



Brian Stennett

Position Sought: Great Plains Region Director

Candidate Background Information

I am honored to seek election to the NAEMT Board of Directors as the Great Plains Region Representative. Throughout more than 27 years in Emergency Medical Services, I have dedicated my career to advancing EMS through operational leadership, education, emergency preparedness, public health collaboration, and responder safety. I am running because I believe NAEMT plays a critical role in shaping the future of our profession, and I want to help ensure that EMS professionals continue to have a strong voice at the national and international level.

My EMS career began watching my father dedicate his life to EMS and I had the opportunity to ride-along with him at the age of 16. Then I became an EMT at 18 while still in high school. I have worked on the front lines as an EMT and then paramedic, where I learned firsthand the importance of clinical excellence, strong leadership, and professional development. Over the years, my career has expanded beyond field operations to include fire service leadership, healthcare emergency management, public health, emergency preparedness, and national EMS initiatives.

Today, I serve as Lieutenant and EMS Operations Coordinator for the Palatine Fire Department in Illinois. In this role, I provide leadership in EMS operations, quality improvement, infection prevention, education, policy development, and incident command. I also serve as Emergency Preparedness Manager for Endeavor Northwest Community Hospital, where I oversee emergency operations planning, Hospital Incident Command System implementation, regulatory preparedness, executive crisis communications, emergency exercises, and organizational resilience initiatives. As a duty of this role, I serve on the Illinois Region IX EMS Disaster Coalition, which is the Regional Healthcare Coalition (RHCC) that administers ASPR Healthcare Preparedness Program grant funding for the area.

Additionally, I serve as an instructor for the Center for Domestic Preparedness, delivering advanced preparedness education to healthcare and emergency response professionals from across the United States. My instructional responsibilities include programs focused on healthcare emergency response, highly infectious diseases, and disaster preparedness.

When not engaged in these activities, I enjoy helping out as a proctor for skills in my wife's high school EMT program, at Lake County Tech Campus, to help develop new EMTs in our workforce.

My educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Management from Benedictine University and a Master of Public Health from the University of Illinois Springfield, where I also earned a Graduate Certificate in Epidemiology. In April 2026, I completed the Critical Care Paramedic Program at CHI Saint Joseph Health in Lexington, Kentucky, further expanding my clinical expertise in the care and transport of critically ill and injured patients.

I am an Illinois Department of Public Health Licensed Paramedic, Illinois Lead EMS Instructor, and NAEMSE Level 1 Instructor. These credentials reflect my commitment to clinical excellence, professional education, and the development of future EMS providers. Together, my education and

professional experience have provided me with a unique perspective on the intersection of EMS, healthcare systems, emergency management, and public health.

My NAEMT Journey: Service Through Leadership and Collaboration

My involvement with NAEMT has centered on strengthening EMS preparedness and advancing the association's mission of representing and empowering EMS practitioners nationwide.

I currently serve as Vice Chair of the NAEMT EMS Disaster Preparedness Community, where I work alongside EMS leaders from across the country to address emerging threats, enhance operational readiness, and support disaster preparedness initiatives. Through this role, I have participated in strategic planning efforts and national discussions focused on ensuring EMS systems are prepared for disasters, public health emergencies, and complex incidents. This led to my participation in the NAEMT webinar "When the Waters Rise" in January 2026, as well as inclusion in Episode 22 of the NAEMT Radio podcast in December 2023 discussing regional healthcare coalitions and EMS.

NAEMT has long been a leader in EMS education, advocacy, and professional development, and I am committed to helping the organization continue to strengthen its impact on the profession.

National Leadership and Advocacy

Beyond my involvement with NAEMT, I currently serve as President of the National Association for Public Safety Infection Control Officers (NAPSICO). In this role, I work alongside public safety, healthcare, and emergency management leaders to advance infection prevention, occupational health, and responder safety initiatives across EMS, fire service, law enforcement, and other public safety disciplines.

As part of my leadership with NAPSICO, I participated in a national cohort that partnered with the International Board of Specialty Certification (IBSC) to develop the Designated Infection Control Officer-Certified (DICO-C) credential. This work included conducting a comprehensive job task analysis and contributing to examination content development to establish a nationally recognized professional certification supporting infection prevention and occupational health professionals across public safety.

I have also represented NAEMT within the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC), serving on both the Steering Committee and EMS Biosafety Transport Consortium. These initiatives support national preparedness efforts and strengthen EMS capabilities for managing high-consequence infectious disease incidents.

Throughout my career, I have worked to build meaningful partnerships among EMS, healthcare, public health, and emergency management organizations because I believe many of our profession's greatest challenges are best addressed through collaboration.

Education, Preparedness, and Responder Safety

Education and preparedness have been recurring themes throughout my career. Whether training future responders, delivering federal preparedness programs, developing emergency operations plans, or participating in national initiatives, I have remained focused on helping professionals become better prepared to serve their communities safely and effectively.

Representative contributions include:

- Advancing EMS disaster preparedness education.

- Supporting healthcare emergency preparedness and Hospital Incident Command System implementation.
- Delivering national preparedness education on CBRNE and highly infectious disease response.
- Promoting infection prevention and occupational health within public safety.
- Strengthening partnerships among EMS, healthcare, public health, and emergency management organizations.
- Supporting responder preparedness through FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness programs and national preparedness initiatives.

Why I'm Running

I am running for the NAEMT Board because our profession faces both significant challenges and tremendous opportunities. Workforce development, leadership succession, responder safety, EMS integration within healthcare systems, disaster readiness, and professional advocacy will continue to shape the future of EMS.

Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to serve EMS from multiple perspectives: as a field provider, fire service officer, hospital leader, educator, public health professional, and national committee representative. These experiences have reinforced my belief that strong leadership and effective advocacy are essential to advancing our profession and ensuring EMS providers have a voice in decisions that affect their practice, safety, and future.

Through my leadership with NAPSICO, I have worked to advance responder safety and occupational health at the national level. As part of these efforts, NAPSICO developed and submitted formal comments to OSHA regarding the proposed Emergency Response Standard, advocating for practical protections for EMS professionals and addressing the unique challenges associated with infectious disease exposure in the prehospital environment. This experience demonstrated the critical importance of having informed EMS leaders engaged in policy discussions that impact our workforce.

I believe NAEMT is uniquely positioned to lead these conversations through education, advocacy, and collaboration. If elected, I will bring a broad perspective, a commitment to servant leadership, and a passion for strengthening EMS through preparedness, professional development, and strategic partnerships. I am committed to helping NAEMT continue advancing the profession while ensuring EMS practitioners remain represented, prepared, and empowered to meet the challenges of the future.

What I Bring to the Board

- More than 27 years of EMS and fire service leadership experience.
- Illinois Department of Public Health Licensed Paramedic with advanced clinical training, including completion of the CHI Saint Joseph Health Critical Care Paramedic Program.
- Illinois Lead EMS Instructor and NAEMSE Level 1 Instructor dedicated to EMS education and professional development.
- Executive-level healthcare emergency preparedness and resilience expertise.
- National leadership in responder safety, infection prevention, and occupational health.
- Experience representing NAEMT in national preparedness and special pathogens initiatives.
- Experience contributing to national policy and regulatory advocacy efforts affecting EMS and responder safety, including OSHA Emergency Response Standard recommendations.
- Experience helping develop nationally recognized professional certification standards through the IBSC Designated Infection Control Officer-Certified (DICO-C) credential.

- A strong background in public health, emergency management, healthcare systems, and EMS operations.
- A collaborative servant-leadership approach focused on listening, engagement, and results.
- A commitment to supporting EMS providers, educators, and leaders throughout the Great Plains Region and across the nation.

Closing

Thank you for considering my candidacy for the NAEMT Board of Directors. I would be honored to serve the members of the Great Plains Region and NAEMT as a whole.

Our profession continues to evolve, and the opportunities before us are significant. Through advocacy, education, preparedness, leadership development, and strategic partnerships, I believe we can continue strengthening EMS for the providers who serve today and for the next generation of EMS professionals.

Together, we can help ensure that EMS remains a respected, resilient, and essential component of our nation's healthcare and public safety systems.