Thomas E. Platt  
Statement of Candidacy  
Region I Director

I am an EMS provider and educator from Pittsburgh, PA. I am seeking election as Director for Region I. I feel it is a logical step in an EMS career, and I feel that I now have the time and experience to contribute to the larger mission of NAEMT. I seek this position to bring my experience and expertise to assist in accomplishment of the NAEMT mission and vision.

If elected, my goal will be to work with the Board, staff, and the Region I and overall membership to continue the efforts to improve patient care and outcomes and to improve the EMS work environment. Specifically, I will assist in the continued development and implementation of educational programs that enhance knowledge, skills, and abilities of the EMS workforce. Additionally, I would like to see NAEMT increase our membership, representing a broader base of the men and women who provide this vital service.

I think we face several challenges. Reimbursement continues to be an important challenge and opportunity. We strive to improve the environment of our workforce; however, without adequate reimbursement, this remains a challenge for implementation. By continuing to advocate for EMS and legislation supporting the evolving role of EMS and mobile integrated healthcare I am confident we can make additional progress and support our workforce as well as the larger healthcare system.

We are not well represented in the education of students in our profession. As an example, there are about 115,000 Physician Assistant’s in the United States. In 2018 the NREMT reported 406,940 certified EMS providers, nearly 3.5 times more than PAs. The American Academy of Physician Assistants has a student society, with nearly every state represented. Unfortunately, this is not true for EMS. I feel we should continue to implement strategic partnerships with organizations sharing our values and beliefs. EMS students are the future of our profession and many are taking the NAEMT courses as part of their early education. Making them members of the organization and recognizing their achievement at this early stage provides an opportunity for long-term membership and contribution to our mission. By developing the next generation of providers and cultivating them as leaders we begin our succession planning.

I am the best person to fill this position because of my experiences as an EMS provider and educator. I have been a nationally registered paramedic for over 30 years. I began my EMS career as a volunteer firefighter/first responder in the suburbs of Pittsburgh and have grown in my knowledge and skills since that time. I have been an instructor at the Center for Emergency Medicine/University of Pittsburgh teaching primary and continuing education courses for 30 years. I believe in the mission and vision of our organization and EMS overall and I wish to serve in a national leadership role to assist in making the profession better.

It is my goal to continue the great work of NAEMT and support Region I members and focus on growing the organization through mentoring of young providers.