

## **Rommie L. Duckworth NAEMT BOD Candidate Background Information**

I have been involved in emergency services since 1989, beginning as a volunteer firefighter/EMT. As a member of the New Fairfield (CT) Fire Department, I held numerous company and departmental officer positions, from EMS Lieutenant to Assistant Fire Chief to member of the Department Board of Directors. In that time, I developed the first formal recruit training program for the department and helped codify professional education and performance standards for department officers and worked as a liaison, coordinating training and emergency response with surrounding departments.

As a paramedic for American Medical Response, I was a lead paramedic and instructor for ACLS, PALS, and continuing education programs. As a paramedic for Danbury Hospital, a regional trauma, stroke, and cardiac center, I worked in both rural and urban response areas and ran the ACLS, EMT, and EMS continuing education programs. I also served as liaison for the Hospital, coordinating with emergency services throughout Western Connecticut.

As a career firefighter/paramedic for the Ridgefield Fire Department I currently serve as department EMS Coordinator and Shift Commander (Captain). I have chaired or assisted with many department projects, including developing an in-house paramedic service, developing an in-house officer preparation program, establishing an American Heart Association training site, serving on the EMS rescue task force, hazardous materials and terrorism preparedness workgroup, and serving as technical rescue team coordinator.

During this time, I also volunteered in Connecticut as the American Heart Association (AHA) as National Faculty for ACLS, Regional Faculty for BLS and PALS. I introduced the first ACLS for Experienced Providers programs for Connecticut and New York City and served on the New England Regional Emergency Cardiovascular Care Committee. I have served on the Northeast Cerebrovascular Consortium (NECC) as part of their EMS research committee in partnership with the American Stroke Association and was an education design contributor for the Connecticut Office of Emergency Medical Services (CT-OEMS) EMS-Instructor Trainer Program re-design and roll-out.

I serve on the advisory board for the Sepsis Alliance, where I have helped develop several award-winning pre-hospital sepsis education programs for the Sepsis Institute Medical Education Foundation, including Pediatric Sepsis: First Response education program for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority Division of Research, Innovation and Ventures (BARDA DRIVE) of the Department of Health and Human Services. I also advise for the Sepsis Coordinators' Network and was the Lead Author for National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE) Position Paper on Sepsis Education.

I assisted with the National EMS Management Association (NEMSMA) Accreditation Committee and served as the executive director of the First Few Moments 503c education non-profit for first responders. In addition, I have served on the advisory boards for Jones and Bartlett's Public Safety Group as well as the conference committees for FDIC: Fire Department Instructors' Conference, EMS Today, and as a member of the editorial board for JEMS magazine. Through my organization, the New England Center for Rescue and Emergency Medicine, I have developed and delivered rescue, clinical, and professional development programs for the National Association of EMS Educators, Texas Tech University, EMS World Magazine, JEMS, Fire Engineering, International Association of Fire Chiefs, and many local and regional emergency services.

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I have testified in the Connecticut state legislature for the development of regional systems of stroke care, as well as the adoption of standardized stroke assessment systems across the northeast. I have been an international advisor for the United Kingdom (UK) regional fire service integration of EMS and have delivered programs on human factors and performance improvement for the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and the Royal College of Emergency Medicine in the UK. I have developed and delivered programs for the International Association of Fire Chiefs Officer Development Program and have taught fire and EMS leadership programs as a contract educator for the National Fire Academy.

I have authored chapters in fire, rescue, and EMS textbooks, including, most recently, The Structure Of The Fire Service, Firefighter Wellness, Firefighter Survival, Firefighter Rehabilitation, and Special Rescue Teams for the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the IAFC Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills textbook, the EMS Systems, Workforce Safety and Wellness, Medical Legal and Ethical Issues, Communications and Documentation, and Medical Terminology chapters of the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the AAOS Emergency Care of the Sick and Injured EMT textbook, Sepsis and Septic Shock chapter of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of NAEMT's Advanced Medical Life Support program textbook, the Medical Incident Command and Rescue Awareness and Operations chapters of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Mosby's Paramedic textbook, the Vehicle Extrication and Technical Rescue and Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction Response and contributed to Bleeding Control and Disaster Response chapters of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the AAOS Nancy Caroline's Emergency Care in the Streets Paramedic textbook, the Patient Assessment and Team Approach to Healthcare chapters of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the AAOS Emergency Care of the Sick and Injured EMT Textbook, and more. In addition, I have authored over 100 published articles on topics of clinical care, rescue, leadership, and education for print and online publications, including the Journal of Emergency Medical Services (JEMS), Wisconsin EMS Professional, Fire Engineering, FireRescue1.com, FireChief.com, Firehouse Magazine, Paramedic Chief, NAEMSE Educator Update, Australian Paramedic, and others as well as the Rescue Digest column for EMS1.com and the Duckworth on Education column for EMS World Magazine.

I am the recipient of the NAEMS Presidential Award for my work assisting with the development of the Lighthouse Leadership Mentorship Program. I am also the recipient of the Western Connecticut Health Network Lifetime Achievement Award, the EMS Today: EMS 10 Innovators Award for sepsis education programs, the Sepsis Alliance: Sepsis Hero Award, an American Red Cross: Hero Award for Professional Achievement, the Christopher Blackwell Dedication to Service Award, a State of Connecticut: Public Leadership Citation, a BSI EMS: Special Service Award for Response to 9/11, and Danbury Health Systems: Regional Educator of the Year.