



## 2017 Questions to NAEMT Board Candidates

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

**Candidate: Sean J. Britton**

1. Describe what you feel should be NAEMT's role in advancing the EMS profession.

EMS is a profession and should be justly treated as such by the healthcare system, public safety agencies, and the general public. I believe NAEMT has a duty to advance the EMS profession using a variety of methods, most notably advocacy, education, and innovation.

NAEMT must continue to advocate for the advancement of EMS on the federal level. A significant issue on the federal level is reimbursement for Medicare patients. Many of our patients are Medicare beneficiaries and a higher level of reimbursement would provide more revenue to reinvest within the EMS industry. An increase in Medicare reimbursement would not necessarily guarantee wage increases, but it would certainly help.

Education is vital to the advancement of our profession. There are two types of education which NAEMT is able to develop and promulgate. The first type is professional education, which is made available through our catalog of continuing education courses. These courses enhance the knowledge of our practitioners, which then improves the quality of care we provide to our patients. The second form of education we must focus on is public education. The general public regards EMS favorably, but is unable to differentiate between the various levels of licensure and certification. Additionally, the general public is unaware of many of the issues facing the industry, such as high levels of practitioner suicides and EMS systems stretched to the breaking point in efforts to deliver care.

Lastly, innovation must be supported by NAEMT because it advances the EMS profession towards its fullest potential. NAEMT has been a significant proponent of mobile integrated healthcare and community paramedicine by facilitating the sharing of knowledge, best practices, and technical resources. Innovative methods of delivering care are transforming EMS practitioners beyond the limitations of emergency response and inter-facility transportation. EMS practitioners and agencies are now engaging in population health management as community based clinicians. This transformation is garnering respect from many of our colleagues within the healthcare system.

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.

I have had the good fortune of serving on the NAEMT Board since January of 2015. The EMS practitioners of Region I have entrusted me to serve to the best of my ability and I take my service very seriously. I view conducting business with integrity, transparency, and ethical standards as meaning all opinions I express, and votes I cast, should be in the best interest of the association. It also means attending board meetings on time, well prepared, and engaged with the business of the agenda. The diversity of perspectives and experiences held by board members add value to the decision-making process and I am not hesitant to ask questions which stimulate both discussion and debate. I think integrity is demonstrated by a willingness to do the hard work that needs to be done, which is why I have consistently volunteered my time to workgroups and projects within the association.

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.

The major challenge currently facing the US healthcare system is uncertainty about the future. This challenge also creates an opportunity because there is an openness to trying new concepts, such as mobile integrated healthcare and community paramedicine. Many healthcare providers will need to adapt to changes ahead, and NAEMT should have a visible leadership role in preparing the EMS profession for whatever changes may come. NAEMT has supported the development of mobile integrated healthcare and community paramedicine programs, which are gaining positive attention for the ability to control healthcare system costs through the innovative use of existing systems. Simultaneously, NAEMT has been engaged with advocating for federal legislation and policies which benefit the emergency response and inter-facility transportation components of the current EMS system. NAEMT has been strong in its approach by striving to be successful within both the current and emerging healthcare systems.

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

The best description of EMS professionalism was made by Dr. Norman McSwain when he said, “Our patients did not choose us. We chose them.” The public has a high expectation for EMS. They anticipate if ever they need us, we will be there promptly and well prepared to manage whatever the emergency may be. We have a duty to provide the best care and personal interaction we can, because we made the decision to serve within this profession. We need to continuously demonstrate our professionalism to the public, our colleagues, and ourselves. We demonstrate professionalism through both tangible and intangible actions.

NAEMT positively impacts the public’s perception of the EMS profession through a variety of ways. By providing evidence-based continuing education courses, EMS practitioners can deliver better care to their patients. By advocating for beneficial federal legislation and polices,

NAEMT works to influence how the federal government views and supports the EMS profession.

An area for NAEMT to further improve the public's perception of the EMS profession is through public awareness campaigns supporting EMS. This work has already begun, such as through the EMS Strong partnership with the American College of Emergency Physicians, but there is an opportunity to improve upon efforts and diversify tactics.