



Christopher Way **Statement of Candidacy**

President-Elect

Greetings. I have been involved in EMS since 1991. I was hooked from the moment my neighbor asked me “would you like to join our department?”

As I look back on these past two years, EMS took on a different face during my first term on the NAEMT Board of Directors—COVID came. No matter how small or large your organization was or your community, it was affected directly one way or another. Being on the NAEMT Board was truly a whirlwind experience, and realizing how hard everyone works together for the betterment of our profession, I would love to be able to continue in these efforts.

I have been involved with NAEMT for many years as a PHTLS and AMLS instructor, State Education Coordinator, the Affiliate Advisory Council, and Advocacy committee.

NAEMT is the one unified voice for our industry and has made huge strides paving the way for EMS to be recognized as a healthcare profession and continues to build strong partnerships.

When I served as president of the Nebraska EMS Association (NEMSA), I looked to NAEMT’s leadership to incorporate their ideas and goals into our strategic plan for the State of Nebraska while working together for the betterment of EMS.

We must encourage and work towards moving away from our “silos.” The process starts by educating others about the world of EMS, however, first we need to know “Who We Are.” The EMS community needs to raise awareness of our roles in healthcare to our government, the hospital community, and the public. So many of us continue to struggle even at the state and county levels. I come from a “frontier” state which is mostly comprised of volunteer systems. Healthcare providers at all levels of medicine are experiencing a shortage as our patient numbers increase. The EMS component is often overlooked when decisions are made. NAEMT and your state associations are the voice that can help bring EMS to the table.

My goal from the start of my career has been and still is, to implement a best practice perspective on any decisions or actions that affect the outcome of patient care. Embrace positivity, even the worst of situations will offer a lesson learned experience and don’t be afraid to ask “why” if you don’t understand.