

## 2019 NAEMT General Membership Meeting SCRIPT

### “Advancing the EMS Profession”

VOICE OVER:

Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats as we prepare for the 2019 NAEMT General Membership Meeting. Please welcome to the stage NAEMT’s President... Matt Zavadsky!

**MATT:**

Good evening, friends. Welcome to the 2019 NAEMT General Membership Meeting! It’s an honor to share this evening with you and I thank you all for being here. Each of you have made a special effort to attend this meeting, and many of you have traveled long distances to join us. I thank each and every one of you for your support of NAEMT.

Tonight, we come together to recognize what we have achieved this year and appreciate what our association and its more than 160 volunteer members, is doing to advance the EMS profession. We will celebrate our accomplishments and thank the many members who contribute to our success. And, we will recognize members of our profession who have demonstrated outstanding achievement.

I ask that you now stand as we recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Please be seated.

**MATT:**

NAEMT was founded to represent and serve EMS practitioners in the United States. Advocating for, and advancing the EMS profession, is a core component of our association. Along with advocacy, education is core to our mission as well. Through our education programs, NAEMT serves the global EMS community. We are very grateful to the many NAEMT members who reside in over 100 countries around the world. To all our members who traveled from around the world to be with us... welcome to New Orleans! Thank you very much for your special efforts to attend NAEMT’s annual meeting.

In May, members of the NAEMT Board of Directors represented our association at the National EMS Memorial Service. It was a beautiful service... but also a stark reminder of the sacrifices made while responding to the needs of patients. Please join me in a moment of silence in honor of those in our profession who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their patients in civilian and military settings.

These heroes will never be forgotten. Their sacrifice inspires us to make our EMS profession better — and safer — for our practitioners and for the patients we serve.

There was also a loss within our NAEMT family... Long-time member and friend Mike Newburger passed away in March. Mike regularly attended our annual meetings and was recognizable by the camera he wore around his neck. We will miss his photos, his friendship, and his welcoming smile. His presence is truly missed.

On September 16, EMS lost a national advocate for EMS fitness. We mourn the loss of Bryan Fass - author, educator, and evangelist for injury prevention and provider safety. Known for his Fit Responder programs and blog, Bryan wrote and presented frequently on EMS fitness and wellness topics for EMS World and other industry publications. Bryan was a true friend of NAEMT, the EMS profession and all EMS practitioners. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family.

Joining me in our goal to advance the EMS profession are my fellow members of the NAEMT Board of Directors. This incredible group of leaders dedicate their time and expertise to the ongoing work of our association. I am truly blessed to work with them.

Board members... please stand as I call your name, and audience... please hold your applause until all have been introduced.

1. Bruce Evans, President-elect
2. Terry David, Treasurer
3. Troy Tuke, Secretary
4. Dennis Rowe, Immediate Past President
5. Sean Britton, Region I Director
6. Robert Luckritz, Region I Director
7. Susan Bailey, Region II Director
8. Cory Richter, Region II Director
9. Jason Scheiderer, Region III Director
10. Chris Way, Region III Director
11. William "Bill" Justice, Region IV Director
12. Karen Larsen, Region IV Director
13. Charlene Cobb, At-Large Director
14. Jonathan Washko, At-Large Director
15. Dr. Craig Manifold, Medical Director

Thank you all very much for your dedication and commitment!

While NAEMT is a forward-focused association, we never forget how we have grown over the years and the leaders who led us through the challenges along the way. We are very grateful for the leadership provided to NAEMT by our Past Presidents. If any of our Past Presidents or Board members are here tonight, please stand and be recognized.

Thank you, very much for your service and for being here tonight.

As President, I have worked with our Board and other committed members to actively respond to the issues and challenges that impact our profession. Many times, these efforts have been in partnership with other national EMS organizations. Working together, we have made significant strides... and will continue to do so

In accordance with our bylaws, I am proud to provide the highlights of our association's achievements this year.

Advocacy is one of the most valuable activities NAEMT undertakes on behalf of our members and profession. This year, we've advocated for laws and regulations that support EMS practitioners and improve the care we provide to our patients. Our legislative priorities included:

- Funding for the Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs Law, more commonly known as the SIREN Act. Last year, the SIREN Act passed both Houses of Congress as part of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and was signed into law. When funded, this law will create a grant program for public and non-profit EMS agencies in rural areas, many of which are at the forefront of the opioid epidemic—to support the recruitment, retention, education, and equipment for EMS personnel in rural areas.
- Passage of the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, to mandate the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to create a national standard requiring that healthcare and social service employers develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence

prevention plan. A big thank you to the nearly 2,000 members who sent emails to their Representatives and Senators. This bill now has 222 cosponsors in the House and 24 in the Senate.

Two bills that NAEMT actively supported were passed this year and signed into law:

- The **Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act** to bolster volunteer EMS and fire recruitment and retention by allowing volunteers to receive nominal incentives—property tax deductions and up to \$600 per year of other types of benefits—without having to pay tax on them.
- The **Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act (PAHPA)**, to strengthen our nation’s existing preparedness and response programs. The bill included two NAEMT legislative priorities—the **Mission Zero Act** to support military-civilian partnerships that strengthen our nation’s trauma response capacity and the **Good Samaritan Act** to protect bystanders, including EMS practitioners, who come to the aid of victims during a disaster.

In addition to these bills, our Advocacy Committee reviewed and made recommendations on 28 pieces of federal legislation to ensure that NAEMT has a position on every federal bill that impacts our practitioners and patients. Members can view all of these bills on NAEMT’s Online Legislative Service, and can use this service to find your congressional leaders, see how they vote, and send emails to them to voice your opinion on these bills.

We worked very hard this year to ensure that the EMS profession was represented on key issues that impact every aspect of what we do.

- In January, NAEMT published a position supporting enhanced education requirements for the EMS workforce that support the evolving role of EMS.
- In April, we submitted comment to the HHS National Coordinator for Health Information Technology outlining how improved integration of EMS with Healthcare Information Technology can positively impact patient outcomes.
- In May, we submitted a joint comment to Congress with several other organizations on the issue of balance or “surprise” billing, to educate congressional leaders on this issue relative to ground ambulance service.
- In July, the NAEMT Board approved a new position statement prepared by our EMS Workforce Committee calling for the federal government to accurately and fully count the EMS workforce, including all firefighter-EMTs, firefighter-paramedics, and volunteer EMS practitioners.
- In August, we sent a letter drafted by our EMS Preparedness Committee to the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response citing the absence of EMS as a stakeholder and source of expertise in the development of the 2019-2022 National Health Security Strategy.
- In August and again in September, NAEMT commented on the NHTSA-sponsored project to revise the National EMS Education Standards. We expressed concern with the lack of EMS stakeholder involvement in the drafting of the revisions, among other issues.
- Last month, we provided our comments to CMS on their proposed rule governing the process they will use to collect cost, revenue, utilization, and other information on ground ambulance service and on their proposed data collection instrument.
- And, we continued to speak out on one of the most important issues for our members - pay and benefits, calling for equitable compensation for the EMS workforce and equitable reimbursement for the patient care we provide.

NAEMT hosted the 10<sup>th</sup> annual EMS On The Hill Day on April 10<sup>th</sup>. It was another incredible event with 250 EMS professionals - practitioners, physicians, educators, and fire chiefs - representing EMS agencies from all delivery models from 40 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico, attending meetings with 200 congressional leaders and their staff at which key EMS issues were discussed.

Please mark your calendars for March 24-25, 2020 for next year's EMS On The Hill. This event is a critical part of our advocacy effort and you are all invited and encouraged to attend.

Election season is coming. Primaries will begin in early 2020. Now more than ever, we must have strong visibility with national and state elected officials to ensure that they understand what EMS needs to deliver quality patient care. One way to strengthen our presence with elected leaders is by contributing to their election or reelection campaigns through NAEMT's EMS PAC. We established the PAC last year and we thank those members who have made contributions. All contributions of all sizes are welcomed. For more information on how to contribute, please visit the NAEMT Booth on the EMS World Exhibit floor, #1029. Our NAEMT EMS PAC Steering Committee is also available to answer any and all questions about our PAC.

In May, NAEMT partnered with ACEP to promote National EMS Week. Focusing on this year's theme, *Beyond the Call*, NAEMT highlighted on social media the hundreds of EMS Week celebrations, recognitions, media reports, and gestures of appreciation for EMS practitioners and agencies around the country. Thank you to the many members who submitted stories and photos. We were honored to highlight your work.

Early in the year, we conducted a survey of our members to understand what their agencies were doing to prevent and respond to acts of violence against their personnel. The results of this survey have just been published in the NAEMT National Report on EMS Violence. This report provides a very clear picture of this ongoing challenge and provides recommended actions that EMS agencies can take to protect and support practitioners. I want to recognize the members of our EMS Workforce Committee for their contributions to this tremendous work. Congratulations team! Great job. This report will be distributed to all NAEMT members, national and state EMS organizations, federal agencies, and congressional offices.

This same team was also responsible for producing the 2019 Guide to Building an Effective EMS Wellness and Resilience Program designed to assist EMS agencies in developing programs that aid their EMS personnel in maintaining their physical, mental and emotional well-being. This guide is free and can be downloaded from the Publications tab on NAEMT's web site.

Our EMS 3.0 Committee also produced a survey that was sent to EMS managers and MIH-CP program contacts asking them what non-traditional EMS services their agencies are currently offering. The results of this survey will provide our industry with a snapshot of what types of non-traditional EMS services are being offered, how they are being delivered, and how agencies are receiving payment for these services. We will present these findings as an infographic in the near future.

Turning to education... and folks... these are just the highlights, NAEMT published new education curricula, conducted webinars and hosted workshops to strengthen the knowledge and skills of EMS practitioners, and provided EMS agencies with resources to improve their operations and support their personnel.

- In January, the 9th edition PHTLS course materials published in English. In March, NAEMT held its first ever PHTLS Instructor Update in another language and another country, when Dr. Alex Eastman, Aaron Miranda and Kim Mace presented the Update in Spanish in Quito, Ecuador. In June, the 9th edition published in Spanish. A big thanks goes out to the multinational Spanish Editorial Committee led by Dr. Alejandro Gomez that our publishers Jones and Bartlett Learning used to ensure that our Spanish translation was produced accurately and on time. PHTLS is being translated or localized in 15 additional editions, and we have many dedicated faculty around the globe involved in this effort.
- In March, NAEMT collaborated with NAEMSP and IAFC to conduct a free webinar on the new Emergency Triage, Treat and Transport (ET3) Model created by the CMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). The webinar, sponsored by ESO Solutions and FirstWatch, provided the clinical, operational, and financial details for EMS agencies to consider before submitting an application to participate in the ET3 model.
- In April, NAEMT hosted two EMS 3.0 workshops in conjunction with EMS On The Hill Day—one workshop focused on building relationships with payers, and the other presented an overview of the skills and knowledge needed to become a community paramedic. All workshop participants attended the keynote

luncheon speech presented by Dr. Dawn Alley, Director of the Prevention and Population Health Group at CMMI and the ET3 Project Lead.

- Also in April, NAEMT hosted a free *Get Ahead of Stroke* webinar in collaboration with the Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery to help prepare EMS practitioners to respond to stroke patients. The webinar was supported by an educational grant from Medtronic.
- In June, the 2nd edition of NAEMT's Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) 16-hour course published in English. This course is also being translated into multiple languages for its global audience. And, in August, we held a beta-test of the 8-hour version of this course designed for law enforcement officers and other first responders. Responses from this beta will ensure that our content is appropriate and relevant to this key sector of the first response community. The TECC-LEO curriculum will be published in English by the end of the year.
- In August, NAEMT and the Academy of International Mobile Healthcare Integration (AIMHI) partnered to launch a new series of free one-hour webinars with CE credit on EMS finance. These webinars are designed to explain the economics of EMS, including
  - the sources of funding
  - how EMS system design and payer mix impact agency finances
  - the cost drivers of EMS service delivery
  - what Medicare, Medicaid and commercial insurers reimburse for EMS care
  - the anatomy of an ambulance response from 911 to reimbursement
  - how documentation impacts EMS reimbursements and
  - the impact of "in or out" of network on EMS reimbursement

The first two webinars have been very well attended, and the third webinar is scheduled for October 30. NAEMT thanks our corporate partner Zoll for sponsoring this webinar series. If you missed these webinars, they will be offered for CE on the online Recert education platform.

- Yesterday, NAEMT's Advanced Medical Life Support (AMLS) 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Instructor Update was conducted. Please join me in extending a very special thank you to the AMLS Committee for your efforts to make this update possible. And... our deep appreciation to the many chapter authors and editors, and lesson and patient simulation authors who are contributing to this third edition of a tremendous course. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition textbook will publish by the end of the month in English, and the course materials will be finalized by the end of the year.
- And, over the last two days, NAEMT conducted a beta test of a new Critical Care Test Prep course to help paramedics successfully take the Flight Paramedic and Critical Care Paramedic certification and recertification exams offered by IBSC. Thank you to our course authors - Keith Widmeier, Leslie Hernandez, Rick Slaven, Christie Rippel, Trent Dobbs, and Dr. Amjad Musleh.
- Today, over 300 EMS practitioners, emergency physicians, trauma surgeons, emergency nurses and trauma coordinators attended the 8<sup>th</sup> annual World Trauma Symposium. Thank you, Dr. Eastman for bringing together a superlative group of global trauma experts to share their insights. The Symposium truly is the best prehospital trauma conference in the world and the attendees enjoyed and benefited from such a great program. During the Symposium, three awards were presented to very worthy trauma leaders:
  - Retired Colonel, Trauma Surgeon, and U.S. House Representative from Ohio Brad Wenstrup received the 2019 Scott Frame Lecture Award. Representative Wenstrup saved his fellow congressman Steve Scalise from Louisiana during the tragic congressional baseball shooting a couple of years ago.
  - NAEMT Affiliate Faculty and Education Committee Member Dave Page received the 2019 Scott Frame Service Award for his globe-trotting efforts throughout Latin America and other parts of the world to bring NAEMT education to all prehospital providers that desire quality education.

- And NAEMT's Tactical Medical Director and Liaison to the Committee on TCCC, Dr. Warren Dorlac received the 2019 Norman McSwain Leadership Award for his outstanding leadership as a U.S. military trauma surgeon.

Please join me in recognizing and thanking these three outstanding individuals for sharing their tremendous expertise for the betterment of trauma patients.

And, to help our members, without whom none of these great achievements would be possible...

- NAEMT awarded \$25,000 in scholarships so far this year to NAEMT members to help advance their EMS careers. Through NAEMT's partnership with Columbia Southern University scholarship, another \$13,500 will be awarded by the end of the year. In addition, the NAEMT Foundation awarded \$3,000 in scholarships to individuals interested in pursuing a career in EMS.
- NAEMT has added many new member benefits this year -
  - 25% discounts on two online courses - First Responder Support & Resilience and Rescue D: Meeting the Needs of Patients with Disabilities from JBL's Public Safety Group. Both courses provide engaging simulations to prepare you for whatever strikes!
  - Through our partnership with Savvik,
    - a 24% discount on cellular service through AT&T;
    - up to 55% savings on FedEx shipping costs;
    - 20% discount on access to telemedicine through Live MD for members and their families; and
    - discounts at Staples.
  - And, this is in addition to the existing package of over 30 benefits that are included as part of your membership, including
    - \$10,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance;
    - \$125 registration discount to attend EMS World Expo;
    - scholarship opportunities to advance your career; and
    - member discounts on education and training, apparel and gear, personal and professional merchandise and travel and entertainment.

Be sure to visit the member benefits page of our website for an up-to-date list of all the benefits available to you.

And, my thanks to the members of NAEMT's membership committee and our network of Membership Coordinators for your outreach to members across the country. As a national organization, personally connecting with each of our members can be challenging. Our membership committee and coordinators have been out in the field attending state conferences and other state level events to ensure that our members can connect with NAEMT across the country.

These are just the highlights of the tremendous work being accomplished by the hundreds of members who volunteer their time to these projects and keep our association moving with forward momentum. Without their dedicated efforts, these accomplishments would not be possible.

And, I am proud to say that NAEMT continues to be the most transparent EMS organization in the country.

- We publish our membership numbers,
- We make the minutes of our Board meetings available for members right from our web site.
- We publish our audited financial statements each year in the NAEMT annual report.
- We have open elections in which all active members of the association can vote for members of the Board. In fact, the election period opened today and will remain open through October 28<sup>th</sup>. So, members, please exercise your right and vote online for the NAEMT directors of your choice.

- And...we maintain social media platforms to allow our members to express their opinions on EMS issue and their opinions about NAEMT, even when those opinions are not positive. The only restrictions we place on our members using these platforms is that profanity or harassment is not tolerated. As the organization representing the EMS profession, we must ensure that NAEMT maintains professional standards.

We take all of these actions because we understand that NAEMT is an organization of members. It's your organization, and we - the NAEMT Board, the committees and coordinators we appoint and the staff we employ - are stewards of your organization. You elect your Board members and entrust them with your organization and its resources. We carry out our responsibilities with the respect and integrity that our members deserve. Your elected leaders and your staff are deeply honored to serve you.

Looking back... I am extremely proud of the work we have done to advance our profession... for our EMS colleagues... our patients... and the communities we serve. It can never be stated often enough... all we do is made possible by you, our members. Let's give each other and our great association a round of applause for our significant accomplishments this year!

Thank you. It's now my pleasure to ask NAEMT Treasurer Terry David to the podium for the next segment of our program.

#### **TERRY:**

NAEMT's Corporate Partners are just that – our partners. They support our mission and the programs that represent and serve the EMS profession. On behalf of all members of NAEMT, please accept our appreciation and gratitude.

Will our Corporate Partner representatives please stand and remain standing when recognized?

#### **Elite Partners:**

1. Columbia Southern University
2. EMS World

#### **Premier Partners:**

1. iSimulate
2. JEMS
3. NREMT
4. The Public Safety Group of Jones and Bartlett Learning

#### **Diamond Partner:**

1. ZOLL

#### **Platinum Partners:**

1. FirstNet, Built by AT&T
2. Journal of Special Operations Medicine
3. Medtronic
4. OnStar
5. Stryker

**Gold Partners:**

1. Braun Industries
2. H&H Medical Products

**Silver Partners:**

1. American College of Emergency Physicians
2. Anthem
3. EMS1
4. ESO
5. First Watch
6. Medic Ambulance
7. MedLine Industries
8. The Morgan Lens, Mor-Tan

**Bronze Partners:**

1. Academi Training Centers
2. Genentech
3. McKesson
4. Nonin Medical
5. ProMed Network
6. Shell Fleet Solutions
7. Skedco
8. Special Operations Medical Association (SOMA)

**Annual Partners:**

1. 5.11 Tactical
2. Adroit Medical
3. Coalition Against Bigger Trucks
4. Digitech
5. Gaumard
6. Gold Cross
7. International Board of Specialty Certification (IBSC)
8. International Police Mountain Bike Association
9. Julota
10. Logis Solutions
11. Luna Innovations, Inc.
12. MedEx Billing
13. Nasco
14. National EMS Museum

15. North American Rescue
16. Page Wolfberg & Wirth
17. Panakeia
18. Pulsara
19. SAM Medical
20. Simulaids Lifeform by NASCO Healthcare
21. Solutions Group
22. SouthStar EMS
23. Trauma Center Association of America (TCAA)
24. United Healthcare
25. Z-Medica

**Service Partners:**

1. And all the service partners you see here on the screen.

Thank you to all corporate partners for your support and for the innovations, products and services you provide. I will now turn the podium back to Matt.

**MATT:**

Thank you, Terry. Our accomplishments would not be possible without the active engagement of our committees. NAEMT committee members spend many hours on our projects and initiatives. Please join me in thanking our committees. Again, please hold your applause until all are called. Committee members, please stand when your committee is announced:

1. Advocacy Committee, chaired by Troy Tuke
  2. Advanced Medical Life Support Committee, chaired by Jeff Messerole
  3. Candidacy and Elections Committee, chaired by Dennis Wilham
  4. Education Committee, chaired by Rick Ellis
  5. EMS 3.0 Committee, chaired by Matt Zavadsky
  6. EMS Disaster Preparedness Committee, chaired by Terry David
  7. EMS Workforce Committee, chaired by Sean Britton
  8. Emergency Pediatric Care Committee, chaired by Shannon Watson
  9. Finance Committee, chaired by Terry David
  10. Leadership Development Committee, chaired by Dennis Rowe
  11. Membership Committee, chaired by Chris Way
  12. Military Relations Committee, chaired by Dr. Craig Manifold
  13. NAEMT EMS PAC Steering Committee, chaired by Bruce Evans
  14. Prehospital Trauma Committee, chaired by John Phelps
- And two new committees established this year:
15. Regional European Education Committee
  16. Regional Latin American Education Committee

I also wish to recognize those members who serve as coordinators within their states and regions, and internationally to support our programs. I ask our coordinators to stand when called and be recognized:

1. Our network of state, provincial, regional and national education coordinators in the United States and in countries around the world. Thank you!
2. Our network of state-level Advocacy Coordinators. These members are our grassroots advocacy powerhouses. Thank you!
3. And, our network of Membership Coordinators working to recruit, retain and engage our members. Great work!

Now, please help me thank the Board of Trustees of the NAEMT Foundation. The NAEMT Foundation is a separate, non-profit organization. Its mission is to support a better future for EMS. Will our Foundation Trustees please stand?

The NAEMT Foundation awards scholarships to individuals interested in pursuing careers in EMS, and each year, sponsors the Health Occupations Student Association of America's International Leadership Conference, providing judges for the EMT competition at the event. Thank you, Trustees.

A main goal for NAEMT this year is to more actively support state associations, because we know that state legislation and regulation can have a profound impact of EMS and EMS practitioners. 44 EMS associations are affiliated with NAEMT, and their representatives form our Affiliate Advisory Council. This Council held their annual meeting earlier today. Thank you for your support of NAEMT and for sharing your insights and perspectives on important EMS issues. Will the Council members and chair, Susan Bailey, please stand as we applaud you with sincere thanks!

Now, I would like to recognize our Directors who will be retiring from the Board at the end of the year. Charlene Cobb and Sean Britton please join me at the podium

There is tremendous comradery within the ranks of our NAEMT Board, and so it is always difficult when one or more of our directors transitions off the team.

At-large Director Charlene Cobb has served NAEMT in many capacities, including as one of our EMS Safety Course authors, as a member of NAEMT's EMS Workforce Committee, and as our representative to the National EMS Museum, the National EMS Safety Council, and previously, as our representative to the CARES Registry. Charlene has been a tireless advocate for the safety and wellbeing of EMS practitioners, and we will surely miss her expertise, her thoughtfulness, and compassion. Charlene, on behalf of the association, please accept this plaque as a very small token of our esteem.

Region I Director Sean Britton has also been very involved in NAEMT initiatives during his tenure on the Board. He served as one of the original authors of our All Hazards Disaster Response course and as a member and vice-chair of the EMS Preparedness Committee, and currently serves as chair of our EMS Workforce Committee. He has drafted position statements and comments for the Board and serves as a PHTLS, AMLS, GEMS and AHDR instructor. He has represented NAEMT on the DHS SAFECOM Committee, and at other important EMS conferences. Sean has been a tremendous volunteer, frequently stepping up to participate on projects. Sean, on behalf of NAEMT, please accept this recognition as a symbol of our gratitude.

Charlene and Sean - we hope you will continue to be active in NAEMT activities and we wish you the very best for the future.

## **MATT:**

Each year, the NAEMT President has an opportunity to select individuals to receive Presidential Leadership Awards for their outstanding contributions to our association.

Rick Ellis...please join me at the podium. Rick serves as NAEMT's Education Committee Chair, and has provided a tremendous service to NAEMT in this capacity. He has led his committee to consider and approve several changes to our policies that have strengthened our education programs. He works in collaboration with other committee members and our network of coordinators to address faculty and training center issues as they arise. He has demonstrated tremendous leadership in this role, and as NAEMT's representative to CAAHEP and CoAEMSP. Rick, on behalf of everyone at NAEMT and our global faculty, thank you for your leadership.

Dennis Wilham...please join me at the podium. As I mentioned to our audience earlier in the program, today is the opening day of NAEMT's 2019 elections. We were able to open up our elections with strong confidence in our slate of candidates due to the leadership that Dennis has demonstrated as the Chair of NAEMT's Candidacy and Elections Committee. This committee does the behind the scenes work to review and verify all materials submitted by our candidates, and ensure that all candidates are adhering to NAEMT's candidacy and elections policies. In this role, Dennis has exemplified one of NAEMT's core values to conduct all NAEMT business with integrity and transparency, and adhere to the ethical standards of our profession. Dennis, on behalf of NAEMT, thank you for your leadership and integrity.

Shannon Watson...please join me at the podium. Shannon began volunteering her time as a member of the EPC committee back in 2015. When, the opportunity was offered, she accepted the role of EPC Committee Chair and has done a tremendous job of leading her team in the development of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of EPC which is scheduled for beta testing next March. Shannon also worked collaboratively with SMEs from the American Academy of Pediatrics to create online learning modules on special needs pediatric EMS patients that are now published on Recert. And, as her day job is Assistant Chief at Christian Hospital EMS, Shannon also stepped up to help NAEMT in the development of our new Community Paramedicine curriculum. Shannon, on behalf NAEMT and our faculty, thank you for your leadership to the association.

Congratulations to the 2019 recipients of the NAEMT Presidential Leadership Awards!

Now, it gives me great pleasure to begin the presentation of the 2019 National EMS Awards of Excellence. This year we received many excellent nominations and the recipients selected truly represent outstanding examples of the very best of our profession.

To begin I ask NAEMT Secretary Troy Tuke and Jonathan Epstein from the Public Safety Group of Jones and Bartlett Learning to present the NAEMT/Jones and Bartlett Learning EMS Educator of the Year award.

## **Troy:**

It's a true privilege to present the 2019 NAEMT/Jones and Bartlett Learning EMS Educator of the Year Award to Melissa Stuve of Portland, Texas. Melissa, please join us at the podium.

Melissa is the EMS Program Director at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas, and sits on the Education Committee of the state of Texas Governor's Emergency Trauma Advisory Council. She also serves as the Education Committee Chair for the Coastal Bend Regional Advisory Council and has been a question writer for the National Registry. Ricardo Quintero, Deputy Fire Chief, Corpus Christi Fire Department noted that "Melissa has demonstrated time and again her dedication and commitment to the success of Del Mar's Public Safety—EMS Program, as well as to each student engaged in the program." She directed the effort to achieve accreditation to assure quality instruction was delivered to every student. She introduced technology and improvements that gave students the resources to become skilled EMTs. Melissa continues to work on her own professional development and is completing her doctorate. "Her influence in the lives of practicing EMT's and paramedics cannot be emphasized enough," said Roberto Ruiz, an EMS Instructor under her supervision. Melissa Stuve, congratulations on being named the 2019 EMS Educator of the Year!

**MATT:**

Congratulations, Melissa! Now, I ask NAEMT At-Large Director Jon Washko and Tim Rubert and Harry Larson from Bound Tree to present the NAEMT/Bound Tree EMS Medical Director of the Year award.

**JON:**

It is our pleasure to announce the NAEMT/Bound Tree EMS Medical Director of the year is... **Dr. Michael Dailey** of Delmar, New York! Dr. Dailey, please join us at the podium.

Dr. Dailey is the Regional EMS Medical Director for REMO, a six-county region surrounding Albany, New York, with a population of close to one million people, and is also a Medical Director for a dozen EMS agencies. He is a member of multiple national and state organizations and has been a strong voice locally, playing an active role in protocol and systems development. Nominators Dr. Luke Duncan and Steven Kroll said Dr. Dailey, "has been one of the most significant and impactful EMS physicians and Medical Directors in New York State." Dr. Dailey is credited with helping agencies advance clinical improvement and excellence, and mentoring EMS agency leaders who struggle with sustainability and clinical issues. As the Chief of the Division of Prehospital and Operational Medicine and Professor of Emergency Medicine at Albany Medical Center, Dr. Daily is educating many young physicians to become EMS leaders. Jason Cohen, Chief Medical Officer of Boston MedFlight said, "Dr. Dailey is devoted, fair, competent, equitable, compassionate, and inspiring. He helps others and communities without pretense, working tirelessly to make things better for our patients and our profession."

It is an honor to congratulate **Dr. Michael Dailey** as our 2019 EMS Medical Director of the Year!

**MATT:**

Terrific! Now, I ask Terry David, NAEMT's Treasurer and Jarret Hammons from Braun Industries to present the NAEMT/Braun Industries EMT of the Year award.

It is our honor to present the NAEMT/Braun Industries EMT of the Year to **Freya Whalen** of Clever, Missouri. Freya, please join us at the podium.

Freya is an EMT for CoxHealth in Springfield, Missouri. Freya was nominated by her peer Aerla McCoy who said, "Freya is honest and genuinely compassionate to her patients, making them feel taken care of. She has a drive to make the patient experience the best healing experience possible. She is a shining example of an EMT." Freya is a volunteer fire lieutenant and EMT for a 911 and transfer hospital-based service. She is the recipient of Missouri's 2018 Kenneth E. Cole Memorial EMT-B of the Year award. Freya is passionate about passing knowledge to the next generation of EMTs. She is an EMT field training officer, providing prehospital training for newly hired and student EMTs. She educates the community in CPR, bleeding control, AED use, and injury prevention and safety. Freya has been an advocate for child safety, EMS practitioner safety and resilience, and patient care. Quoted in a local publication Freya said, "In healthcare, we are given a rare opportunity to be there for someone in their darkest time and to help them. Be it big or small, the things we do and say are important," she says.

Please join us in congratulating **Freya Whalen** as our 2019 EMT of the Year!

**MATT:**

Congratulations, Freya! Now, please welcome NAEMT President-elect Bruce Evans and Matthew Long from Nasco to present the NAEMT/Nasco Paramedic of the Year award.

**Bruce:**

The 2019 NAEMT/Nasco Paramedic of the Year Award — goes to **Debby Carscallen** of Moscow, Idaho. Debbie - please join us at the podium.

Debby Carscallen is a paramedic for the City of Moscow—Volunteer Fire Department in Idaho. Debby was nominated by Pam Rogers, a co-worker through Debby's volunteer roles as a firefighter, paramedic, police officer, and now EMS division chief for the City of Moscow. "She is an incredible and valuable member of our community and an outstanding paramedic," said Pam. Debby is recognized as a coach, teacher, leader, mentor, and champion

of the physical safety and emotional well-being of crews. Debby has improved the onboarding process and many volunteers have advanced to pursue careers in EMS. She recruited volunteers to help with fundraising to purchase AED's for all schools and police vehicles in the community. She is an advocate for CPR and Stop the Bleed classes and inspires others to become advocates for community education. Nicole Wheaton of Gritman Medical Center noted that "Debby is a paramedic whose purpose and focus are to serve her community and patients," Debby frequently spends evenings helping EMS agencies in small, rural communities conduct training. She is also working to create a Peer Support Group to support and advocate for the mental health of her First Responder community.

Please join us in congratulating **Debby Carscallen** as our 2019 Paramedic of the Year!

#### **MATT:**

Well done, Debby! And now I ask Brigadier General retired Craig Manifold, NAEMT Medical Director and Chair of NAEMT's Military Relations Committee... and Paul Vecchio from North American Rescue... to please come to the podium to present the NAEMT/ North American Rescue Military Medic of the Year award.

#### **CRAIG:**

It is an honor to present this year's Military Medic of the Year award to Petty Officer **Kenneth Russell**, based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and from Sequim, Washington. Petty Officer Russell, please join us at the podium.

Petty Officer Russell is a Special Operations Independent Duty Corpsman currently serving as the acting Medical Chief and Lead Petty Officer for Company M, 3D Marine Raider Battalion. Serving the US Navy for the past seven years, Petty Officer Russell has deployed with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion in Okinawa, Japan as well as serving two overseas tours to Africa with Marine Special Operations Teams. He is a successful leader, trainer, mentor and subject matter expert. "HM1 Russell is a top performer within Marine Special Operations Command," said HMCS Michael J. Mason. He was awarded the prestigious MARSOC Luke Milam Excellence Award in 2019 for his tremendous abilities both as a medical professional and a tactical leader. HM1 Russell led a responding joint Department of Defense team of over 30 personnel in the care of 21 multi-system trauma patients in prolonged evacuations of up to 6 hours. In the past year, HM1 Russell has molded a diverse group of specialists into a team, leading to the best possible outcome in a combat zone for nearly two dozen casualties. "Without reservation, HM1 Russell represents the top candidate for nomination by 3D Marine Raider Battalion, Marine Special Operations Command," stated HMCS Mason. Petty Officer Russell... on behalf of the EMS profession and the great country you serve... it is our honor to present you with the 2019 Military Medic of the Year Award!

#### **MATT:**

Thank you for your service, Petty Officer, Russell! Now, please welcome Hilary Gates of EMS World who will present the service awards.

#### **HILARY GATES:**

Good evening. I'll ask Terry Kehoe from ZOLL to help present the ZOLL Volunteer EMS Service Award. It is an honor to present the 2019 ZOLL Volunteer EMS Service award to **Princess Anne Courthouse Volunteer Rescue Squad** from Virginia Beach. Will the members of the **Princess Anne Courthouse Volunteer Rescue Squad** – this year's Volunteer EMS Service of the Year – please come to the stage.

This agency has served the emergency medical needs of the Princess Anne/General Booth/Redmill/Salem areas of the City of Virginia Beach since 1947. Its 110 operational and administrative members serve approximately 50,000 hours per year and answers approximately 5,000 calls annually. Committed to professional development, the agency's leadership nominates members for recognition through local, regional, and national programs as well as outside community organizations. Princess Anne Courthouse provides coordination, scheduling and staffing for large-scale events, as well as community education and employee training. Regularly scheduled "Squad Days" promote comradery. On May 31 of this year, Princess Anne's units were the first on the scene of the Virginia Beach Active Shooter incident. On June 2, members walked from the agency's home station to the memorial site to pay respects before gathering at a local eatery for dinner. "We work and respond to calls together, so it is only right we break bread together," said Trevor Kirk, chair of the board of directors. "We join the rest of the city in

making sure Virginia Beach will not be remembered as a place of violence, but as a place of unwavering support and love for our community.”

## **HILARY**

I asked that Alex Lester from Ferno join me to help present the NAEMT/Dick Ferneau Career Service Award. It is our pleasure to present the 2019 Dick Ferneau Career EMS Service award to the **San Antonio Fire Department EMS** of Texas. Will the members of the **San Antonio Fire Department EMS** – this year’s Career Service of the Year – please come to the stage.

San Antonio EMS serves the city and surrounding regions with a 400-person staff, 43 ambulances and an EMS budget of \$68 million, responding to 160,000 calls per year. The agency is innovative, progressive and fearless when it comes to protecting the health and safety of citizens and prehospital responders. In October 2018, San Antonio EMS began to offer patients whole blood as a treatment for hemorrhagic shock. The agency has deployed behavioral health and MIH programs that are a first of their kind in the nation. As a response to threats of MCIs, terror attacks and active shooter incidents, San Antonio EMS and UT Health Department of Emergency Health Sciences, Office of the Medical Director collaborated to form the Medical Special Operations Unit, a specialized team of paramedics trained to provide the highest level of medical care and ensure the health of uniformed personnel. The agency strives to improve out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival and has created a medical screening tool for behavioral health patients, a wildland firefighter force protection team, a prehospital infant safe sleep initiative, an acute care station in the largest homeless shelter in Texas, a sepsis triage protocol, LVO stroke identification tool, and clinical operating guidelines apps.

## **MATT:**

Wow... congratulations again to all of this year’s National EMS Awards of Excellence recipients. You are all shining EMS stars in our profession. Thanks again to our sponsors for their support in recognizing those whose outstanding achievements have made a difference for their patients and communities.

Our final award... the Rocco V. Morando Lifetime Achievement Award... is NAEMT’s most prestigious recognition of an individual’s contribution to prehospital emergency medical care and the EMS profession. The award is granted to select individuals who, through their actions, leadership and spirit, have demonstrated a lifetime commitment and dedication to the advancement of EMS. The National Registry of EMTs is the generous sponsor of this award and I now ask NREMT Executive Director, Bill Seifarth and NREMT Board Chair, Dr. Bob Swor to join me at the podium for the award presentation.

THE 2019 ROCCO V. MORANDO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT IS DR. DAVID E. PERSSE.

Dr. Persse’s career in medicine started with 10 years of experience as a field paramedic and paramedic instructor in upstate New York and New Jersey. After receiving his pre-med training at Columbia University in New York City, he attended Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. Dr. Persse completed residency training in emergency medicine at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, California. He completed fellowship training in emergency medical services at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and the City of Houston Emergency Medical Services program. He also completed his fellowship resuscitation research at the Ohio State University.

Following his EMS fellowship, Dr. Persse became the assistant medical director for the emergency medical services system of Houston. He then moved to California to become the medical director of the Los Angeles County Paramedic Training Institute, and the assistant medical director of the Los Angeles County EMS Agency. In 1996, Dr. Persse assumed the role of the Director of Emergency Medical Services for the City of Houston. In May 2004, he was appointed by the City Council as Houston’s Public Health Authority.

He has been the lead author or co-author on over 40 peer-reviewed journal articles. He has overseen Houston’s Public Health response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike, and Harvey, as well as the H1N1 influenza pandemic, and he is currently the incident commander for the Zika virus response.

Dr. Persse is a member of the board of directors and executive committee for the South East Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council and is past chair of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. He is a 2015 EMS Top 10 Innovator Award Winner from the Journal of Emergency Medical Services. He has been recognized by ACEP, NAEMSP, and other national organizations for his leadership in EMS.

Dr. Persse is a Professor of Emergency Medicine at Baylor and associate professor of emergency medicine at the University of Texas McGovern Medical School. He is also a tactical physician with the Houston police S.W.A.T. team as well as adjunct faculty for EMS Fellowship at UT McGovern Medical School.

His leadership and selfless giving of his time, talent and expertise has advanced EMS as a profession and improved patient care.

On behalf of NAEMT and NREMT, it is our honor to recognize Dr. Persse with this most prestigious award.

**Matt:**

Thank you, Dr. Persse, for your service to our EMS profession.

We are now at the conclusion of this year's General Membership Meeting. I invite you all to join me in La Nouvelle Ballroom B for some fun at the NAEMT Member Reception, generously sponsored by Columbia Southern University, FirstNet, Built by AT&T, and the National Registry of EMTs. Thank you!