



Garrett Hedeem

Statement of Candidacy

Region III Director

My name is Garrett Hedeem; I am seeking the position of Region III Director of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians. My background as Paramedic for over a decade in an urban 911 environment, Safety Officer of a large urban 911 service, the elected union President for my organization, and Masters in Health Administration has prepared me well to best represent practitioners from all around the country. I have a number of passions professionally, but provider safety is the most important to me. Whether I am working as a safety officer coaching employees on the importance of PPE or chairing an NAEMT committee dealing with provider mental health issues I am always looking to improve the safety of providers.

I have also helped lead a committee at my organization to get a course to help deal with the increasing issue of assaults on providers, testified at the Indiana statehouse on EMS provider death benefits, and have served as the union president fighting for safe working conditions. I continuously strive to find better ways to keep everyone going home safe at the end of a shift.

My primary goal as a NAEMT board member will be to ensure that the voices of those who day-in and day-out are on the streets are represented well. One way I see accomplishing this is to encourage more providers to become involved at the committee levels by increasing the numbers of members on committees. I believe we should also have more open and transparent committee discussions by engaging more members in a “focus group” setting more frequently. I also believe we need some increased accountability of committee members and encourage more active participation.

One of the key challenges I see for EMS is a public perception and confusion about what EMS does in the community. We can better address this by engaging providers and organization leaders to become more active in the communities they serve. Another large part of this is fostering better education for EMS Public Information Officers (PIOs), which is where I think NAEMT, in collaboration with other organizations, can help.

Another challenge I see in EMS is an overall identity crisis. A standard nomenclature has been discussed for years and I believe it to be time for a final push. Advocating for being called Paramedics at all levels, with variations like Primary, Advanced, Critical Care, and Community Paramedics to differentiate education levels and scope will help with public and professional perception.

Over the last few years I’ve had some great opportunities to serve my fellow providers in multiple leadership roles at the local, state, and national levels all while maintaining a full-time shift on an ambulance. Whether stationed from a hospital “closet,” an ambulance under an interstate overpass, or a fire station I have been, and will continue to, speak for those doing the lion’s share of the work and would be honored to serve in the role as Region III Board member of National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians.