



## **2017 Questions to NAEMT Board Candidates**

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

**Candidate:** Garrett Hedeem

### **Describe what you feel should be NAEMT's role in advancing the EMS Profession.**

NAEMT primary role in advancing the profession is continuing to be the leader in providing quality education and advocating amongst different stakeholder groups for the profession. The education should not be exclusively clinical as well. NAEMT has begun implementing operational and administrative courses like the NAEMT Safety Course and the new Emergency Vehicle Operator course.

To continue advancing the profession NAEMT should implement and/or promulgate other courses to assist in the operations of a successful ambulance service, like Quality Control/Continuous Quality Improvement, implementing a workplace violence prevention program, or courses on improving overall provider resiliency and well-being. NAEMT does not necessarily have to lead the entire development of these Evidence-based learning opportunities. It can work on developing cooperative relationships with other, more specialized, industry groups that may have better subject matter expertise in these areas. With greater harmony of all groups, with NAEMT leading the way, EMS will truly begin to advance its standing in the world.

**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.**

As EMS providers we are entrusted with the creed to act ethically every day no matter who we encounter on a call. We may have to deal with people with whose lifestyle choices we disagree, who may be under arrest for a deplorable crime, or who may even be verbally or physically threatening to us. The core value that this question addresses is merely an extension of our day to day duty to deal with the public in an ethical way at all times. I teach students and new recruits to act with integrity and transparency on every call by getting them in the mindset that their actions have a strong likelihood of being recorded at all times, and to act as though the patient’s mother and your chief are in the ambulance with you. Once this mentality is in place it becomes second nature to consistently act in an ethical way.

As the representative body of these professionals we have the obligation to have an even higher level of integrity than those we represent. As a member of the board I will push for increasing the progress updates to the general membership of the great work the different committees are doing. This increased transparency will create a better sense of ownership and help promote more involvement from a greater number of NAEMT members in the committee work process.

**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.**

With the changing health care environment NAEMT's primary role should be promoting clinical excellence in the out of hospital environment. This will be done by continuing to promote and improve its educational programs and increase its support of standardized EMS performance standards through initiatives like EMS Compass. The opportunities and challenges start from within the profession and promoting this level of professionalism is paramount in these endeavors. NAEMT should be using this increased focus on clinical excellence to help promote Emergency Medical Service's value to the overall health care of patients throughout the health care and public health communities, while better framing their message to the general public.

This enhanced focus on communicating our industry's value to the world can be accomplished by creating some better communications training initiatives. NAEMT must help individual organizations, state associations, and state agencies effectively communicate Emergency Medical Service's value to all key stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels with the same fervor as other public safety entities. We must be able to continuously push the importance of our care to the communities we are a part of and encourage our industry leaders to become active community partners.

**Professionalism-Describe what “EMS Professionalism” means to you and how NAEMT can positively impact the public’s perception of the EMS profession.**

EMS Professionalism means acting with high-quality patient care always being the focus of your actions. High quality evidence-based patient care that balances with a patient’s right of self-determination and having a variety of alternative resources available other than a simple ride will help increase our professionalism. NAEMT can help with the public’s perception of EMS by continually caring for the care givers loudly and proudly. They need to constantly work on developing relationships with news agencies across the country to continuously promote positive news stories about EMS in their communities.

NAEMT can work with local member agencies and their network of committees and board members on how to best get positive stories out to the community. When agencies have questions about a story or are looking for interesting first responder stories they should be looking to NAEMT first and frequently. They shouldn’t have to wade through helpful politicians, hospital and other health care workers, and other public safety agencies to get an answer about EMS.

Towards this goal of more recognizability, NAEMT needs to increase brand awareness within the industry. This includes a full array of professional looking polos, jackets, and shirts with our logo along with other day-to-day “wearables” like lapel pins, tie bars, and hats. It also includes handing out more literature and promotional items at conferences discussing EMS professionalism. We further promote NAEMT by having a larger presence at a variety of industry gatherings. We need to be at every affiliate state association’s state conference, every national EMS conference, most large fire conferences, and some of the larger emergency physician or nursing conferences to simply let everyone know we exist and are the ones leading the profession.