

# NCEMSF NEWS

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**“Great organizations grow around people who listen and solve problems together”**

## Message from the President

*Dr. George J. Koenig, Jr., NCEMSF President*

Every year when the medical director of my volunteer ambulance company addresses our membership at our annual meeting he passionately tells our members how proud he is of their dedication, commitment, and excellent care that they provide to patients. His speech inspires and energizes our members as he describes the joy that he feels when he sees our crews in action. His words of praise light up our member's faces and brighten the entire room. The impact of this speech is immeasurable. It sets a tone that permeates through the organization.

In campus EMS, passion provides the backbone of our organization and is vital to success. In an environment where there are many competing forces, passion is the difference between organizational success and failure. There are many different motivators for each of us as to why we participate in EMS. For some, it is the camaraderie of being part of a team. For others, it is the feeling of helping others when they are injured or the thrill of encountering the unknown. The ability to convert motivation to passion is the difference between organizations that strive for excellence and those that simply maintain a status quo.

Cultivating passion begins with recruitment. It sounds obvious but you need to recruit the right people. On college campuses there usually is not a shortage of interested people wanting to join your organization. We readily accept people who have previous training and experience. It is the most practical solution to staffing our organizations. These members are ready to go versus having to wait an entire semester to complete training. However, we are less likely to assess how these members fit in with the culture of our organization. We should consider changing how we select our members focusing on passion and commitment first and experience second. Otherwise, we risk being a stepping-stone for our members who are more interested in their next step rather than the progress of the organization.

Once you have the right people, communication is key. Great organizations grow around people who listen and solve

problems together. It is important to celebrate accomplishments, but equally important to critique shortcomings. The goal is to create a culture that recognizes when things don't work and adjusts to solve the problem. In order to facilitate this culture, your members need to understand that they can speak freely without fear of repercussion. It is equally important to listen to what is going on outside of your organization to understand potential trends, challenges, and opportunities. If funding to student organizations was slated to be cut as part of a university fiscal plan, it would behoove you to hear about that in advance so that you could be proactive. Organizations that operate in isolation are more at risk of failing. You are part of a community and you need to remain connected to those that you serve.

Culture change does not occur overnight. It takes time and commitment to the process. However, once you have achieved a new culture, protect it. Identify people that seek to destroy your culture of passion and replace them. Constructive criticism is healthy, but constant undermining through backroom discussions and relentless complaining is toxic. It is important to recognize individuals that are not a good fit and address the problem instead of hoping that they will go away or waiting for them to graduate. They prevent you from achieving your goal and leave way for the next person to do the same.

Finally, create space and time for creativity and interaction. Culture is created in person and through interaction. Culture cannot be created over email, Snapchat, or Instagram. It needs personal interaction. Most crew rooms focus on a large TV or a place to study, neither of which promotes dialogue between members. Consider your physical space and how you could change it to promote interaction and creativity? If it does, think about ways to capture ideas that are generated? Highly successful organizations harness ideas to continually change their organization and maintain their competitive edge.

Best wishes for a great 2016!

## Regional Roundup (October to December 2015)

### News from Around the NCEMSF Regions

#### From the National Coordinator

The Regional Coordinator (RC) network facilitates communication between NCEMSF and its constituents. It is through the Regional Coordinators that NCEMSF best accomplishes its mission of advocating and supporting campus based EMS. The Regional Coordinators are equipped to assist each squad with the day-to-day issues it faces and to help publicize squad achievements. There are few issues that the NCEMSF leadership has not seen before and for which it is not equipped to offer advice and guidance.

**Did You Know?** NCEMSF has a **grant program** to provide financial support for regional events and special projects that directly further the NCEMSF mission. Sponsored activities must be educational in nature and provide direct benefit to campus EMS. For further information, eligibility requirements, program rules, or a grant application, contact your RC.

**Regional training days** are great ways to harness the energy of campus EMS at the local level. Contact your RC to coordinate goals and dates with the NCEMSF national agenda.

Regional Coordinator **vacancies** exist in several regions - see online for information and application and if interested please email [nc@ncemsf.org](mailto:nc@ncemsf.org).

#### Central

*Texas A&M EMS and Emergency Care Team* were featured in the most recent issue of Spirit magazine, the publication of the Texas A&M Foundation. The article covered the group's history as well as profiled its current operations.

*Rice University EMS* participated along with the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council, Texas Emergency Medical Task Force 6, Baylor College of Medicine, and others as the Rice campus hosted a Disaster Day, which included free training for emergency responders



and physicians as well as demonstrations of emergency response equipment, including a field hospital tent. In honor of collegiate EMS week, Rice President and Senior Leadership posed for a picture with the Rice crew.

#### Massachusetts

On Saturday October 24th colleges from all over Massachusetts gathered for the first annual "Massachusetts Meet-Up". With over 70 college students in attendance, the day was filled with lectures, labs, and networking opportunities. For leadership, a round table was offered where leaders from all MA schools were able to talk about the most important issues faced in collegiate EMS. Overall, attendees were awarded 8 hours of continuing education, all free of charge – sponsored by NCEMSF and Pro-EMS of Cambridge.

Student skills were tested in various simulations provided by Pro-EMS to insert the students into situations common on college campuses. All simulations were supervised and debriefed by Pro's top instructors! Additionally, labs included BLS Airway Management where students practiced positioning airways with the use of mannequins and pig lungs.

Lastly, Boston EMS, Boston Med-Flight, Cambridge Fire and PD were able to make visits! Overall, the day was a huge success for Massachusetts!

*Tufts University (TEMS)* is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year!

#### Mid Atlantic

*Georgetown GERMS* recently promoted many of its members to lead EMTs. To celebrate College EMS week, GERMS provided bystander CPR training on campus. GERMS also participated in a standby at the French Embassy during a speech by the French President.

*Hopkins (HERO)* held its annual MCI drill in late October where members had the opportunity to practice responding to a large-scale event. For collegiate EMS week, HERO taught bystander CPR on campus and provided blood pressure screenings at the recreation center.

*Radford EMS* has been working to upgrade its capabilities and equipment by building a new response box for its vehicle.

*University of Richmond (UREMS)* recently elected new leadership for the 2016 calendar year. For Collegiate EMS week, UREMS published a "provider spotlight" on its social media pages to highlight the accomplishments of one of its members for each day during the week. UREMS was also recognized by its University and by the Richmond Ambulance service for all of its hard work throughout the year. UREMS also held its semi-annual EVOC course to train its members in driver safety.

#### New York

*Purchase College EMS* received its BLSFR Agency Code from NY State!



#### Northern New England

*Dartmouth EMS* was awarded the New Hampshire Bureau of EMS 2015 Bound Tree Corporation "Unit of the Year."

**Do you have news about your squad you'd like to share? Contact your RC and look for it in the next issue.**

## Beyond the Lights and Sirens

*Dr. Scott C. Savett, NCEMSF Vice President and Chief Technology Officer*

Thanks to a Pavlovian response, even a seasoned EMT's pulse increases when the pager alerts. For some, one of the most difficult things is to "sit one out" and let another crew member take a call. But sometimes that's exactly what's needed for the good of the organization.

Case in point: I am a trustee of an ambulance squad in the Philadelphia suburbs. The four trustees are responsible for interviewing prospective volunteer members. Conveniently, the squad's board meetings frequently coincide with my regular duty shift. Knowing that a prospective member was scheduled to arrive at 6:30pm, I had a decision to make when the tones for a "fall victim" call sounded at 5:50pm. If I took the call, I certainly wouldn't be back in time for the interview. Thankfully, the choice to stay behind was easy since I was a "third rider" supplementing a crew of two capable paramedics. The prospective member showed up a few minutes early, and I took the opportunity to tell her about the squad and give her a

station tour before the other trustees arrived.

One could make an argument that since an ambulance squad's main function is to provide patient care, I should have joined the crew for the fall victim call. I would counter that an organization's leadership team has an obligation to do what's the best for the organization, even if it means forgoing the potential adrenaline of an emergency call. Hanging back for the next call or to do necessary administrative work is just as important as being on the ambulance going to a call.

How do your on-duty members fill time between calls? Are there designated chores such as station upkeep and washing squad vehicles? The most successful campus EMS squads have well-established checklists for tasks each shift needs to complete. Whether it's restocking the first-in bag or ensuring there's enough toilet paper in the squad bathroom, there are essential tasks for the successful short-term operation of the

squad. They are certainly not glamorous tasks, but necessary nonetheless.

Ensuring your group's continued existence is another not-so-glamorous aspect of campus EMS. Unfortunately, it's something that's frequently overlooked, both by campus EMS leaders and the rank-and-file membership. The long-term work to maintain a campus squad is never done. Over-arching tasks such as recruitment and retention, budgeting, succession planning, continuous quality improvement, building community relations, and training are integral to keeping an organization afloat. Perhaps most important among long-range tasks are fostering and maintaining strong relationships with your school's administration. Remember, it is the diligent work "beyond the lights and sirens" that allows your squad to display its best work. This applies whether treating a trauma patient or planning a squad picnic.



## Start-Up Update

As the startup coordinator, I spend most of my time fielding questions about liability concerns of operating a campus based EMS. While the US can be quite litigious, there is little case law, thankfully, involving collegiate based EMS. As volunteers, in many states students fall under Good Samaritan laws providing protection for any acts performed with the goal of helping others. Insurance coverage varies tremendously between squads, with some provided with actual medical malpractice coverage by the university and others covered by the university umbrella insurance policy covering student organizations. Whatever your own situation, it is important to approach the university administration with an open mind and learn about your own state and local laws. The more prepared you are when approaching the administration, the better their response will be with regards to supporting your initiative.

Joey Grover, MD  
NCEMSF Startup Coordinator

## HEARTSafe CAMPUS

NCEMSF proudly presented eight new campus organizations with the HeartSafe designation at last year's conference. These organizations have continued to encourage and promote community awareness of the potential for saving lives with CPR and early defibrillation.

In 2013, NCEMSF developed the initiative to designate college communities as HeartSafe Campuses, which promote:

- Trained First Responders
- Public Access Defibrillation
- Early Access to Advanced Care
- Community CPR and AED Training
- Preventative Healthcare Activities

The intent of this program is to recognize quality campus based EMS organizations and their communities and hold them out as examples to other campuses as a means to improve overall cardiac arrest care. Information and applications can be found online [www.heartsafecampus.org](http://www.heartsafecampus.org).

Furthermore, NCEMSF collects data regarding Cardiac Arrests on campuses with EMS organizations. While our data set is small, it continues to grow on an annual basis with 5-10 submissions per year. We remind all organizations, to submit this data to the NCEMSF Cardiac Arrest Registry (<https://www.ncemsf.org/resources/research>). This data will help obtain information about how cardiac arrests occurring on college campuses

may differ from the general population and may ultimately shift how we provide care in these areas.

Lastly, NCEMSF in partnership with the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association will once again recognize cardiac arrest CPR/AED rescues made on campuses at our annual conference. The recognition items are a uniform commendation bar and certificate which will be presented at the awards ceremony.

Please submit information for recognition of your campus EMS responders who participated in a cardiac arrest rescue and will be attending the conference by February 12th to ensure your responders are recognized.

## Philadelphia Papal Visit - Campus Providers Standby

Penn MERT sent 22 EMTs to provide coverage on bikes for the September Papal visit. Members were stationed in each of the zones that Philadelphia Fire Department (PFD) had set up on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, with one member even being stationed on stage behind the Pope. Temple and Drexel EMTs participated as well.



Preparation required a strong collaborative effort from many of the teams' leadership. Final approval to send members to participate did not come until a few weeks before the historic visit. Before receiving formal approval, MERT officers met with Penn's Vice President of Public Safety as well as other members of Penn's Division of Public Safety, Student Health Services, Risk Management, and the Philadelphia Fire Department. MERT held two additional special trainings for the event as well. One was with their Medical Director to review anticipated medical emergencies such as heat related emergencies, diabetic emergencies, and traumatic injuries. The other extra training was with PFD Executive Chief Ray McCahery to review logistical concerns as well as non-medical considerations for special details like the papal visit. Some of the topics they discussed related to failure of radio communication or things as simple as using bikes to block off a treatment area

for someone in a crowd, something we wouldn't have to often consider during normal operations.

Officers made sure that members had answers for all operational and logistical questions to ensure members felt as comfortable as possible going into the weekend. Some concerns stemmed from the fact that they would be using different equipment than what they were used to, specifically pulse-ox monitors and epipens. They also sought answers to the plan in case of inclement weather, filing special reports, member injuries, etc.

One of the Penn Administration's largest concerns was whether MERT would be able to provide the same level of care to the Penn community while sending members to the Parkway. It required a bit of extra work, but they were able to fill their schedule with extra crews to cover the university in addition to aiding the city.

Working on the parkway itself was a

really wonderful experience for all of their members. Most of were partnered with other MERT members, but some were paired with PFD medics to form an ALS unit. Regardless of who they were stationed with, all members were integrated into the Philadelphia SERT system and were given radios to be fully integrated into the command chain. Overall, this experience gave MERT members a clear look into the amount of detailed planning that goes into covering a detail like this one.

Covering this detail alongside PFD was truly a once in a lifetime experience. Beyond having the close-up view of the Pope, many of MERT members were excited to be integrated into such a complex response system. For members more interested in emergency response preparation, the insight into this large-scale planning was unsurpassed.



## Campus EMS Providers Assist with Two AMTRAK Derailments

Last May, members of *Temple University EMS (TUEMS)* were building tables for the TUPD Administrative building that had received a recent face lift, including the installation of TUEMS' permanent headquarters and a new multipurpose training room when the group received a message regarding a train derailment. Members watched the initial story unfold on CNN: "AMTRAK Train 188 derailed in Philadelphia's Port Richmond neighborhood. Emergency crews are now responding to the wreckage."

Following the shock of the scenario, their first thought was "What can we do?" Port Richmond is located four miles from Temple. Yet responding to this MCI on bikes without rescue equipment was quickly voted down as inappropriate. TUPD suggested a smarter alternative: Temple University Hospital (TUH). TUH is less than two miles from Temple's Main Campus and had activated its MCI plan in anticipation of the influx of patients as the closest Level I Trauma Center to the derailment. A text page was sent to all active providers to head to TUH.

Members of TUEMS responded from various Philadelphia neighborhoods as quickly as they could, at times in parallel with incoming Philadelphia Police Department vans filled with victims of the crash with varying injuries. TUEMS' Medical Director was the emergency attending leading the scene that night. Upon making contact with him, members were assigned to help triage and move patients to the proper triage zones within the emergency department. The combined response between the city's first responders and receiving hospitals went smoothly and members were released within four hours. All those who responded from TUEMS reported to headquarters for a quick "hot-wash" discussion of the response.

The lessons learned in responding to the train derailment were invaluable. One of the first orders of business following the incident was to publish the first version of the TUEMS MCI Plan. The highlights of this version included a "Chain of Command Contact System" to notify TUEMS Administration if Temple

University or Temple Health activates their MCI Plan, a decision making guide as to where providers should respond based on the location of the MCI, and mandatory CISD after any MCI response by TUEMS personnel.

Despite the uniqueness of TUEMS' capabilities and subsequent response, all those who responded were honored to help the city in its time of need.

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*Norwich University EMS* members aided with an AMTRAK derailment in their community. In total 98 passengers and four crew members were involved with the vast majority transported to the Plumley Armory at Norwich University via school bus. Overall thirteen members of Northfield Ambulance Service responded, twelve of these were either current students or graduates with previous involvement with NU EMS.



**How were  
Collegiate EMS  
Week and CPR  
Day celebrated  
on your  
campus???**

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## EMS Week 2015

*Jeffrey J. Bilyk, NCEMSF EMS Week Coordinator*

The 17th Annual National College EMS Week was held November 9-15. Modeled after National EMS Week in May, Collegiate EMS Week is a week-long recognition and celebration of campus based EMS and provides an annual opportunity for campus-based EMS organizations to highlight their activities and educate their communities.

*RPI Ambulance* celebrated Collegiate EMS Week with a variety of community engagement activities. It kicked off the week by tabling in the Rensselaer Union, informing the community of its services. Throughout the day members instructed students and staff on how to perform hands-only CPR. On Wednesday, RPI warmed up cold students and faculty by handing out hot chocolate and giving tours of its ambulance and first response vehicle. The week continued with a presentation and training drill by Empire Service Dogs, out of Albany, NY. The goal of this activity was to inform members of the protocols and mechanics when transporting a patient with a service animal. The busy week concluded on Saturday at RPI's hockey game against Brown University. Between the second and third period, the officers were invited onto the ice for introductions and assistance with the "chuck-a-puck" competition. The officers also drove the first response vehicle, FR-59, onto the ice to mark its 1-year anniversary since being placed into service. Overall, the week helped engage the community and spread knowledge about campus EMS.



*SUNY Geneseo First Response* held public CPR training on Tuesday and hosted an infectious disease lecture on Wednesday. On Thursday it organized blood pressure clinics and make your own first aid kits.

*Tufts EMS* taught hands only CPR on Monday. On Tuesday it hosted a session "Get to know Tufts" during which community members had the opportunity to talk with TEMS members, and explore TEMS history. Thursday activities focussed on "Do you know what to do in an emergency?" Members instructed attendees on when to call an ambulance, what to expect when the ambulance arrives, and more to keep



your friends and you safe in any emergency situation. On Friday the emphasis was on "How can you make our campus safer?" Those present learned how to spot a stroke, when to be alerted to a cardiac emergency, tips on alcohol safety, and how to make your own first aid kit.

*Syracuse University EMS* participated in CPR Day. On Tuesday, it sponsored an emergency vehicle exposition as well as an alcohol awareness booth. The rest of the week, it hosted vital signs bootches, more CPR awareness and a blood drive.

*University of Dayton Rescue Squad* conducted a blood drive and CPR training. On Friday, students had the opportunity to dunk and pie members of UDRS for charity. Saturday, a Careflight medical helicopter landed on campus.

*Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI EMS)* taught hands-only CPR, performed washing hands experiments, campus extrication drills, and had other great events throughout Collegiate EMS Week!

UMass Lowell staffed tables for the week to educate on hands-only CPR.



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In addition to making a continued commitment to the advancement of existing collegiate emergency medical services and the development of new response groups, your membership provides financial support to promote Collegiate EMS Week and our annual conference, produce publications, honor outstanding collegiate EMS organizations, and advocate for collegiate EMS.

Your membership in NCEMSF also entitles you to a number of member discounts including medical software and reference, EMS equipment and supplies, apparel and *EMS World Magazine*. These offers and discounts are detailed on our Website.

Your NCEMSF membership adds to the collective strength of hundreds of members throughout the nation - those participating in and advocating for collegiate EMS. Renewing your NCEMSF membership for the 2015-2016 academic year shows your continuing commitment to collegiate EMS. NCEMSF also offers life memberships that keep you in touch with the world of collegiate EMS. More information about our membership categories and rates can be found online at [www.ncemsf.org/membership](http://www.ncemsf.org/membership).



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