As an organization dedicated to providing the highest quality pre-hospital care to the citizens of this state, we strive to serve the needs of our membership.

**Past President Letter**

I was searching for what to say to all of you for weeks now. Being president for the past eight years has served up many “Ah-Ha” moments for me. Prior to this, I only looked at Nebraska. Actually, let us be honest. In the beginning, I probably only looked at my department and based all of my ideas and opinions from that very small area. I am a small/country town gal at heart and always will be. However, my eyes have seen more, and my ears have heard even more. I had to learn to see and listen beyond my backyard and embrace change. That is so hard to do. When I caught myself slipping, I had to regroup and rethink my feelings and thoughts. We are, of course, very passion-driven in this field and often I would figure out that sometimes my own passion was driving an idea that may have not been the best option. We need to keep our own agendas in check. Passion is wonderful to have, but it can also be our own worst enemy. I never would have thought that 20 years ago.

I learned the importance of partnerships and how frustrating it can be to have to discuss topics with a group that clearly doesn’t “get you.” Why don’t they get you? They should! Most of us do this for free; no wages and many hours away from our family. We are very special and not many would do this. This is all true...BUT, (so it is not all true) we also need to take a step back and LISTEN with an OPEN mind. We do not have to agree. But can’t we agree to disagree and still be pleasant to one another? I had to quickly learn not to take things personal and this is easier said than done sometimes.

EMS is now looking beyond and developing the EMS Agenda 2050. How many of you will be still practicing then? I will be 85 years old then and could potentially be a patient of a local EMS department. I will try to be a good patient – LOL. What will our EMS system look like then? People are making decisions NOW as to what it will look like and this will drive education and systems in a different direction. For more information about this initiative, to share your ideas and to sign up for regular updates, go to EMSAgenda2050.org. I encourage you to be involved but, please do so with an open mind and look beyond your own backyard.

Andy and the kids have lived and breathed NEMSA right along with me. I am actually closer to many of my NEMSA friends than I am or was to my parents, brothers and sisters. My children look to some of my NEMSA friends as their own family, like being part of our family nucleus. Stepping down as president will never change this. My family and I have developed bonds that will never go away. We will always be there for each other over and over again. From the bottom of my heart I thank you and please be nice to Sandy.

Be Safe & Take Care

Debbie VonSeggern-Johnson
Past NEMSA President

**New President Letter**

It is an honor to serve as your new NEMSA president. I know that I have big shoes to fill following Debbie VonSeggern-Johnson. Debbie, thank you for being such an amazing mentor to many people within the EMS community.

As your new president, I would like to share a little bit about myself.

Ever since I was a little girl, I knew I wanted to be part of EMS. My Uncle Roy was a dedicated volunteer firefighter and on the ambulance crew. He would take me to the Ralston Fire Department open houses and would show me the fire trucks and ambulances. For me, it was more than just being a child excited to see the trucks. There was something that truly intrigued me.

I have been a licensed EMT for 17 years and very active in my rural department. I served as a NEMSA Board Member At Large for the past three years and I am excited to continue supporting our EMS personnel in this new role. In addition, I am an EMS Instructor and enjoy helping others achieve their goals through education. EMS is an important part of our community and so I look forward to our continued growth in Nebraska. I am truly passionate about EMS!

Outside of EMS, I enjoy spending time with my family. We love going out on my boat, traveling, watching the Kansas City Royals and Husker Football. In all of my travels, I still have not seen the ocean so this is on the top of my bucket list.

Looking forward to serving with you!

Sandy Lewis
New NEMSA President
Secretary/Treasurer Update

Hello NEMSA Members!

In July, we had a change of leadership; Sandy Lewis took over as President. As you all know, Debbie VonSeggern-Johnson was our fearless leader for several terms. I would like to express my sincere thank you to Debbie for her many years of service and at the same time welcome Sandy.

There have been lots of changes within our organization in the past few years. One of the biggest changes has been with our lobbyists. We went from barely being recognized with very little action to having some of the best lobbyists available. We are constantly getting notifications of actions that NEMSA is supporting or not supporting. There are times that we need to testify before different committees within the Legislature. With that being said, we are looking for someone to chair our Advocacy Committee. If you have any interest in politics and/or government issues, we would love to see you become active within this group. This is one of things that NEMSA focuses on: representing EMS in all areas across the state. We want our members to be active and we encourage that anyone who would like to get involved in any aspect of the organization, contact any of the Board members.

Don’t forget to be thinking about anyone who deserves an award. We all know people who do outstanding things on a daily basis! NEMSA loves giving awards and we have several! The applications and criteria is available on our website.

There are two awards that recipients do not have to be members: the Leo J. O’Brien Jr. Award and the NEMSA Hero Award. The Leo J. O’Brien Jr. Award is for outstanding achievements that an individual has attained or accomplished in the emergency medical field. The NEMSA Hero Award is for outstanding actions of a person rendering aid to an individual in medical crisis that warrants the person being called a hero. This can also be presented to an EMS provider that goes above and beyond the call of duty.

The nominees for the remainder of the awards must be a current NEMSA member: The NEMSA Emergency Medical Responder of the Year, The NEMSA Emergency Medical Technician of the Year and The NEMSA Advanced Provider of the Year. Awards given to a provider who has demonstrated outstanding skills, training and service to their community and/or State of Nebraska in each of their respective certification level. There is also the Chuck Woll Memorial Instructor of the Year that is presented to an EMS instructor who has made the greatest contribution to local or state EMS as an instructor. The person must be a State of Nebraska licensed EMS instructor providing education for EMR, EMT or Advanced provider personnel. The final award is the Nebraska EMS Association Hall of Fame. This award is given by the NEMSA Board of Directors and is a prestigious award based on many things. Please look at the full descriptions listed under the awards tab on the website. Look at the people around you and make those nominations. Nominations can be made at any time. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any Board member.

Reminder that the 2019 NEMSA Hands on Conference will be January 12 to 13, 2019 in Kearney and the 2019 NEMSA Convention will be on March 15 to 17, 2019 in Columbus.

Thank you for everything you do and a daily basis for EMS across the state!

Be safe my friends and remember everyone comes home safe from every call!

Pam Sybrant
NEMSA Secretary/Treasurer

Board Member at Large Update

Hello NEMSA!

I hope you are enjoying the summer with the heat, the humidity and the storms. I am very honored to be a Board Member at Large again for this wonderful organization. We’ve been busy planning some awesome things for our Hands-On Conference and Convention. I’d like to welcome Sandy as our new President and I know she’ll do wonderful things. Yes, Debbie and her years of service is a hard act to follow but she’s still with us. If you have any questions, just hop on our website or download our app from the App Store or Google Play Store to contact one of us.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and see you in January!

Cyndi Groshong
NEMSA Board Member at Large

Nebraska Instructors Society

Congratulations to our new Board of Directors!

President - Amy Marshall
Vice President - Dave Huey
Secretary - Robin Darnell
Treasurer -Deana Pullen
Board Member at Large (2-Year Term) - Marlys Schmidt
Board Member at Large (1-Year Term) - Teresa Roth
2018 was a very successful legislative year for NEMSA. Key bills supported by NEMSA and passed by the Legislature include:

• A fix to the Volunteer Emergency Responders Tax Incentive to ensure county department volunteers qualify for the $250 tax credit.
• Recognition of EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate CompAct (REPLICA), which allows cross-border EMS practice in member states.
• EMS Practice Act updates to modernize the practice acts of emergency care providers.
• Child passenger safety improvements.
• Next-generation 911 updates, including the creation of a 911 Service System Advisory Committee with an EMS representative.

In contrast to all of the bills that passed, there was also success in stopping bills from passing. NEMSA joined a coalition to again defeat a bill to remove the motorcycle helmet requirement for riders 21 and older. The Legislature adjourned April 18 and work will now proceed on interim study resolutions, including LR 395, to examine issues related to volunteer EMS. When the Legislature convenes again in January 2019, there will be at least eight new Senators in the 49-member body. NEMSA members are encouraged to meet with Senators and candidates in your home districts to share about the great work you all do. For more information about any of these matters, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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Legislation Update

This memo is to inform you of some changes occurring in the laws that affect Emergency Medical Service licensure and practice in Nebraska. During the 2017-2018 Legislative session, LB 1034 was passed and will go into effect on July 19, 2018. The entire bill can be found at the Nebraska Legislature’s website. This will change how Emergency Medical Services is regulated in the State of Nebraska. These laws are supported by the Nebraska Board of Emergency Medical Services. Here are the highlights of the changes.

LB1034 will:
(1) Create changes to the EMS Practice Act
   a) Addition of definitions for the practice of each of the following: Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician, Emergency Medical Technician - Intermediate, Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, and Paramedic.
      • With these additions to statute, it is the intention of the Board and Department to eliminate the laundry lists of approved tasks found in the regulations. The next step is for the Board and Department to revise regulations to reflect these changes, which is currently underway.
   b) Removal of funeral coaches or hearses under the definition of “Ambulance” to update and clarify the definition.
   c) Sunset of EMT-I licenses by December 31, 2025.
      • This license type is no longer issued by the Department of Health and Human Services, nor is it supported at the national level. Significant consideration was given to allow enough time for affected licensees to plan for a transition to another license level.
   d) Addition of the definition of the practice of out-of-hospital emergency medical care.
      • This works in conjunction with the addition of the definitions of the practices for personnel to create a scope of practice for all license levels. This has the same intention of removing the laundry lists of approved tasks found in the regulations.
   e) Requirement to have one of three EMS physician Board member be a pediatrician.
      • The Board currently meets this requirement and has found the benefits of this arrangement invaluable. The law was changed in an effort to preserve this arrangement for the future.
   f) Eliminate the requirement that the Board must review and comment on all state agency proposals and applications that seek funding for out of hospital emergency medical care.
      • This was removed to provide for a more timely application process when seeking funds through grants to help support EMS in Nebraska.
   g) Changes to temporary licenses for individuals who have completed the education component but not the examination component.
      • This clarifies that an individual with a temporary license must practice only in association with a licensed out-of-hospital emergency care provider under physician medical direction and that the temporary license will expire immediately if the applicant fails the examination.
   h) Allow for the issuance of a temporary license for individuals relocating to Nebraska from another state where they are licensed that is also in the EMS Compact.
      • This statute is to accommodate Nebraska’s entry in to the EMS Compact.
   i) Eliminate the requirement for Emergency Medical Services to renew.
      • The intent of this statute is to eliminate the paperwork of biennial service renewals and replace with triennial onsite inspections. This will provide a more meaningful collaboration with services and the Department and ensure a more uniform system of emergency medical care in Nebraska. The next step is for the Board and the Department to revise regulations to reflect this change, which is currently underway. Services are still required to meet all requirements to maintain their licenses to operate.
   j) Eliminate the requirement for the Board to establish criteria for deployment and use of automated external defibrillators.
      • This was eliminated because this information is covered in a separate statute that was previously enacted. This updates and clarifies statutes.
   k) Update language that references first responders and emergency medical technician-paramedic as those license names are no longer used by the Department.
   l) Allow for EMTs, EMT-Is, AEMTs, and Paramedics to practice under the supervision of a licensed health care practitioner or under the direction of a registered nurse and while employed by or serving as a member of an emergency medical service, hospital, or health clinic licensed by the department. A licensed health care practitioner means a physician medical director or physician surrogate for an emergency medical service; a physician, physician assistant, or an advance practice registered nurse for a hospital or health clinic; a registered nurse may direct an out-of-hospital emergency care provider in a hospital or health clinic.
      • This statute clarifies that an EMT, EMT-I, AEMT, or Paramedic may practice the skills of their license level at a licensed hospital or health clinic without the requirement to be a member of a licensed emergency medical service at the same time.
Legislation Update continued

(2) Adopt the EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact in Nebraska

a) What does this mean?
   • This means that Nebraska is an official member of the EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact. Learn more about REPLICA here. The Compact Commission is developing Rules and Regulations and laying the foundation for the operation of the Compact. Governance documents can be found here. The Compact is not currently issuing compact privileges.

b) How will this affect licensed practice in Nebraska?
   • This will allow for EMTs, AEMTs, and Paramedics to operate in other states that are members of the Compact without obtaining multiple state licenses. The rules are still being developed by the Compact Commission.

c) Will there be any changes to the licensure process?
   • If you are applying for initial licensure in the State of Nebraska as an EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic, as of July 19, 2018, there is a new requirement to submit a fingerprint-based criminal background check to the Federal Bureau of Investigations. This will require submission of fingerprints to the Nebraska State Patrol for processing. More information on criminal background checks will be available soon on this DHHS website.
   • The application/approval process for requesting compact privileges is not finalized. The Compact Commission is still finalizing rules and regulations regarding Compact privileges and how to obtain them.

Savvik Buying Group

YOUR TIME IS MONEY!

Most of you reading this are probably multi-tasking at this very moment. How do you do your regular job and still get the value and savings to support your agency? There is help and its free to use! Savvik Buying Group is the largest non-profit GPO in the United States dedicated solely to Public Safety. Through the Nebraska EMS Association, you are now a member of Savvik and have access to multitudes of bids and other vendor programs that have been vetted and catered to your type of business free of charge. Savvik has been assisting our members for the last 20 years supporting agencies just like yours. Cooperatively purchase without any strings attached. Use just what you need, when you need it.

HOW DO YOU INCREASE YOUR BUYING POWER?

Whether you are a large private business or municipality, there are ways to streamline and maximize your purchasing operations, which will save you money and increase efficiency. Oftentimes, companies aren’t even aware of the resources available to them that can provide discounts on products they already purchase regularly. Several industries and types of organizations can specifically benefit from participating in a Group Purchasing Organization, or GPO. Joining a GPO combines your purchasing needs with the collective needs of thousands of other businesses to increase your buying power.

SUPPORT NEMSA!

Associations are uniquely designed to provide educational and networking opportunities for businesses or organizations coming together for a common purpose. But the value doesn’t have to stop there. We have found that a lot of associations want to provide membership discounts with efficient and standardized purchasing options for all their members. Savvik can provide easy and lower-cost access to products and services while helping the association earn money along the way. Yes, we revenue share back to your association on every purchase made through participating Savvik contracts.

HOW TO GET STARTED!

Part of our service is to assist your agency get connected with the best possible solution for your needs. Need a quote, we can help! Going out to bid? Savvik may have already done the work for you, services all over the USA use Savvik’s bids in place of bidding it on your own. Call us at 1-888-603-4426 to learn more or email us at info@savvik.org. You can also visit our website to create your login and see our list of vendor partners www.savvik.org.

This is just a sampling of what is available! Call 1-888-603-4426 to learn more!
Emergency Medical Services for Children

This resource is a communication tool for pre-hospital emergency care providers and their patients (designed with young children, non-verbal children and children with special needs in mind).

This document was created by Nye and Associates Smarter Marketing for Kansas Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC), Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Full document for download available here.

A HUGE thank you to Minnesota EMSC, where this tool concept originated and permission for concept use was granted by Kjelsey Polzin, Program Manager/Coordinator.

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