



2017 Questions to NAEMT Board Candidates

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

Candidate: Troy Tuke

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

The NAEMT is the collective voice for all those who proudly choose EMS as their profession and must ensure that EMS is recognized as a career profession and not just a stepping stone to something bigger and better.

The strength of any organization lies in the knowledge, talents, and number of its members. When the members of the organization have a clear vision of the goal to be achieved membership increases and active participation occurs. The NAEMT is the organization that can and does combine many individual efforts into a single, consistent, and sustainable effort which provides individual agencies the assistance needed to improve EMS delivery challenges within their communities.

The demands associated with the EMS profession will continue to change and evolve. It is imperative for the NAEMT to seek out EMS professionals with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to make this happen. The current makeup of the EMS workforce ranges from the baby boomers down to the millennials. This fact can be used to our advantage as each of these sub groups of the work force possesses strengths, weaknesses and perspectives. Baby Boomers and Generation X's have an enormous amount of experience and have been eye witnesses to many of the changes that have taken place over the years in EMS. Millennials are very adept at using new technology. This expertise is invaluable as Electronic Patient Care Records and real time data mining from these records become the norm for documentation of EMS delivery. Creative solutions to EMS issues are much easier to implement when the solutions are data driven. Experienced EMS providers know the issues that are currently facing EMS service delivery. Community Paramedicine and Electronic Patient Care Reports are great examples of issues that need to be implemented and improved upon as the needs of the community dictate. Millennials are up to date on the current technology and have creative ways to report and communicate challenges in EMS delivery. The NAEMT should and does provide the structure and opportunity for EMS

providers to come together and share their strengths, perspectives, and common goals to deliver high quality EMS Care.

- 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.**

Doing the right thing, for the right reason, regardless of the circumstance is what ethical behavior means to me. That definition holds true whether we are at the patient side attending to their medical needs, involved in an NAEMT board meeting discussing ways to improve the profession we love, or working to improve the individual circumstances of the EMS providers that we serve. Ethics and integrity are synonymous and when practiced, transparency naturally follows.

I have had the opportunity and blessing of working on the NAEMT Board for the last three years and have been a firsthand witness of the commitment to the principles of ethics and transparency by other board members and the NAEMT administrative staff. I whole heartedly espouse each of these principals and work to improve in these areas in my professional career. These principles are so important to the NAEMT that a class named Principals of Ethics and Leadership has been developed and implemented to ensure that all who are involved with NAEMT know the value placed on these principals by the organization as a whole.

There have been many hard decisions made by the NAEMT Board as it works to uphold its vision statement of being the recognized leader in advancing the profession of emergency and mobile healthcare. There will be many more tough decisions to make in the future. The most important thing that I can do as a NAEMT Board member is to listen and communicate the feelings, desires, and knowledge of the EMS providers I represent to the board so that they are taken into consideration as these difficult decisions are made. Communication back to those I serve, explaining the decision, answering questions, and being easily accessible complete a good feedback loop that allows for transparency to occur. It is my commitment to continue to follow this pattern moving forward as a board member and EMS professional.

- 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 EMS agency role in the healthcare system as a whole continues to change and evolve. Opportunities exist for EMS systems to collaborate and develop relationships with other components of the health care system, while maintaining a commitment to public safety and first response. Improving the quality and accountability of EMS service delivery, testing innovative delivery models, enhanced research and data mining are areas of focus that can be used to make improvements to EMS delivery that will begin to narrow the gap between demand for services and the available resources.

The challenges facing the NAEMT and EMS is the integration of EMS services into the entire health care system. In many areas of the nation, EMS services are highly fragmented, poorly equipped, and not well prepared to deliver EMS on a day to day basis. The gap in demand for services versus the available resources continues to widen.

All EMS agencies whether public or private do their very best to deliver a high standard of care with the tools that they have. The members of the NAEMT are talented individuals with volumes of EMS knowledge, expertise and vision, gained through different experiences in every state. That is the core strength of our organization. The primary role of the NAEMT is to gather best practices and new innovations from these talented individuals and share them with all who are striving to improve EMS delivery in their area. To successfully move forward and improve EMS service delivery across our nation, it will take the expertise of our members from the public, private, career and volunteer services working together as a team.

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

I believe that professionalism encompasses all of the ideas discussed in my responses to the other questions and is synonymous with leadership. Leadership is the ability to encourage the best efforts of other members of a team in working toward a desirable goal. The goal and vision of the NAEMT is to advance the profession of emergency and mobile healthcare. In order to achieve that goal, each of us need to understand where we are now, and more importantly, where we need to go. This knowledge coupled with ethical behavior and vision will allow us to work together collectively to improve in our delivery of high quality EMS care.

I work each and every day to use 30 years of EMS knowledge in the private and public sectors, as well as integrity, and vision to do my best to improve EMS delivery in Nevada. I know that each of you who take the time to read the responses to these questions have the same desire for the areas where each of you provide EMS services. As stated previously, the members of the NAEMT are talented individuals with volumes of EMS knowledge, expertise and vision, gained through different experiences in every state. That is the core strength of our organization. There are other EMS providers that are not yet members of the NAEMT. We need to enlist their help as well, and encourage them to join the best EMS professional organization there is. I am confident that as the talents of the NAEMT members are combined with NAEMT leadership that great things do and will continue to happen as we work together to advance the EMS profession in our great country.

