



Matt Zavadsky

Statement of Candidacy

At-Large Director

EMS practitioners, and our profession, are going through the ringer. Worker shortages, poor compensation, supply chain challenges, and spiking response volumes are causing incredible stress on our EMS systems and practitioners. The essential flaw in our economic model prevents many EMS agencies from being able to afford payrates that EMTs, paramedics, and other EMS professionals deserve!

The ongoing pandemic is creating exceptional opportunities for EMS practitioners! It has demonstrated to us, and the country, that EMTs and paramedics are more than just “emergency” care providers whose role is to transport patients to the hospital, but rather, we are healthcare providers who provide essential medical services to our patients, our communities and healthcare system stakeholders.

I had the honor of serving our membership as president of NAEMT during the height of the pandemic. During that tenure, we forged collaborative relationships with key partners such as the International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, and American Ambulance Association, to address the needs of EMS providers to Congress, CMS, FEMA and other federal and state agencies. This collaboration is very successful in attaining EMS practitioners a higher priority for PPE, COVID testing and vaccines, as well as changing payment models for EMS to reimburse us for the care we deliver, not just the transport we provide.

But there is much more to do! EMS practitioners and agencies are facing stressors never before imagined, and we need to keep advocating for the advancement of the profession, both in traditional and non-traditional roles, to assure EMS practitioners get the recognition they have earned, and the compensation they deserve.

I’m asking for your vote for the NAEMT At-Large Director position to help continue the work we are doing. We have major challenges we must address over the next two years, including:

- Assuring EMS practitioners have the mental health support they need and deserve.
- Changing the reimbursement model for EMS away from reimbursement for transport, to reimbursement for the care we provide.
- Working with governmental officials to recognize EMS an essential public service, potentially paving the way for additional funding opportunities for EMS.
- Perhaps another acronym for EMS should be “Essential Medical Services”?

If elected as At-Large Director, my commitment will be to continue using my experience and relationships to help enhance the role of EMS practitioners to benefit both NAEMT members and the EMS profession, and prove the value we bring to the healthcare system. This will lead to enhanced revenue streams and pay commensurate with the valuable role you play in the healthcare system.

Making this happen will require a new mind set, a new philosophy, bold thinking and a ‘can do’ orientation to customer service and community partnerships. It will also require leadership skills from people who have already been successful implementing the changes necessary to help ensure the success of the EMS practitioners for years to come.

It would be my honor and blessing to serve you as an At-Large Director for NAEMT.