



2022 Questions to NAEMT Board Candidates

Please include your response below each question. Please limit each answer to 500 words or less.
Thanks.

Candidate: Bryan Nelson

Questions for 2022 Election Candidates

1. Define what you believe are the key characteristics of good leadership and describe the leadership qualities that you will bring to the position for which you are running.

True servant leadership requires Integrity, empathy, communication, commitment, and empowerment. Integrity is by far, the single most important quality a leader can possess, and no leader can succeed without integrity because integrity comprises truth and honor with a moral compass. A leader must have empathy and a connection to those who follow them, to understand the issues of importance to those they represent. Leaders must be able to communicate effectively with stakeholders to facilitate change. Leaders must have a strong commitment to the organization and a passion for the causes of those they represent. Finally, leaders must empower and inspire the next generation, serving as role models and leading by example, to inspire the next generation of professionals. These are the qualities that I believe are vital to success and the qualities I strive to exhibit every day in my personal and professional life.

2. What do you believe are the top issues facing the EMS profession right now, and what role should NAEMT play in addressing these issues?

One of the most important issues affecting the EMS profession is the workforce. The recruitment and retention problems before the COVID-19 pandemic have been exacerbated and are now at crisis levels. Another issue of paramount importance is the issue of an "essential" public servant. Few of us could fathom that EMS was not an essential public service prior to the pandemic. Many of us were dumbfounded, and frankly, appalled, to learn that EMS was not essential in many states. Reimbursement is another key issue facing EMS. Reimbursement was poor and problematic for most agencies before the pandemic. With the increase in fuel prices and operating expenses, many EMS agencies are struggling to survive. EMS providers are some of the lowest paid professionals in the nation and they must now endure the mounting economic pressures that come with inflation. The NAEMT has been a staunch advocate for these issues and should continue to advocate for EMS to be declared an essential service in every state. They should also continue to advocate for increased reimbursement with federal agencies and

congressional leaders. EMS on the Hill Day is one way that the NAEMT demonstrates their commitment and advocacy for our profession to our elected officials.

3. With additional stress on an already overburdened workforce, what steps can NAEMT take to support the health, well-being, and resilience of our EMS practitioners?

Healthcare in the United States has never been more volatile and unpredictable. The EMS workforce was challenged before the pandemic, and now we are on the precipice of disaster. Workforce issues such as recruitment and retention, livable wages and inflation are all factors that impact the delivery of prehospital care. EMS providers are some of the most resilient people on the planet; however, there are some issues that stretch beyond workforce resilience. EMS agencies must adapt to the changing environment to remain viable in the future. The fact is, the healthcare system of the future will require agencies to collect and utilize data to deliver high quality services with maximum efficiency, including mobile integrated health and transportation to alternative destinations, with narrow margins for reimbursement. This transformation will require education and collaboration among multiple governmental, public, and private entities. The NAEMT is well suited to help EMS agencies navigate the changing healthcare landscape with the vast expertise of the NAEMT leadership and the committees that work on the pathways of the future. The Economics & Workforce committees have a multidisciplinary group focused on legislation to recognize EMS as an essential public service, accurately counting the number of EMS providers, increasing reimbursement. The NAEMT should remain focused on improving education and improving quality, by collaborating on quality metrics and data integration with private, state, and federal agencies to provide a sustainable pathway for EMS moving forward.

4. How would you explain the value of NAEMT membership to both prospective members and existing members?

The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians is among the best value, if not THE best value, among professional organizations. The leadership of the organization are all veterans of EMS and passionate about Emergency Medical Services and the essential public service we provide. Aside from the extensive discounts from numerous organizations, the NAEMT collaborates with multiple state and federal agencies on several issues including reimbursement, workforce, and education. They also lobby for legislation that improves the delivery of Emergency Medical Services, Mobile Integrated Health, and EMS reimbursement. Most importantly, they advocate for legislation that benefits EMS personnel, such as legislation that defines EMS as an essential public service and accurately counts EMS providers. The NAEMT creates and delivers courses designed to educate and train EMS providers to work smarter, work safer, and provide cutting-edge evidenced-based care. The NAEMT is one of the few professional organizations in existence that continuously strives to improve, and defend, their constituents every day. Your membership dues provide the resources to continue and strengthen the largest and most influential professional organization in the country dedicated to the profession of EMS.