



## 2022 Questions to NAEMT Board Candidates

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

**Candidate:** Shannon Watson

### 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.
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?
3. With additional stress on an already overburdened workforce, what steps can NAEMT take to support the health, wellbeing and resilience of our EMS practitioners?
4. How would you explain the value of NAEMT membership to both prospective members and existing members?

**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.**

I believe some of the best leadership characteristics fall under servant leadership. I wouldn't ask anyone on my team to do something I wouldn't do myself. Some key characteristics of a good leader are integrity, self-awareness, influence, empathy, courage, communication, respect, and learning agility.

One of my favorite leadership quotes from John Maxwell is the following: "leadership is influence- nothing more, nothing less." Leadership is not a position, it's an action. There are many silent leaders throughout your organization who directly impact the culture and future for first responders.

Understanding the power of Influence and how you can affect others is one of the most important things we can do as leaders. I believe I can bring influence into this position by listening to others with empathy and then developing a plan together on how best to move forward. I commit to empowerment, encouragement, and guidance of the future teams I'll work alongside in this position.

There are many folks within the NAEMT team, and everyone has their strengths and weaknesses. We can all work together to develop a strong pathway for our career field.

Integrity is the highest on my list of leadership characteristics. Leaders are highly visible and set examples. They take responsibility for the actions of their team and lead with courage. Its important leaders are vulnerable and take risks while learning from any failures along the way. I'm committed to being honest and authentic while fostering innovation and inspiring belief through teamwork within this role.

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

I believe the top issues facing our profession now are around recruitment and reimbursement. To assist with recruitment and retention, we must focus on employee wellbeing. Resiliency and mental health should be a priority. We also need to create a healthy workplace for our team members. I believe NAEMT can assist by developing strategies on how we recruit and retain millennials. This ties in with reimbursement because as we development reimbursement plans that benefit our organizations; we can then pay our team members more. Advocacy is key when it comes to adjustments in reimbursement, which NAEMT actively works on through ventures like EMS on The Hill Day.

### With additional stress on an already overburdened workforce, what steps can NAEMT take to support the health, wellbeing and resilience of our EMS practitioners?

NAEMT is doing a great job supporting our health and wellbeing. They recently added a course called the Mental Health Resiliency Officer course. This develops EMS personnel to serve as the agency's Mental Health Resilience Officer. After course completion, the individual is equipped to recognize peers who are experiencing mental health stressors and navigate them to the right services for assistance. They can also support the organizations culture focused on emotional wellness and mental health resilience. I think NAEMT should continue their focus on course promulgation and continue to reduce the stigma correlated with mental health.

### How would you present the value proposition of NAEMT membership to prospective member?

Being a part of NAEMT has many benefits. I believe NAEMT does a wonderful job being a voice for our career field and advancing our EMS profession through quality education, evidence-based EMS research, and providing an infrastructure to implement EMS quality improvement. NAEMT not only assists with providers, but it directly impacts the communities we serve by ensuring quality care. Supporting NAEMT is imperative for our EMS providers, so NAEMT can continue to support the career field. They are creating a pathway for our profession and leading the efforts for a better future.

For active members there are many monetary and non-monetary benefits, which include the following: education and training, apparel and gear, publications and subscriptions, technology and electronics,

professional and personal, and travel and entertainment. Some of the educational offerings in these areas include discounts on conference registrations, discounts on instructor resources, discounts on courses like eACLS online and STEMI recognition, discounts on products, tuition discounts with online classes, and even scholarship opportunities to advance your EMS career. In addition there are many discounts on EMS apparel, training products, and EMS merchandise along with discounts for subscriptions like the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Journal and the Journal of Special Operations Medicine. You're even eligible for \$10,000 of AD&D insurance coverage, 24% discount on AT&T cellular service, and discounts on subscriptions like Yoga for First Responders.

In addition to the direct benefits for you, there are many opportunities members have to make a difference in the EMS community. As a member you'd be eligible to vote in the NAEMT Board of Directors election along with serving on an NAEMT Committee. You could also become an instructor as well as affiliate faculty for NAEMT and assist with course promulgation across the United States. The potential lifelong impact of serving with NAEMT is huge. You can really change the lives of first responders through quality education, leadership, and support.