



## Christopher E. Way Statement of Candidacy

### Region III Director

I am running for the open Region III NAEMT Board of Directors seat in the 2017 election. I seek this challenge and opportunity for several reasons.

First and foremost I believe in NAEMT as an organization. I have become increasingly involved in EMS over the last few years and the mission of NAEMT is of great value and important to the EMS profession.

Secondly, as you all know, EMS faces great challenges now and in the future about what it will look like, how it will operate and how to pay for it. These things are not to be taken lightly and I feel that being part of shaping the future rather than accepting whatever happens is my role in EMS.

Finally, I am passionate about EMS and have the support and desire it takes to serve a commitment/organization like this. Passion is defined in many different ways and I am fortunate to be able to live that passion every day. I have three distinct goals if I am fortunate enough to be elected:

- I would spend considerable time with the current NAEMT Board and staff to determine how best I can put my passion and talent to use,
- I would ask to be involved in the legislative work that NAEMT and EMS is doing for our profession, and
- I would look for solutions to bridge the gap between different types of EMS providers.

We face many key challenges and opportunities over the next months and years from funding, to finding a federal home for EMS, to redefining EMS' role in public safety and healthcare to making sure EMS is considered an equal partner at many different tables.

I think NAEMT can help with all of these by ensuring that the Board of Directors stays engaged in and has a strategy for each. The NAEMT Board should have regular, appointed liaisons with partners at the national, regional and state level who share similar interests. I think the lobbying effort NAEMT has taken has made a difference but can be even more effective with great Board participation. NAEMT needs to have passionate people at the table(s) all of the time to accomplish this.

In the end I feel that I am a great candidate because of my previous experience (nationally, statewide, regionally and locally), my ability to commit to this position and, of course, my passion for EMS.