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.

Greetings to my NEMSA family, hope you had a wonderful holiday season and the flu bug didn’t invade your lives recently! Use good BSI measures, stay at least 6 feet away from all human beings, make sure you are always carrying hand sanitizer, a hepa mask, tissues, gloves, perhaps a gown with you at all times.

We just finished our NEMSA Hands-On Conference in Kearney. If you have never been to this conference, you are missing out on a wonderful experience. This conference is a hands-on, family orientated program. It is not your average conference by any means. As you enter into the conference center, it would not be unusual to see “victims” in the hallway, every type of EMS equipment known to man scattered everywhere. I heard from those who have never participated in this conference saying “WOW, this is how I learn! I need to touch and get my hands dirty”. This conference is unique and is offered every January, come check it out next year.

NEMSA’s Convention is just around the corner. This conference is always held in March. National and Regional speakers are invited to share with you the latest science and knowledge that is currently being offered in the EMS world. The committee works very hard on selecting a wide variety of classes. Continue to go to our website NEMSA.org for more information.

The board and committees attended a strategic planning meeting this past fall; it was the most productive meeting thus far. It is a time to reflective on all the committees accomplishments in the past year and then to help identify goals for the upcoming year. In one of our discussions the word “professionalism” came up and the question was asked what it means to us as EMS providers.

The definition of Professionalism: the skill, good judgment, and polite behavior that is expected from a person who is trained to do a job well. A professional is a person who is paid to undertake a specialized set of tasks and to complete them for a fee. In some cultures, the term is used as shorthand to describe a particular social stratum of well-educated, salaried workers who enjoy considerable work autonomy and are commonly engaged in creative and intellectually challenging work. Due to the personal and confidential nature of many professional services, and thus the necessity to place a great deal of trust in them, most professionals are subject to strict codes of conduct enshrining rigorous ethical and moral obligations.

Notice in the definition it refers to being “paid”, not all of us in EMS receive a paycheck for our services, we are volunteers, right? Since we don’t receive a paycheck then we don’t need to be professional? I actually had a hard time even writing that comment down, I am a PROFESSIONAL and I want to be thought of as one. What I do matters to my community! So…. how about I am an un-paid professional? Do you like that title? I bolded some key words in the paragraph above, in my opinion these words describe what EMS Professionals do day to day. It doesn’t matter if they are caring for a patient, running the business side of their services, running a meeting, attending training – we do if you aren’t should be. Do we consider ourselves professional? How you think as a “Profession” in the healthcare community, EMS is viewed by others?

I have a project for you, listed below are 10 traits that help to define a professional. Take a look at yourself and your department, comment or evaluate on each section. If you want, I can share in the next newsletter your responses. I would keep your identity private if you wish.

1: Put customer satisfaction first
2: Make expertise your specialty
3: Do more than expected
4: Do what you say and say what you can do
5: Communicate effectively
6: Follow exceptional guiding principles
7: Praise your peers not yourself
8: Share your knowledge
9: Say thank you
10: Keep a smile on your face and the right attitude in your heart

I am looking forward to hearing from you on this!
I actually asked for these 5 years ago and No One responded! Let us change this, this time around.

Be Safe!
Thanks for all You do!

Deb Von Seggern-Johnson
NEMSA President
dvonseggern@unmc.edu
**Secretary Update**

Hello NEMSA Members,

Your NEMSA Board has been busy the past few months, lots of things going on across the state. We held our annual strategic planning in Omaha, we had the biggest attendance ever! We had groups attending this year that had never attended before which is exciting for us as an organization. This means that NEMSA is beginning to be a organization that people want to be involved with. We have you, the member to thank for this! We appreciate all of your involvement more than you realize, you are the future of EMS in the state of Nebraska! The NEMSA Board is here to represent you and we want your voices heard loud and clear in every venue that we can find. Our new lobbyists are spreading the word about NEMSA and EMS across the state - they are making sure that everyone knows that NEMSA means business and we are a group to be reckoned with! They are promoting us as a group like never before, it is exciting to see this change. This was obvious when they spoke to us at the strategic planning meeting, they are focused on getting results on the issues that are important to our organization.

Elections are coming up, this year the offices of President, Treasurer, 2nd Vice President and Board Member at Large. If you are interested in running for a position the instructions to do so are on the NEMSA website at www.NEMSA.org or you can contact any board member and we will gladly help you or answer any questions that you have. If you intend on running you have to have your letter of intent, short bio and picture turned in before December 31, 2017 at midnight. We look forward to seeing new faces in our organization. Being a board member is a great experience and we encourage anyone that is interested to run for a position!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Pam Sybrant, NEMSA Secretary

**Membership**

**SUPPORT NEMSA!**

Whether you have been a past member of NEMSA, you are a current member or would be a brand new member, NEMSA needs you! Be a part of the largest EMS Association! NEMSA offers department, individual and student memberships. Members are eligible to join the Nebraska Instructor’s Society (NIS). NEMSA/NIS members receive reduced registration fees at NEMSA conferences and NIS workshops. Other member benefits include: Scholarships for members and member’s families, a $10,000.00 accidental death & dismemberment insurance policy, and eligibility to run for NEMSA board positions. NEMSA hired lobbyists from the firm Zulkozi/Weber for legal representation, ensuring NEMSA is heard on issues that affect all of us in EMS. Also, the Savvik Buying Group, one of the largest public safety buying cooperatives offers NEMSA members quality supplies and equipment at the industry’s best prices. To see a list of benefits visit www.NEMSA.org and click on Membership Benefits! Membership runs January 1st through December 31st, join now for 2018. Thank you for your support it is sincerely appreciated!

NEMSA Membership Committee

**Bylaws Changes**

The NEMSA Board presented this bylaw change at the January NEMSA general membership meeting. We will be voting on this change at the general membership meeting being held on March 16th in Columbus at the NEMSA Convention.

**ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS**

6.1 Officers of NEMSA shall be a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Secretary/Treasurer, Board Member at Large 1, Board Member at Large 2 and Board Member at Large 3. Officers of NEMSA shall be elected by a simple majority. Any Officer may be required by the Board of Directors to give bond at the expense of the Association for the performance of his or her duties in such amount and with such sureties as determined by the Board of Directors.

6.5 The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected to a two year term by the membership on odd numbered years. The Secretary/Treasurer shall assume the duties of: (a) Attending and recording the minutes of the meetings of the Association, the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and shall maintain the records of all other ad hoc and standing committees. (b) Publishing and distributing to all officers and directors the minutes of meetings within 30 consecutive days following the meetings. (c) Responding to all correspondence with membership on behalf of the officers and directors when so directed by their action. (d) Notifying the membership, Executive Committee, and Board of Directors of meetings called for business of the Association. (e) Presenting an expenditure report for approval of reimbursement or payment of expenses for postage, office supplies, or other expenses for this office. (f) Being a member of the Publications/Public Relations Committee. (g) Performing other duties appointed by the Executive Committee or Board of Directors.

6.6 The Treasurer shall be elected to a two year term by the membership on even numbered years. The Treasurer shall assume the duties of: (a) Have a current list of Members available for inspection at reasonable times. (b) Being the Financial Officer to collect dues and other revenues and to expend funds as approved by the Association Board of Directors. (c) Keeping accurate records of accounts. (d) Being a member of the Finance and Budget Committee and the membership committee. (e) Being a signatory of checks, warrants, drafts, and orders of draft for payment of money. (f) Insuring that there are two signatories of all checks, warrants, drafts, and orders of draft for payment of money, the second of whom shall be another officer of the Association, the Finance Officer of a Division, or a representative of the Finance Committee. (g) Securing a bond as established by the Board of Directors at the expense of the Association. (h) Provides a report of finances to the Association, the Executive Committee and the board of Directors on a regular basis (i) Performing other duties as appointed by the Board of Directors and shall keep and maintain accurate records and documents of the Association.
Election of Officers

Hello members of NEMSA!

We are heading into some exciting times with hopefully some new blood in the mix. It is time again for election of officers. It is my hope that members of this fine organization will step up to the plate and consider running for one of the four positions up for vote at this time. As you all know, if we let things get stagnant, we will never grow to become better for our membership. At this time, we will be running elections for the following positions on the NEMSA Board of Directors: President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Board Member At Large. It is my hope that some of you will consider the time to make a difference in our future. Please remember, if you are going to run for one of the positions on the Board, we need to have a picture of you as well as a biography of a maximum of 250 words telling everyone who you are and which position you are running for. I need these by December 31, 2017 as the new Board members will be announced at the March Convention in Columbus.

Arnie Higgins, Elections Chairperson

Meet the Candidates

Hello NEMSA Members!

The positions up for election are as follows: President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer (filled by Secretary) and Board Member At Large. Each of the candidates are running unopposed, so there will not be an election this year. We will officially welcome our board members at the 35th Annual Convention in Columbus, Neb.

Sandy Massey

I have been an EMT for 16 years and have been very active in a rural department. I am also an EMS Instructor and enjoy helping others to achieve their EMS goals through education. I am currently a NEMSA Board Member at Large and have been for 2 years now. I am running for the position of NEMSA President because I feel that I want to continue to support our EMS personal. I feel EMS is an important part of our communities and we need to continue to grow in order to help out the communities we serve. I will continue to represent EMS as a whole and fight for the continual growth and needs in Nebraska. EMS is my passion!!

Karolyn McElroy

I am currently serving you as NEMSA Second Vice President. I have enjoyed being a NEMSA officer for nine years now, six of those years as NEMSA Treasurer. My husband Larry and I live in Lyons, NE. We have two married sons and two grandchildren. Larry and I will have been members of the Lyons Volunteer Fire & Rescue for 25 years this year. I have served Lyons as Rescue Captain for 23 years and am currently Assistant Captain. I teach CPR. I serve as Secretary/Treasurer for the Burt County Mutual Aid Association and am the Nebraska Membership Coordinator for NAEMT. As you can probably tell I enjoy the “EMS world!” I really love being part of these organizations and surrounding myself with people that give so much to others! I don’t think “non” EMS/Fire people truly understand how important what we do is and how it gets in your blood! All that said, I am running for another term as NEMSA Second Vice President. If you have any questions or concerns, please email to vicepres2@nemsa.org. Thank you for your awesome service to EMS and have a Happy and Healthy 2018!!!

Cyndi Groshong

I am from Cambridge in southwest Nebraska. I have served on the NEMSA Board as a Member at Large for the past two years and would be honored to continue that role. I, like many of you, am a volunteer and I believe the work of NEMSA has had and will continue to have a great effect on EMS across the State. Great services are offered for not only volunteer but paid providers as well. Opportunities for great Education (for our family members too), but legislative issues, insurance and so much more! I would appreciate your vote to remain on the Board for another term. Regards, Cyndi Groshong.

Scholarships

Hello NEMSA members!

As we all know, Education is a very important part of our lives. With that, it is time for all of you that are members of NEMSA to apply for Scholarships. As most of you know, these recipients do not have to be in the EMS field and as long as you or a family member is a NEMSA member, you can apply! It’s easy. All you have to do is fill out the form on the NEMSA website. Hover over the “About” tab, click on the “Scholarship” tab and fill it out. The form tells you everything that is required for us to consider you for this free, education money. It doesn’t matter if you just heading to college or going back to further your education. Who doesn’t like free stuff? We need all applications by December 31, 2017 as we need to choose possible recipient’s. So, time’s a wasting!

Arnie Higgins Scholarship Chair Person
The Nebraska Legislature passed the halfway mark this week—32 legislative days in the books. Starting Wednesday, February 28, 2018, hearings will be completed, and the Legislature will move to full day debate. The halfway point in the session also means that debate turns almost exclusively to Priority Bills – those bills selected by individual senators (1); committees (2); and Speaker Jim Scheer (25). The attached chart will reflect those bills of interest that were selected as priority bills:

- LB 760 (Hughes bill, Speaker Priority) Hughes’ bill to fix the Volunteer Emergency Responders Incentive Act.
- LB 931 (Howard bill, Howard Priority) relating to Opiate Prescriptions and patient education.
- LB 993 (Friesen bill, Geist Priority) Continue the 911 Service System Act and create the 911 Service System Advisory Committee.
- LB 42 (Hilkemann bill, Hilkemann Priority) Enhance requirements for occupant protection systems for children.

Wednesday will also be an important day because the meeting of the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Board. This meeting will determine the expected state receipts for the remainder of the biennium, setting the stage for more, or (hopefully) less budget cuts. Once the forecasting is complete, the Appropriations Committee can complete its work in proposing the committee’s budget package which will then be advanced to the floor of the Legislature for debate.

The Legislature’s week ended on a low note, with a controversial voice vote to adjourn. Senator Chambers’ fury knew no bounds and he held the attention of the body, even after adjournment, animatedly telling those who stood in rapt attendance that the rest of the session would be his. We expect this one small procedural step (misstep?) will have far reaching implications for the remaining 29 days.

Katie Weichman Zulkoski, Zulkoski | Weber

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Nebraska Instructors Society

Hello everyone!

The Nebraska Instructor Society hosted an Instructor Workshop on January 12, 2018 in Kearney. TJ Williams presented “EMS Past and Present”. This was a good presentation and hands on skills with the participants reviewing EMS equipment. Bob Hessler presented in the afternoon about moulage techniques using household ingredients. The participants were able to create their own “injuries” using these techniques. It was a very educational day for instructors. The next NIS sponsored Instructor workshop will be FREE of charge to all members of NIS.

Come join us!

Nebraska Instructors Society

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Hands-On Conference

Hey everyone!

I just wanted to thank everyone that came out to the 2018 Hands-On Conference and let you know that we had a great showing this year with top notch instructors presenting cutting edge skills and patient care. We changed up how the conference schedule went and we feel that it was well received. We’re always looking for ways to improve and continue to bring you the best instructors. Spring convention is coming up and we hope to see you all there.

Thank you all!

Josh R. Holmquist, Hands-On Chair
holmquistjosh@gmail.com
308.214.1511

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35th Annual Convention

Good day everyone!

The NEMSA Convention is right around the corner. We would like to welcome you back to Columbus, Nebraska and the Ramada Inn and Convention Center. It is not too late to register by going to the NEMSA website. Some highlights for the convention: national speakers like Jason Dush, Jess Fulkerson, Kirk Mittelman, Dennis Edgerly and Scott Crawford. Plus, we have some great regional speakers. Don’t forget Saturday is St. Patrick’s so don’t forget your green. After the banquet, The Funny Bone Comedy Club of Omaha presents Richard Reese and James Johann for a great evening of fun! The dates for the 35th Annual Convention are March 16 to 18, 2018.

Darrin Kiger, Convention Chair
Bruce Beins retires after 35 plus years of dedication to EMS!

Bruce Beins of Republic City, joined Republican City Fire and Rescue in 1982, initially taking training to be a scuba diver on the Dive Rescue Squad. In 1986, Beins became a State Certified EMT-A and started his EMS career with Republican City, advancing to EMT-Paramedic in 1992. Beins’ interest in EMS and public service lead him to become an American Heart Association CPR Instructor in 1987 and then an Instructor Trainer in 1990. Beins taught hundreds of EMS providers in the south, central part of the state and specialty training at EMS conferences/rescue services all over the state.

From early on in his career, Beins was interested in improving the quality of care provided to the public and the wellbeing of the EMS providers of the state which, for the most part, are volunteers. He became a member of the Nebraska EMT Association (NEMTA), the First Responders in Emergency Medical Services (FREMS) and the Nebraska Rescue and Emergency Care Association (NRECA), serving as a Board member and vice-president for the organization.

In order to help further the wellbeing of pre-hospital providers, Beins co-founded the Nebraska EMS Coalition to combine the three membership organizations in 1996, serving as the treasurer of the transition team until the formation of the Nebraska EMS Association (NEMSA) in 1998.

In 2000, Beins was elected President of NEMSA and was re-elected in 2002 and 2004. Under his leadership, this organization has grown from 800 to over 2000 members and includes over 75 rescue services. Along the way, Beins has been a leader in two of NEMSA’s divisions: the Nebraska EMS Instructor’s Society, serving as a member of the Board of Directors and the Nebraska Association of Advanced Providers, serving as a board member and treasurer.

Beins received several awards and recognition during his EMS career. In 1995, Bruce received the NEMTA President’s award for his work in bringing EMS continuing education to the western part of the state through his work in establishing an annual Western EMS Conference.

In 1997, Beins received the Kenneth Kimball award, which is given to “a person who has played an important role in improving the quality of the EMS system throughout the state of Nebraska.” The award was in recognition of his work with bringing the previous EMS organizations together to form NEMSA. In 1999, Bruce received the first NEMSA President’s award in recognition of his leadership and work in securing $350,000 in the state budget for EMS training. In the spring of 2006, Beins received the highest honor in Nebraska EMS by being inducted into the Nebraska EMS Hall of Fame. In July 2010, he received the Statewide EMS President’s award.

Beins is currently holding the position of Harlan County Health System Board of Trustees and Vice-President of Nebraska Statewide EMS Conference Corporation. Please help NEMSA in thanking and congratulating him for his dedication and achievements of EMS.

Thank you Bruce!
Hi, my name is Ryan and I am 11 years old. I am from Bloomfield, Nebraska. I am in Fifth grade now. I have been with my dad since I was in Kindergarten. During this time, I would go to ambulance meetings and trainings with my dad who has been an EMT for about 20 years. And going to that training has helped me in a time of need. I was in a crash with my mom and two-year-old brother. We hit a semi head-on, on Highway 81 south of Yankton, South Dakota on May 7, 2016. Because of the training, I knew to stay calm and I knew my mom had passed and my brother needed help right away. I stood on top of the car and waved my hands in the air till someone stopped. It happened to be, who stopped, two EMT’s from Creighton in Nebraska. They asked me some questions and I stayed calm until the ambulance got there. I spent three days in the hospital and I had a lacerated spleen and a bruised lung. They had to get a shop vac and vacuum me down because I had so much glass on me before I got into the bed. After I got out of the hospital, my dad and I went to thank the firemen and EMTs. We also gave them thank you cards. After this experience, I would like to grow up to be an EMT just like my dad when I grow up.