



Maria Beermann-Foat, PhD, NRP **Statement of Candidacy**

West Coast Region Director

Please accept my notice of candidacy for the West Coast Director on NAEMT's Board of Directors. I feel my 25 years of experience in EMS and academic training make me an ideal candidate for the position. I have been a member of NAEMT for many years, have served as an At-Large Director for the past two years, an active member on the Membership Committee and former member of EMS Workforce committee. I am the State Membership Coordinator for Oregon and have helped establish my employer as an NAEMT Training Center.

My paramedic career has included working 911 and interfacility transfers for a mid-sized private ambulance service, a hospital-based rural EMS service, a large third-tier government-based service, and now a fire department-based EMS service. I believe this makes me wellrounded in understanding the differences and similarities of these service models. I have experience in quality management, education, leadership, operations, infection control, strategic planning, project management, and personnel management. Education is near and dear to my heart, and I strive to use my prior experience as an instructor to help those outside of our industry to understand our unique perspectives and needs. I spent ten years obtaining a PhD in Organization Management so that I could help advance the EMS profession through research and evidence-based decision-making.

Though I retired in December 2021 from Johnson County MED-ACT (Kansas) after 22 years of service (where I served on the Kansas Governor's Advisory Board on Trauma and on the Kansas EMS Association's (KEMSA) Legislation Advocacy committee), I couldn't stay retired for long and started a position as the EMS Training Coordinator for Eugene Springfield Fire Department (ESF) in Oregon two weeks later in January 2022.

Since then, I have worked to bring NAEMT to more EMS providers on the west coast and encourage participation in the association via membership, becoming an instructor for NAEMT courses, or attending NAEMT courses as a participant. I gained approval for ESF's EMS Training Division to become an NAEMT Training Center and partnering with the Oregon EMS association to bring NAEMT to rural providers and assist their EMS educational needs.

If elected, I would continue the work in progress by NAEMT in the areas of workforce recruitment and retention, mental health for responders, as well as pushing for much needed national recognition and change for our profession. The pandemic brought us an opportunity to seek resources and funding to support and enhance EMS delivery. We've worked diligently these past two years toward that effort to finally be heard and understood by those outside of our profession. The work we've done these past two years have edged us closer to where EMS needs to be, yet there's more to be done! I wish to continue being of service to all EMS providers, as a member of the NAEMT Board, and help NAEMT reach its goals through my tireless work ethic and dedication.