



Timothy Dienst

Position Sought: Mountain Region Director

Candidate Background Information

My career in emergency medical services spans more than four decades, and it has been shaped from the very beginning by a commitment to patients, providers, and the communities we serve. I began in 1981 as a dispatcher and Emergency Medical Technician-Basic with Mountain Valley Ambulance Service in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 1983, I completed advanced medical training as an EMT-Paramedic at the Saint Anthony Hospital Institute of Emergency Medical Training in Denver, and I have held that credential ever since—earning recognition for twenty, thirty, and forty years of continuous national registration. Today I remain a Colorado-certified Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic and a Nationally Registered Paramedic.

My formal education reflects the same progression from the field to leadership. I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Distributed Studies, with an emphasis in Geology, from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, where I was honored in 1983 with the Outstanding Student Award from the Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists. Years later, I returned to the same university to strengthen the management foundation my expanding responsibilities demanded, completing a Graduate Certificate in Public Management and a Master of Public Administration in 2014. That academic grounding in public administration has proven invaluable as EMS has grown more complex—shaped increasingly by policy, finance, and system design as much as by clinical care.

The heart of my career has been service delivery. Through the 1980s and 1990s, I advanced through progressively responsible clinical and leadership roles. As a paramedic and field training instructor with Professional Paramedic Systems from 1984 to 1989, and then as a shift supervisor, field training instructor, and paramedic with Penrose St. Francis Paramedic Systems from 1989 to 1993, I learned both the discipline of excellent patient care and the responsibility of developing the clinicians who provide it. From 1993 to 2000, I served as a paramedic with Southwest Teller County Emergency Medical Service in Cripple Creek, and concurrently, from 1994 to 2000, as operations manager and a member of the board of directors for Woodland Park Ambulance Service. In 2000, I was named Chief Executive Officer of the Ute Pass Regional Health Service District in Woodland Park, the role I continue to hold today. Later this year, I anticipate transitioning into a position within the organization dedicated to government and association relations and strategic advocacy—a natural next step in my career that will allow me to focus even more fully on the partnerships, association engagement, and advocacy that strengthen EMS for the members and communities we serve. Leading a rural and frontier EMS system for more than two decades has given me a firsthand understanding of the workforce, financial, and regulatory challenges that our profession faces—and of the resilience and dedication that define the people who meet them. Under my leadership, our district's commitment to outstanding patient care and community service has been recognized by the State of Colorado and the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado. Our clinicians have earned statewide honors including Educator of the Year (2020), Community Paramedic of the Year (2020, 2021, and 2022), ALS Professional of the Year (2014, 2015, 2018, and two recipients in 2022), and BLS Professional of the Year (2021 and 2023), and in 2023 our service was named Ambulance Service of the Year. That same year, the Special District Association of Colorado named our district its Special District of the Year.

Alongside my operational leadership, I have devoted much of my career to strengthening EMS through governance, advocacy, and policy. Since 2005, I chaired the Plains to Peaks Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council through 2024, and since 2012 I have served the Colorado EMS Chiefs, Managers and Directors Section of the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado as both Past President and Advocacy Chair. At the state level, I served on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's State Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council (SEMTAC) from 2018 to 2024, including as its Chair and as a member of its Public Policy and Finance, Safety, and Education committees. I chaired the CDPHE EMS Provider Licensing Taskforce, contributed to the Community Integrated Healthcare Licensing Taskforce, and since 2016 have served on the Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing's Medicaid Provider Rate Review Advisory Committee, where I am a Past Chair. Since 2019, I have also served on the Board of Directors of UCHHealth Pikes Peak Regional Hospital. Much of this work has centered on the issues that most directly affect our members: sustainable reimbursement, sound public policy, and the recognition of EMS as an essential part of the healthcare and public safety systems.

My national involvement has been equally sustained. I joined the American Ambulance Association in 2008 and currently serve on its Payment Reform Committee. In 2010, I began my service with the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, where I have served as Mountain Region Director and contributed to the Advocacy, Finance, and Economics Committees, and as NAEMT's Advocacy Coordinator for Colorado. On behalf of NAEMT, I have also represented our members as a contributor to the IAFC and USFA EMS Medical Director's Handbook and the EMS Needs Assessment for Local Fire and EMS Agencies. This work has reinforced my conviction that our profession advances furthest when its members speak with a united and well-informed voice.

Over the years, I have been humbled to receive recognition for this service. In 2015, NAEMT named me its Advocate of the Year, and the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado presented me with its President's Award—an honor EMSAC extended to me again in 2025. In 2009, I was named EMS Administrator of the Year by the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Earlier honors include Member of the Year from Woodland Park Ambulance Service in 2004 and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks' Firefighter of the Year for EMS in 1999 and 2000, along with the National Registry's recognition of twenty, thirty, and forty years of national registration.

Taken together, more than forty years in the field, in executive leadership, and in advocacy at the local, state, and national levels have given me a comprehensive perspective on the challenges and opportunities before us. They have also deepened a simple conviction that has guided me from my very first shift: that EMS is essential work, that our members are our greatest strength, and that leadership begins with listening, succeeds through relationships, and is measured by results. It would be a privilege to continue putting that experience to work on behalf of the Mountain Region and our profession.