



Melissa McNally

Position Sought: Gulf Coast Region Director

Statement of Candidacy

I am seeking election to the NAEMT Board of Directors because I believe EMS deserves a strong, independent voice—and because the decisions we make today will determine what our profession looks like for the next generation.

My career has allowed me to experience EMS from many perspectives: as a Nationally Registered paramedic, Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant, EMS educator, association leader, and advocate. These experiences have reinforced one fundamental belief: the future of EMS must be shaped by the professionals who practice it.

Our profession is changing rapidly. Workforce shortages, reimbursement challenges, educational outcomes, clinician retention, evolving scopes of practice, and increasing expectations from patients and healthcare systems are forcing EMS to reconsider how we define ourselves and how we deliver care.

These challenges also create tremendous opportunity.

NAEMT can lead the national conversation about what comes next—advancing treatment in place and alternative destination models, mobile integrated healthcare, telemedicine, sustainable reimbursement, stronger education, meaningful career pathways, and recognition of EMS as an essential component of the healthcare system.

But leadership begins with our members.

I want NAEMT to be an organization where every member understands not only what NAEMT does, but why their membership matters. We must strengthen engagement, demonstrate tangible value, develop future leaders, expand opportunities for involvement, and ensure that EMTs and paramedics from every type of EMS system know their voices are represented.

I also believe my perspective would bring something valuable to the Board. My work crosses the traditional boundaries of EMS. I have worked in ambulances, emergency departments, classrooms, professional associations, and advocacy environments. I understand the challenges facing the clinician providing care at 3:00 a.m., the educator trying to prepare the next generation, the agency struggling to recruit and retain professionals, and the policymakers trying to understand an increasingly complex EMS system.

If elected, I will advocate for an NAEMT that is member-driven, forward-thinking, collaborative, and willing to lead. We cannot simply respond to the changes occurring around EMS. We must help create them. Most importantly, I believe EMS should help define its own future rather than allow others to define it for us.

I would be honored to bring my experience, energy, and commitment to the NAEMT Board of Directors and to work alongside our members and leaders to strengthen NAEMT, advance our profession, and build a sustainable future for the people who proudly call themselves EMS.

I respectfully ask for your support.