



Greg Cox

Position Sought: South Central Region Director

Statement of Candidacy

It is my great pleasure to announce my candidacy for South-Central Regional Director on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT).

I seek this position to use the platform of NAEMT to advance Emergency Medical Services nationally through education, research, advocacy, and service. My priorities as a board member would include:

- Advancing mental health research among EMS and other first responders, including research examining the relationship between mental health support, workforce retention, and career longevity.
- Partnering with EMS leadership to promote positive organizational cultures that normalize mental health care and remove the stigma associated with seeking counseling and other services.
- Reducing barriers to care by developing regional resources and networks that connect providers and their families with accessible mental health services.
- Advocating for change at the local, regional, state, and national levels to address financial and systemic barriers to care and support legislation protecting responders from retaliation when seeking mental health services.

Beyond these priorities, I see significant opportunities for NAEMT to strengthen the EMS profession.

We must close the gap between current science, best practices, and frontline education. NAEMT course materials should evolve more rapidly as evidence and recommendations change. For example, when the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (CoTCCC) updates its recommendations, those advances should be incorporated into civilian education and certification materials as expediently as possible. Military research provides an invaluable body of evidence that can directly benefit civilian EMS providers, and our educational systems must keep pace.

We also face a mental health and workforce crisis that threatens both the EMS education pipeline and retention of experienced clinicians. While our educational programs continue to produce entry-level providers, we are losing the depth of experience that seasoned professionals bring to our communities. Barriers to mental health care, coupled with the stigma and fear surrounding seeking help, contribute to burnout, attrition, and the loss of invaluable institutional knowledge. We must make conversations about mental health as routine as conversations about any other disease process. Education is the key to changing culture, and that change begins with leadership.

If elected, I will bring my passion for EMS, leadership experience, and professional network to the challenges facing our profession. I will work collaboratively to develop solutions, elevate important issues, and strengthen the entire EMS community—ultimately making our profession and the communities we serve stronger.