



Rommie Duckworth Statement of Candidacy

Region I Director

EMS leaders are forced to move from crisis to crisis while trying to maintain delivery of healthcare services relied on by millions of Americans. Often, they have few resources to devote to succession planning and professional development of their crews until that, too, becomes a crisis. EMS cannot continue to exhaust capable leaders while candidates with future potential wait in the wings with little preparation to meet the challenges ahead. The need for a true leadership development infrastructure for EMS has reached critical mass.

My passion and expertise focus on increasing the quality and availability of professional development for EMS leaders at all levels. I am seeking the position of board member to help NAEMT further its abilities to support current and emerging EMS leaders across the country.

My goals are to facilitate the professional development of EMS providers with a focus on supporting EMS leaders and championing local services. As a board member of NAEMT, I will seek to increase the awareness and availability of professional development programs for individual services. This includes the lighthouse leadership mentor program, clinical education programs, and advocacy initiatives, including EMS on the Hill Day.

Many of the challenges facing EMS in the United States arise from the same source as the opportunities available to us: our diversity. The variations across EMS systems are necessary for local EMS services to adapt to serve the needs of their communities, but they often create a barrier to developing the required unified voice for EMS to muster the combined strength that will be necessary to meet the evolving crises facing it today. Diversity in American EMS allows us to develop creative solutions to problems facing us but can encourage parts of our healthcare systems to operate in silos, presenting unnecessary challenges.

If EMS diversity is a double-edged sword, then NAEMT must focus on cutting with both sides. As different as each service is, all EMS in North America has common needs and interests. NAEMT must continue to identify these priority needs and interests and present broadly applicable solutions as a unified front through programs like EMS on the Hill Day and others. On the other side, NAEMT must recognize that universal EMS needs, such as top-quality clinical education, must be adaptable so that programs may be delivered through a variety of channels and reasonably customized for delivery in all types of EMS systems.

I have had the good fortune to work in different positions in different types of EMS systems, local volunteer advocacy groups and international healthcare organizations. Throughout my career, I have gained perspective on how these different organizations can work well together and where friction needs to be eased in order for everyone's primary goals to be realized. I have a proven track record as an effective liaison between disparate groups and an efficient leader and team member on programs that achieve critical objectives, even when individuals can't agree on all the details.