

## **2014 NAEMT General Membership Meeting**

### **Our Goals for the Future**

#### **President-elect Chuck Kearns Remarks**

Leadership is essential to the growth and accomplishments of any organization, and my friend, Don Lundy, has provided it amply. This association has reached a new level of progress these past two years – and I am both hopeful and determined to carry out our mission with the same conviction as Don.

With so many changes happening in our nation’s healthcare system – and transforming our EMS profession – there is much to do, and it has never been more important for our association and members to do what we do best...

- Advocate for the betterment of our profession and our patients;
- Continue our responsibility to provide the most advanced and evidence-based education to our profession; and
- Remain in the forefront of innovations and collaborations to ensure that EMS has an integrated – and expanded role – in the nation’s future healthcare system.

To keep the focus of the association on track, I have worked with the other board members to develop NAEMT’s strategic plan for the next three years. It is now complete and will be emailed to all members following this meeting. The focus points for our

strategic plan were selected because they support and provide strength to all other areas.

Among them...

- To support the transformation of our profession as an essential and integrated component of our nation's healthcare system.
- To lead the effort to pass the Field EMS Bill by obtaining at least 145 co-sponsors in the House and 30 co-sponsors in the Senate.
- And, to reinforce our membership with the goal of reaching 13,000 full members by 2017.

Ambitious? *[pause]*... Yes. But, if we work together... I am confident we'll attain all of them.

As a professional association, we gain strength through our members – strength that gives us a louder voice on Capitol Hill, strength from the added talent and innovation brought in through new leadership, and strength derived from a broader EMS network that blankets our nation and expands to other countries.

I'm very encouraged that our membership has been on a steady rise... growing nearly 6% since the beginning of last year. It is good, but with so much still to accomplish, we

all need to do our part to share NAEMT's mission of serving all in EMS, regardless of delivery model. And, that all are welcome to join us and help us better the professional lives of everyone in EMS, and our patients!

Don already presented the accomplishments of our association, so I'll just add this... Our association would not be where we are without the vision, dedication and perseverance of our volunteers. Behind every program, initiative and product are endless hours of work and refinement. We have placed standards of excellence on ourselves that I assure you are not easy to live up to – but when met, result in dramatic accomplishments that we can all be proud of. On behalf of NAEMT, I sincerely thank all who contribute so much to our association!

I look forward to working with Don and the other members of the 2015 NAEMT Board on a wide range of ongoing projects and new opportunities.

A terrific on-going project that always presents new opportunities is EMS On The Hill Day. It will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup>, with a briefing on the 28<sup>th</sup>. So, please, add it to your calendar and visit the NAEMT website to register. It is such an important event, and the impact of having hundreds of EMS practitioners walking the halls of congress on one day... its very impressive! We will personally educate our elected officials and their staff on the essential service EMS provides to our communities, and ask for their support of legislation to help overcome our challenges. We will ask for their support of the Field

EMS Bill, which will provide grant funding, training and research so we can give the best possible care to our patients. Please join us this April on Capitol Hill.

Another opportunity I've been privileged to watch unfold is the expansion of our educational programs. I have been so inspired by the well-rounded content of our courses that provide the latest evidence-based training. We will continue to develop and offer the very best EMS continuing education to all EMS practitioners. Education is part of the core mission of NAEMT and we are committed to excellence in EMS education.

Finally, I want to share with you that NAEMT has expanded education course sites and international membership into more than 50 countries. For me, it reinforces the quality of our education, services of our association, and the desire to network and exchange training techniques. So, thank you for all you do to support our association and education programs!

I am so very honored to serve on the NAEMT Board of Directors and as our association's president beginning on January 1. Thank you for this great privilege. I will do everything in my power to ensure the continued success of NAEMT.