



Shannon Watson Statement of Candidacy

Region III Director

I'm writing to express interest in the NAEMT Board of Director's open Director Position for Region III. I'm seeking this position because I feel NAEMT is a strong agency with major influence over the first responders across the nation and internationally. It would be an honor to assist by representing NAEMT's Board of Directors.

My goal as a Director is to ensure NAEMT continues to provide quality education to enhance care across our nation. The first responder's knowledge and skills are truly impacted by the prestige course designs and well-trained educators of NAEMT. I support EMS research and innovation to continue advancement of our EMS profession through high quality education and evidence-based medicine. Additionally, I appreciate the work NAEMT is completing with educational programs creating similar platforms and teaching structure to ensure strong branding and course promulgation.

Two key challenges we are facing in EMS is a shortage of Paramedics and lack thereof reimbursement for services. We as a career field need to come together and work on solutions for these areas, which I feel NAEMT supports and is actively working towards. This is an opportunity to create reimbursement structure along with a plan to align EMS providers as a profession within the medical field.

NAEMT is currently addressing both areas through awareness, by having a voice during "EMS On The Hill" day, and actively working behind the scenes with EMS Leaders and governmental influencers. NAEMT continues to advance our EMS profession through knowledge and educational events as well. They are in constant support of moving the US healthcare system away from fee-for service reimbursement and toward alternative payment models. Just a few examples of their support are the Mobile Integrated Health course and the Principles of Ethics and Personal leadership course. In addition, they created a NAEMT lighthouse leadership program to link participants with EMS leaders for mentorship to achieve personal career plans and strategic career development goals. NAEMT is constantly striving to create a better future for our career field and ensure we are successful professionals.

As an NAEMT Board of Director, I would continue to support NAEMT with their EMS educational programs, development of courses, and increasing membership along with course promulgation. I'm committed to our first responders across the nation and strive to push EMS in the direction of a profession with well-educated providers that can provide quality care to their communities. I'm passionate about our career field and ensuring we have a successful future. Now is an important time to have folks who are dedicated and committed as we create the path for our future providers and EMS leaders.