2014 NAEMT General Membership Meeting

A Celebration of Life!

President Don Lundy Remarks

Good evening friends, and welcome to NAEMT’s 2014 General Membership Meeting.

Thank you for sharing this evening with us. We have come together to celebrate NAEMT’s accomplishments, appreciate the many people who have contributed to our success, and recognize outstanding achievements in our profession. We will also share what’s on the horizon for 2015.

Before we get started with our program, I ask that you join me in honoring our fallen EMS heroes who this past year made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their patients. [prayer]

This event, our annual General Membership Meeting and Awards Presentation, is a celebration of life.

• We celebrate the life-saving work our members undertake every day.

• We celebrate the contributions of our members and association friends who devote a tremendous amount of talent and energy to our life-saving profession,
• We celebrate outstanding achievements in our profession that inspire us to excel.

Please join me now in celebrating our **NAEMT Board** of Directors. I am very honored to work with this group of outstanding individuals. They bring their passion for EMS and great knowledge and expertise to benefit our membership and strengthen our profession. I ask that each Board member stand as I call your name. Please hold applause until all have been introduced.

• Chuck Kearns, President-Elect
• Connie Meyer, Immediate Past President
• Jim Judge, Secretary
• Dennis Rowe, Treasurer
• Scott Matin, Region I Director
• Jim Slattery, Region I Director
• Chad McIntyre, Region II Director
• Cory Richter, Region II Director
• Aimee Binning, Region III Director
• Chris Cebollero, Region III Director
• Rod Barrett, Region IV Director
• Bruce Evans, Region IV Director
• Ben Chlapek, At Large Director
• Matt Zavadsky, At Large Director
• Paul Hinchey, Medical Director

To each and every Board member, thank you very much for your work.

I would also like to recognize the Past Presidents here this evening. Please stand and be recognized. Your leadership created the foundation for our success. Thank you for your service and continued support.

The theme for this evening is “A Celebration of Life.” Over the last two years, I have had the honor of representing you, as you celebrate life everyday by caring for your patients. Two years ago, when you elected me to this position, I had the honor of listening to you, reading your emails and taking phone calls from as many members as time would allow – all with great ideas, great projects and most of all, a great passion for our mission.

I realized that the mantra I often tell people, “It’s an exciting time to be in EMS,” is truer today than ever before. With the ongoing transformation of our profession from emergency care to all types of mobile patient care, combined with improved safety standards for ambulance construction and, of course, federal legislation which will help all EMS practitioners, regardless of delivery model – how can it NOT be exciting?!

<Pause>

So much has been accomplished this year.
To support our members, we added new member benefits including:

- A discounted subscription to Fit Responder Fitness.com to help you get and stay fit. This program meets the Recommended EMS Fitness Guidelines that NAEMT published last year.
- A free subscription to the new *Integrated Healthcare Delivery* print and electronic publications, and
- A discount on grant writing services and access to online resources from EMS Grants Help.

For our Agency members, we added

- discounts on Keurig coffee machines and K-Cup packages from Better World Brands,
- significant members-only discounts on products and services from Mac’s Lift Gate, and
- up to 33% off the retail price on EMS uniforms from Red the Uniform Tailor, and access to their online uniform management system.

In addition to these new benefits, our Membership Committee ran a contest to find the winning design for a new NAEMT Challenge Coin that our association could be proud of. The winning design was submitted by NAEMT Member Phillip Ramsey of Elizabethton,
Tennessee.

The coin is given to any member who recruits a new member as part of our ‘More Members, More Rewards’ program. All of us have a responsibility to our fellow members and our association to spread the word about NAEMT.

This coin is beautiful in its presentation and in its meaning. I encourage you to take this challenge and continue to build on the solid foundation we’ve created!

The leaders of NAEMT’s education programs did an awesome job this year.

- The PHTLS Committee completed the development of the 8th Edition of Prehospital Trauma Life Support and the Instructor Update was held yesterday to a packed room of PHTLS faculty from around the world.
- The committee also developed a new course called Bleeding Control for the Injured… (or B-Con for short)... to help non-EMS first responders and bystanders assist victims of active shooter/IED/mass casualty events until EMS can enter the scene. This course was developed in response to calls by the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services for EMS to work with law enforcement and other first responders to strengthen community-level response to these tragic incidents.
- And, the PHTLS Committee is working on a Tactical Emergency Casualty Care course for EMS practitioners who are interested in learning how to respond to
patients in civilian tactical situations. This course will meet all guidelines established by the Committee on Tactical Emergency Casualty Care.

- Our EPC Committee completed development of the 3rd Edition of our Emergency Pediatric Care course and beta tested the course over the past two days here in Nashville. “EPC 3.0” will use the PEPP textbook as the required textbook for the course as a result of a milestone agreement between NAEMT and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

- The first EMS course that addresses professional ethics in EMS – Principles of Ethics and Personal Leadership (PEPL) – was launched at 12 sites throughout the country. We now have 83 individuals who have completed the PEPL instructor training in order to bring this course to your community.

- On Sunday, our new GEMS Committee conducted a 2nd edition update for current instructors of the Geriatric Education for EMS course that will publish by the end of the year. Our committee has been hard at work revamping the instructor materials with new content from the textbook, new videos, and new scenarios.

- Our AMLS and EMS Safety Committees are working on the 2nd editions of the Advanced Medical Life Support and EMS Safety courses that will publish in 2015.

We are on track for about 70,000 EMS practitioners to participate in our courses this year. Congratulations to our education committees and all NAEMT Faculty for a job well done!
We devoted much of our energy this year to the key issues that impact our patients and our ability to provide them with quality medical care.

- Our Military Relations Committee advocated for education transition programs to help military medics transition into the civilian EMS workforce. They discussed the challenges that our military medics face upon return home with the Department of Defense and other federal agencies, Congressional leaders and the White House staff.

- In collaboration with many other EMS organizations, we asked the FAA to implement without further delay their new rules regulating air ambulance operations, and asked the Bureau of Labor Statistics to modify the way in which EMS occupations are classified and counted to address the underreporting of volunteer and fire-based EMS practitioners and to classify and count EMTs separately from Paramedics.

- Our Health and Safety Committee developed an EMS Patient and Practitioner Bill of Rights that sets forth standards of safety for our profession.

- We produced a new video that explains Mobile Integrated Healthcare and Community Paramedicine, and distributed this video to our members and faculty, EMS organizations, the EMS media, congressional leaders, and the wider healthcare community to help everyone better understand this trend.

- And, we created a new resources section on the NAEMT web site to help you and your agencies develop MIH-CP programs in your communities.
• EMS On The Hill Day - the only national EMS legislative event inclusive of everyone in our profession - took place in March, when we hosted our fifth annual Hill Day in Washington, D.C. 200 EMS professionals from 42 states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico went from one building to the next to keep their scheduled appointments with their Members of Congress. There was a record 248 congressional meetings in a single day. The best thing was that lots of people on the Hill knew who we were and remembered us from the previous year. This event is important to our profession, so please remember this date - April 29, 2015 - because that’s when we’ll go back to Capitol Hill to educate Members of Congress about EMS and what our patients need.

All of these achievements and many more were accomplished within a culture of teamwork.

Our association has demonstrated the value of teamwork through projects we have undertaken, our committee work, and the ongoing implementation of our programs. Many of these efforts have also involved other EMS and healthcare organizations.

The healthcare community is starting to recognize the important role of EMS in patient outcomes. Partnerships between different types of healthcare providers are becoming the norm for organizations that want to survive and flourish. Even the federal
government is acknowledging that EMS is a vital service that can be used to improve patient care, while lowering the cost of that care.

Tonight, I am pleased to announce a new collaboration between NAEMT and the American College of Emergency Physicians to join forces for National EMS Week. Both of our organizations recognize the value of EMS Week in promoting public understanding of the critical role we have our nation’s healthcare system. We will work together, along with other EMS organizations and corporate partners to strengthen EMS Week and the EMS profession.

Along with the evidence of progress are challenges that remain. One is the idea that EMS is too fragmented to make a difference. However, I see progress even on this challenge. I see partnerships springing up every day between organizations that, several years ago, would have never thought of teaming up for a project. To be really effective, NAEMT must continue to partner with other organizations that share our goal of improving patient care and strengthening the EMS profession.

This leads me to the biggest project that NAEMT has ever taken on – the Field EMS Bill.

In a world where EMS volunteers have weekly barbeque dinners to raise funds to put fuel in their ambulances, every one of us owe it to our profession and our patients to embrace and fight for the most comprehensive piece of federal EMS legislation since the block grants of the 1960’s. There has never been a more collaborative piece of federal
legislation than the Field EMS Bill – one that can dramatically improve care for the thousands of patients we touch every day, as well as improve the education of our members.

To date, 33 U.S. House Representatives have co-sponsored the bill; and the bill was introduced in the Senate and is moving forward. To date, 50 emergency medical associations, including the National Association of EMS Physicians, the American College of Emergency Physicians, the National Association of EMS Educators, the National EMS Management Association and the National Association of State EMS Officials support this important, historic legislation.

Teamwork and collaboration start at home. I ask that each of you in this room tonight reach out to your local co-workers, EMS agencies, state EMS associations and your congressional leaders to gain their support for passage of the Field EMS Bill. Our Field EMS Bill Committee, Advocacy Committee, State Advocacy Coordinators, and many of our affiliated associations are leading the effort to pass the bill. I thank them for their dedication and commitment to our efforts and know that we can count on them to continue to lead.

When I started my presentation, I noted that EMS is a “Celebration of Life.”

Although I have been in EMS for 40 years, I was never personally on the receiving end of such care until late last year, when I suffered a heart attack.

November 28, 2013...As I exited a local restaurant in my hometown of Charleston, South Carolina, I felt what I could only describe as a burning in my chest. This burning
became unbearable over the next two minutes... the worst pain/burning I had ever experienced. At one point, I told my wife something that none of us like to hear from our patients but when we hear it, we know what it means... “I think I am going to die.”

During the next 42 minutes, I saw action from one of the premier EMS agencies in the nation. I am able to celebrate life today because of the excellent life-saving emergency care I received that day.

On behalf of all of the patients that you serve, please allow me to say THANK YOU for the care that you gave to me and give every day that allows us to continue to Celebrate our Lives with our family and friends. It is a blessed gift.

Thank you for allowing me to serve this great association as your President. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to lead our profession for a short period of time on our journey to excellence. I look forward to continuing to work for excellence under the future leadership of our great organization. God bless you all.

All of the NAEMT projects that have been accomplished this year can be attributed to our NAEMT committees. Our committees really do the heavy lifting for our association. They are our “Engines of Progress.” Over 200 members participate as committee members and associates including regional and state coordinators. Please help me in thanking our committee members and coordinators, and again, hold applause until each
has been called. Committee members and coordinators, please stand when your committee is called:

- Advocacy Committee and State Advocacy Coordinators, chaired by Jim Judge
- AMLS Committee, and Regional and State AMLS Coordinators, chaired by Jeff Messerole
- Candidacy and Elections Committee, chaired by Dennis Wilham
- Education Committee, chaired by Bob Loftus
- EMS Data Committee, chaired by Matt Zavadsky
- EMS Safety Program Committee and Regional EMS Safety Coordinators, chaired by Mike Szczygiel
- EPC Committee, and Regional EPC Coordinators, chaired by Chad McIntyre
- Field EMS Bill Steering Committee, Chaired by Bruce Evans
- Finance Committee, chaired by Dennis Rowe
- GEMS Committee, chaired by Daniel Talbert
- Health and Safety Committee, chaired by Jules Scadden
- Leadership Development Committee, chaired by Connie Meyer
- Membership Committee, chaired by Scott Matin
- Military Relations Committee, chaired by Ben Chlapek
- Mobile Integrated Healthcare-Community Paramedicine Committee, chaired by Matt Zavadsky
- PEPL Course Committee, chaired by Scott Matin
• PHTLS Committee, and Regional and State PHTLS Coordinators, chaired by Will Chapleau

Congratulations for a job well done.

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

The Foundation has had a very eventful year supporting our future professionals through leadership and scholarships! The Foundation

• Provided 6 judges for the EMT competition at the Health Occupations Student Association’s National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida.
• Awarded 2 scholarships for individuals to become an EMT;
• And, through the $50,000 provided by the American Automobile Association, 45 scholarships were awarded to individuals interested in pursuing an EMS career or furthering their EMS education in Nevada.

Thank you, Trustees.

39 EMS associations are affiliated with NAEMT, and their representatives form our Affiliate Advisory Council. Will the Council members please stand. Please accept our thanks for your support of NAEMT, and for sharing your insights and perspectives.
Thank you. As I mentioned earlier, we value highly our partnerships with other organizations. **NAEMT’s Corporate Partners** support our mission and help us to serve our members. On behalf of all of the members of NAEMT, please accept our appreciation and gratitude.

Will our Corporate Partner representatives please stand and remain standing when called:

**Premier Partners:** The College Network, EMS World, Impact Instrumentation, and Jones & Bartlett Learning

**Diamond Partner:** EMS1

**Presidential Partners:** Thomco and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians

**Platinum Partners:** Mack’s Lift Gate and Stryker

**Gold Partners:** Braun, Emergency Stuff, OnStar, American Heart Association
Silver Partners: 5.11 Tactical, American Red Cross EMS Management Association, JEMS and Point Park University

Bronze Partner: Coalition Against Bigger Trucks

Annual Partners: EMS Executive Summit Redline; EMS Pursuit; E.V.S., Ltd.; Gold Cross; Holland & Knight; Medic-CE; Nasco; National EMS Museum; Page, Wolfberg & Wirth; Physio-Control and ProMed Network

Service Partners: Ambuttrak; Apex Innovations; Best Practices in Emergency Services; Cardiac Science; CentreLearn; EMS Grants; EMS Innovations; Fit Responder; General Communications; Hertz; IceDot; Journal of Special Operations Medicine; Mutual of Omaha; LaQuinta Inn and Suites; North Central EMS Cooperative; Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Journal; Red The Uniform Tailor; and Skyscape

Thank you very much for your support.

Each year, the NAEMT President may recognize one or more individuals who have gone above and beyond in supporting our organization through the NAEMT Presidential Leadership Award. This year, I would like to bestow this award on some very worthy individuals.
Dr. Pons, can you please come to the podium.

Dr. Pons, thank you for your outstanding leadership on the PHTLS 8th Edition course materials. Beyond that great effort, you have led the way in developing the Law Enforcement and First Response Tactical Casualty Care course that rolled out in 2013. To date, more than 3,400 students have been trained in this course. And, in July, our new Bleeding Control for the Injured was launched in response to our federal government’s call for EMS, Police and Fire to work together to prepare our communities to respond to active shooter, IED and mass casualty events. Dr. Pons developed the materials for this course that has been provided to all NAEMT faculty free of charge to offer in their communities. It is my honor to provide you with this plaque with deep appreciation and gratitude for your leadership in the development of tactical casualty care education for our nation.

Director Bruce Evans, please come to the podium.

When I asked Bruce to take on the leadership of the Field EMS Bill, I knew he would do a great job, but I did not realize just how much passion, energy and focus he would bring to this task. I have been amazed at how much one person can do to change the equation on an issue. Bruce has been instrumental in getting his fellow fire-based EMS leaders to discuss the provisions of the bill and find common ground that we can all support. And, he led the effort that resulted in our bill being introduced in the Senate this year, co-sponsored by Colorado Senator Mike Bennet. Our Field EMS Bill is in VERY GOOD HANDS with Bruce at the helm. I present this plaque to you, Bruce, with deep
appreciation and gratitude for your vision and leadership in NAEMT’s effort to pass the
Field EMS Bill

Chad McIntyre, please come to the podium.

Chad, I am continually amazed at what you have accomplished as a leader and
international ambassador for NAEMT’s education programs. Chad leaves no stone
untouched in his quest to promote NAEMT’s programs throughout our country and
across the globe. He has ably led the EPC Committee through the development of the
third edition of the Emergency Pediatric Care course. And he has represented our
association on many EMS issues including education and training standards and air
medical transport safety. I present this plaque to you with deep appreciation and
gratitude for your leadership and commitment to excellence in the EMS profession.

Matt Zavadsky, please come to the podium....

In our work, and in life in general, most of us are able to see an opportunity when it
presents itself. And, then there are some of us, just a few of us, who are able to see and
understand trends and identify opportunities before they become apparent to others.
Matt is one of those rare individuals who can see the future of our profession, and
understand what we must do to seize that future. Matt has been a visionary for the
EMS profession. He has been working tirelessly to help the EMS profession understand
and embrace our transformation from a transport-centered emergency medical service
to a patient-centered mobile healthcare service. His mission – to ensure that all EMS
agencies, practitioners and the wider healthcare community are prepared for this transformation. Matt has been leading NAEMT’s effort as Chair of our MIH-CP Committee. Matt, it is my pleasure to present this plaque with deep appreciation and gratitude for your leadership in the transformation of EMS in our nation.

The Rocco V. Morando Lifetime Achievement Award is NAEMT’s most prestigious award. It is granted to those few individuals who, through their actions, leadership and spirit, have demonstrated a lifetime commitment and dedication to the advancement of EMS. NREMT is the generous sponsor of this award. I now ask Tommy Loyacono to join me at the podium.

Our 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient has had an impressive career driven by his passion for education, public safety and enhancing the EMS profession. Spanning nearly 45 years, he began his career as a volunteer firefighter in Virginia, became a police officer in Missouri, emergency medical technician in Washington, D.C. and later, one of the first certified Paramedics in South Carolina. In 1979, he advanced into management, operations and consulting positions, where he left his mark with improved systems, enhanced clinical performance, and program design. Currently, a partner and officer with varied EMS groups, he is widely recognized as the pioneer of Fitch & Associates, a company started in 1984 to provide management and information services to healthcare, government and professional associations.
Known for an understated but hands-on consulting approach, his enthusiasm for EMS has contributed to his lengthy list of achievements, including

- leading the turnaround of a troubled EMS system and being named EMS Director in St. Louis, Mo. at the young age of 24;
- a master’s degree in public administration from Missouri’s Webster University;
- a doctorate degree in psychology from William Lyon University;
- inspiring thousands of EMS leaders through lectures;
- bringing together our nation’s EMS thought leaders as program chair of the Pinnacle Leadership Conference;
- serving as author and editor of highly respected reports and publications; and
- developing learning programs for EMS supervisors and managers.

It is because of his varied experiences that he learned to value many perspectives — from patient to caregiver to public official — all of which go into creating exemplary EMS and public safety programs.

His partner at Fitch & Associates – Christine Zalar – said this: “to know him is to be consumed by his passion and vision for improving EMS. He has been a driver of leading-edge solutions to problems not yet even fully understood. His message to caregivers, clients, students and colleagues has not changed – First, take care of the patient... we’ll figure out the rest from there.”
Enhancing EMS and providing the best possible care to patients has motivated our recipient to sit on dozens of medical boards, faculty and councils. He has held academic appointments at The George Washington University, The University of Kansas and Royal Roads University in Canada. He has educated readers through countless books, chapters and articles he’s written; and guides EMS leaders to make smart choices in difficult economies. His focus has touched on nearly every aspect of EMS and his vision has taken every participant within the realm of EMS into account... for the betterment of our profession.

This award is named for the very first recipient 30 years ago and founding NAEMT member, Rocco V. Morando. It is my distinct pleasure to introduce the recipient of the 2014 Rocco V. Morando Lifetime Achievement Award – Joseph “Jay” Fitch!

Jay, thank you very much for your leadership, vision, and tireless efforts to grow and strengthen EMS in our nation.

This concludes our 2014 General Membership Meeting. I invite all of you to join me down the hall in Room 103 for the NAEMT Member Reception, generously sponsored by NREMT. Thank you.