



## Garrett Hedeem Statement of Candidacy

### Region III Director

My name is Garrett Hedeem and I am seeking to remain in the position of Region III Director of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians. It's been the most challenging time in our profession's history, and as a leader of an agency, a state, and national association, and still often do time on an ambulance I am well positioned to continuing my service to the profession and NAEMT. I am currently the manager of EMS in Bloomington, IN for IU Health Lifeline. IU Health Lifeline is the largest EMS service in Indiana, offering alternative transport, IFT, 911, critical care ground and air services throughout the state of Indiana. My diverse background has prepared me well to represent practitioners from a vast array of perspectives.

I have many passions professionally, but provider safety is the most important to me. Whether I am acting as a Safety Officer, speaking at a conference, chairing an NAEMT committee dealing with provider mental health issues, or rewriting an EMS Safety Course I continuously strive to find better ways to keep everyone going home safe at the end of a shift. I've also helped lead a committee at my organization in getting a defensive tactics course to EMS practitioners, have testified at a state Senate hearing on EMS provider death benefits, and have served as a union president fighting for safe working conditions.

My primary goal as an NAEMT board member will be to ensure that the voices and perspectives of those on the front lines are represented well. One way I see accomplishing this is to encourage more providers to become involved at the committee levels by increasing transparency of meetings and agenda and possibly the numbers of members on committees. Committees are the backbone of great non-profits, and the better these can run the better we can truly advocate for the profession.

One of the key challenges I see for EMS is a public perception and confusion about what EMS does in the community. We can better address this by engaging providers and organization leaders to become more active in the communities they serve. Another large part of this is fostering better education for EMS Public Information Officers (PIOs), which is where I think NAEMT, in collaboration with other organizations, can help.

Over the last few years I've had some great opportunities to serve my fellow providers in multiple leadership roles at the local, state, and national levels while still regularly doing shifts on an ambulance. Whether responding from an ambulance under an interstate overpass to a cardiac arrest in full PPE in the height of a pandemic, or doing research on recruitment and retention in EMS, I will continue to speak for those doing the lion's share of the work and would be honored to continue serving in the role as Region III Director of NAEMT.