Dear Members,

In accordance with NAEMT’s Bylaws, it is the responsibility of our association’s Active members to approve amendments to our Bylaws. Your Board of Directors has recommended changes to the Bylaws that you will be asked to approve through our electronic voting process that will take place on October 15-28. Here is a link to the NAEMT Bylaws in which the proposed changes have been highlighted.

Below is a synopsis of the proposed changes:

- **3.2.7 Squad**  
  This recommended change updates this section to reflect the terminology we are using to describe this type of membership. It also clarifies membership privileges for individual agency members who may qualify as Active or Associate members as defined by the bylaws.

- **5.2.1 Qualifications for Director**  
  This recommendation eliminates attendance at the NAEMT annual meeting as a means to qualify as a candidate for director, and adds in participation as a state or regional coordinator for any of NAEMT’s programs and serving as a Trustee of the NAEMT Foundation as additional means to qualify as a candidate for director. The NAEMT annual meeting is free to all members, includes multiple events, and has no required registration process or fee. Attendance at the annual meeting as a qualification for director has been difficult to verify and is open to discrepancy.

These next two recommendations come from my recent experiences. Last November, I suffered a heart attack. I was very fortunate to receive excellent patient care from the EMS practitioners at Charleston County (SC) EMS, the emergency room staff at Roper St. Francis Hospital and my heart specialists. I am also pleased to report that I have fully recovered and am back to my regular routine. When my second in command in Charleston notified NAEMT Headquarters of my condition, NAEMT staff was immediately in contact with our president-elect, and the other members of the Board.

When I returned to the office, I took the opportunity to review our bylaws to find out what would happen next in the event that I had not been able to continue as President. What I learned is that if I was no longer able to serve, the President-elect would assume my responsibilities – thereby creating a vacancy in the position of President-elect. Our current bylaws do not provide for a special election to fill the vacancy in the president-elect position. It became apparent that our bylaws needed to be amended to ensure that whoever becomes the NAEMT President-elect is duly elected by the Active members, rather than appointed to fill a vacancy. The following revisions are therefore recommended:
• **5.6 Vacancies**  
Clarifies the succession process in the event of a vacancy in the office of president. It also modifies the process for filling a vacancy in the other officer positions so that vacancies in the positions of President-elect, Treasurer, and Secretary will be filled through a special election, rather than by presidential appointment.

• **6.5 President-elect**  
Clarifies role of the President-elect by removing “disability” as an additional reason for the President-elect to serve in place of the President. The Board felt that the term “absence” in addition to “vacancy” discussed in section 5.6 is sufficiently broad enough to cover all situations. Furthermore, “disability” is not defined in the current bylaws, and attempting to define it would require a lengthy and complex legal explanation that could limit the Board’s ability to meet the needs of the organization in the event of an extended absence of the President.

I hope you will vote to approve these bylaws changes. The request for approval will be included as a separate question on the ballot for the 2014 elections. **Voting will be open from October 15-28.** If you have any questions regarding the bylaws changes or voting, please email us at elections@naemt.org or call us at 1-800-34-NAEMT.

Sincerely,

Don Lundy, BS, CEMSO, NREMT-P  
President, NAEMT