



## 2017 Questions to NAEMT Board Candidates

*Please include your response (500 words or less) below each question. Thanks.*

**Candidate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Christopher Way** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe what you feel should be NAEMT's role in advancing the EMS profession.  
*NAEMT HAS to be the organization providing support, direction, vision and LEADERSHIP for the advancement and future of EMS. I look at other emergency services and see how they have evolved over the last few years and EMS has been slower to respond. Part of this is due to the archaic way that EMS is reimbursed. While we are looking at great new ways of treating and caring for patients there is no incentive for may EMS agencies to do anything but traditional transport to an emergency room because of the system. This is only one example but it demonstrates that while other disciplines have advanced we are often stuck in "the way we've always done it". NAEMT, because of their growing voice, diverse membership, advocacy network and leadership have the ability and I would argue responsibility to be one of the primary voices for this advancement. I think like anything, people are willing to "get on board" for the right cause. It takes that first person/group/organization to initiate and lead. As I said, NAEMT is already poised and sitting in the perfect position to be that group/organization. I expect as a member and prospective elected leader that NAEMT would make the advancement of EMS (which can be defined many ways) it's highest priority and allocate considerable resources to do so. NAEMT must insist of having a seat at any table where EMS is discussed. NAEMT must also encourage and seek partnership with other professional organizations that have similar interests and goals. Being respectful to and working with those organization will only make NAEMT and the advancement of EMS stronger. EMS, a reactionary business by nature, must become proactive in it's future or people who do not have the history, understanding or passion for our profession will make our decisions and shape our future for us. Ultimately, NAEMT needs to step up and out and insert itself in the lead role in the advancement and future of EMS.*
2. Ethics – One of NAEMT's core values states that the association "shall conduct all aspects of our business with integrity and transparency, and adhere to the ethical standards of our profession." What does this statement mean to you? Describe how you will work as a member of the NAEMT Board to safeguard this value.  
*Transparency, integrity and ethical standards are all important words. To date, I have never experienced anyone from NAMET, Board or staff, to be anything but. That said, I am*

*passionate about EMS, passionate that NAEMT is an organization that I can align my values with and believe strongly that they will continue to support my beliefs. More specifically, integrity means doing to the right thing even when it's not comfortable or easy. There will naturally be decisions that are made that are difficult and/or not unanimously agreed on but are in fact the best thing for NAEMT and thus EMS. As a Board Director I think it is your duty to support the decisions and demonstrate the integrity that goes along with the responsibility of making difficult decisions. If you have integrity then you do not mind being transparent. The NAEMT Board of Directors has to be transparent in how it conducts business, reaches difficult decision and how those decision are then carried out, even when that may not be the easy or most popular thing to do. NAEMT must also be transparent with other organizations that have a vested stake in EMS even when the exact ideals do not mirror each other. The only way we can work towards a common goal is to be honest and demonstrate what NAEMT wants to do and how it plans to do it. Finally, I think that regularly, NAEMT should ensure that the decisions that are made meet the ethical standards of the individuals making them and the organization as a whole. If NAEMT can stand by that then the decisions, although difficult or occasionally unpopular, are resolute and provide better direction. As a NAEMT Board member I think it is without question that you follow the code of conduct set by the organization and believe in and live the mission.*

3. Describe what you see as the opportunities and challenges that the US healthcare transformation poses for EMS, and what you see as NAEMT's role in this transformation.  
*I'll start with the challenges. The biggest challenge (not just in EMS) is that we are not all the same. There are so many different EMS delivery models and modes that we so often try to fit in one box and package that it becomes the biggest reasons why we have not gotten to the opportunities phase of the discussion very quickly. The challenges of funding, healthcare being a moving target and EMS being such a SMALL percentage of the overall healthcare system are all also reasons we often get lost or even lose ourselves. Rather than focus on the reason(s) "why not" I think we need to pull our boot straps up and respond with a "WHY NOT US!" mentality. The opportunities are abundant. The time and political climate are right for change. I still feel strongly that EMS needs a Federal "home", we need to secure a long term funding stream that mirrors what the realities of providing EMS in 2017 and beyond are, we need EMS to be accountable just like other healthcare organization are and we need to do it differently than "the way we've always done it". NAEMT should embrace the diversity of EMS and take the proverbial bull by the horn and be the organization that is synonymous with EMS. When our legislators and federal agencies think of EMS they should think of NAEMT! NAEMT should insist on a seat at EVERY table and put the resources behind it!*
4. Professionalism – Describe what "EMS professionalism" means to you and how NAEMT can positively impact the public's perception of the EMS profession.  
*The word Profession is one of the reasons I think that we are where we are currently in EMS. Collectively we have not embraced EMS as a true profession. We often, through our own fault, are looked upon as the "other guys". We have never quite decided if we fit in the public safety*

*or healthcare world. That said, the second we embrace this as a profession and not settle for less is the second that we can begin to set the standard for EMS leadership, education and mentorship all working together to enhance the delivery of patient care. We need to set the standard that we are EXPERTS in patient care and the PROFESSIONALS. I believe NAEMT can set the standard for EMS Professionalism, live by the standard and begin to demonstrate the standard because NAEMT has positioned themselves to do so. If NAEMT is truly the EMS professional organization that people look to for all things mentioned above than this is easy to embrace and display.*