important to maintain our departments, being ready for almost any kind of emergency situation at a moment’s notice. We all need to be helping to recruit new members to our departments, we don’t want to have all the fun!

NEMSA is moving to “Go Green” with many things, so there have and will be many changes to come! Change is not always easy but with communication and cooperation on everyone’s part we will get it done! Don’t be afraid to call myself or any other Board member with questions, comments etc. I work for you!

So to make a long story short, I would much appreciate your vote for NEMSA 2nd Vice President! Be safe out there and thank you!

-Karolyn McElroy
I’m Matt Ruhrer and I have been in EMS for over 25 years here in Nebraska. I continue to work as a volunteer fire fighter and EMT for the Wahoo Fire and Rescue service. I have been a member of NEMSA since its inception and have seen many ups and downs through the years. Last year I was elected as a Board Member for the Nebraska Instructor Society and was then elected as a Board Member at Large on the NEMSA Board. This summer I was appointed to fill the void as Treasurer on the NEMSA Board. I have worked with the spring conference for the last four years and enjoy the camaraderie of all the members that routinely attend this conference. While there have been many changes over the last few years I have liked the progress that has been made in the organization. I have enjoyed working these past years as a member of the NEMSA Board and look forward to the continued growth of the organization. With that I am seeking your vote for the position of Treasurer so that I can continue to serve the membership of this great organization. Thank You.

-N Matt Ruhrer

I am Cyndi Groshong. I serve with Cambridge Rescue. I am a member of NEMSA and NIS. Most people tell you they got into EMS to “help others”, honestly, I got into EMS to “help ME”. Long story short; I was with a friend who was going hunting, his pistol discharged, he shot himself in his belly. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT TO DO, other than call 911. I hated that helpless feeling, and decided then and there I was going to learn what to do in an emergency. Jump forward to 1998, when I finished class, got my license and never looked back. My only regret is a few events I’ve missed along the way with family, but that’s part of the job, no matter if you are paid or volunteer. I’ve been so blessed with great mentors who have become great friends as well. I took the Instructor Class a few years ago, and help as I am able, as EMS in not my full time job. That is radio. I pride myself on that job as well, being in the media/marketing has really been a big help with communication and teaching. I am asking for your vote for Board Member At Large. I feel I would be a great addition, not only with communication, but to get more people from rural areas involved in this most rewarding group “family”. If you have questions email me at huskeremt@gmail.com. Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Cyndi Groshong
**SPECIAL NEMSA RATE**

$99 Per Night for 1 King or 2 Queens

March 18 & 19, 2016

Complimentary wireless internet access & Shuttle (3 mi. radius)

Parking $10 per night | Breakfast available in restaurant

To make your reservation:

Call the hotel at 402.341.4400

Group code **NEMSA**

Must book by 2/26/16 to receive group rate

0.4 miles form the Doubletree Hotel
NEMSA Memorial Guidelines

Memorials

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 and provide the mailing address.

chaplain@nemsa.org
vicepres2@nemsa.org

NEMSA Memorial Booth and NEMSA Memorial Wall

The NEMSA Memorial Booth and NEMSA Memorial Wall containing the names of those honored during our Memorial Services will be present at the January and March NEMSA Conferences as well as the Statewide EMS Conference. The wall may be put up at the NSVFA Fire School if one of the committee members is available to be there. You can also check out our online memorial wall!
Nebraska Instructor Society

Well my friends, here we are heading into the New Year. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year! As we enter into 2016, we are headed for some changes. As you may be aware, we are making progress in expanding our schedule of more instructor education days across this great state. What a great turn out for the Hands On Pre-conference!!!

As most of you know by now, we are having our first, I hope, of many instructor days in Kearney. With that being said, we will be looking for more of our instructors in the state to help us with these different classes throughout the state. If you would like to help, please let one of our NIS Board members know through an email, or just give one of us a call.

You can find most of our contact information on the NEMSA website. Also, there will be some open positions on the NIS Board in March. I encourage everyone to consider running for a position. It is always a great opportunity to give back and support such a great society. We have the greatest people teaching our future EMS providers, and you can make a difference in how we teach them, both now and in the future.

In closing, please feel free to talk to any of the board members as most of us will be in Omaha for the NEMSA Convention. Remember, always try to learn one new thing every day. Thank You for all that you do!!!

-Arnie Higgins
NIS President.

nispresident@nemsa.org
NEMSA is again providing the Exhibitor Track at the 2016 NEMSA Convention. After evaluating last year’s responses from both exhibitors and attendees, it is apparent that a void is being filled, presenting new opportunities for everyone! Our trial Exhibitor Track at last year’s convention was a learning experience for everyone involved. The goal was to offer a new concept, with promising results, and value-added educational experience for our exhibitors and attendees. And boy, did it deliver!! New ideas are hard to sell, for sure! But they’re worth the effort if the benefits outweigh the risk. The Exhibitor Track is a new concept within an established protocol. This concept recognizes the fact that we, the EMS community, are using the very tools, equipment, and services that are displayed on the tables in the exhibit area of our conferences. We also recognize that our exhibitors, and their representatives, are the subject matter experts in their particular fields. We really need to take advantage of that!

Our basic training, as it were, teaches us how to use the equipment we’re going to use in the field. We’re taught these techniques and methods in our educational and hands on training classes using the latest tools available. WE complete our education and attain our licenses. We become that value-added benefit to our community. However, methods change. Equipment is upgrades and improved. There are new gadgets. There is new information. There are new techniques. They show up on the tables at the exhibitors’ booths.

As a conference attendee maintaining my continuing education requirements, I was always eager to see what was new in the exhibits hall. As part of the behind the scenes crew, I learned the format to help run the conferences. As Conference Exhibitor Coordinator, I asked myself what was one thing that stood out about the relationship between conference attendees and exhibitors. Opportunity is there for both, and neither would be there without the other. What was the most common issue identified between them? The answer was “time,” or lack thereof.

A gap seems to exist between our maintenance of our education achievement (licensure), and our maintenance of new equipment and techniques. We learn about new tools and techniques when we see them displayed at our exhibitors’ booths. But we don’t always learn how to use them from peer instructors at our conferences. Time restraints and class requirements both contribute to this dilemma. We don’t have enough time to adequately learn from the exhibitors, because class attendance is mandatory in order to receive credit. Notice how these observances occur at the same event? Why? Is there a solution? Can we gain from the solution? How do we bridge the gap? The answer was to develop the Exhibitor Track. NEMSA’s primary mission is to provide continuing education opportunities critical to the maintenance of state and federal license requirements. Those education requirements are strict, well-defined, and set minimum standards. The equipment, methods, and techniques we use also meet strict, well-defined, minimum standards. We are educated in the classroom by professionals, and we are educated on our equipment by professionals.

Cont. pg 10
Both entities provide the tools necessary for us to do what we do. The difference is one provides non-profit community education, while the other provides for-profit community education. The challenge was to find the way to merge both resources. The Exhibitor Track defines the criteria and standards required to qualify as a viable training opportunity for conference attendees. Any exhibitor who wishes to demonstrate, teach, present, promote, or otherwise, display their product in a manner that achieves the education requirements of the convention, must meet a minimum criteria. The criteria includes identifying the product or service, and why the product or service is a benefit to patient outcome. Comparisons between existing practices, and/or new tools, equipment, and techniques must be supported by proven data. Products and/or services must be related to EMS practices and/or related community activities. Presentations or demonstrations must be a minimum of 20 minutes in length, and multiple sessions are available. Financial discussions, rates or monetary value of Exhibitor products or services for education credit is prohibited. Simply stated, the Exhibitor Track is the sales pitch without the money talk. Exhibitors are encouraged to explore this avenue for developing potential customer contacts, and NEMSA representatives are available to help you with this process.

We currently receive credit for attending our educational classes. We’d like to receive credit for learning about the new tools, equipment and techniques as well. The 2016 NEMSA Convention’s Exhibitor Track offers another avenue for educating EMS providers. Be sure to check it out!

-Clint Dittmar
NEMSA Exhibits Coordinator