

1. Jonathan P. Carolla NAEMT Statement of Candidacy

- The position being sought
 - 1. East Central Region Director
- Your reasons for seeking the position
 - 1. I am seeking the position of East Central Region Director to extend my passion for EMS education and quality patient care beyond the local and regional level. My background in EMS education, curriculum development, simulation design, and policy work has prepared me to contribute meaningfully to NAEMT's mission. I believe my experience and commitment make me a strong asset to the Board.
- Your goals if elected
 - 1. If elected, my first goal is to work closely with the outgoing director to ensure continuity of current regional initiatives. Understanding the region's ongoing projects and challenges will be key to building on its progress.
 - 2. Secondly, I aim to foster collaboration between NAEMT and other national organizations to pursue unified goals, such as elevating education standards, advocating for improved reimbursement rates, and bridging the gaps between various EMS delivery models. While ambitious, I believe unity in EMS is achievable through sustained effort.
 - 3. Finally, I want to leave the position better than I found it, through transparency, engagement, and measurable impact.
- Key challenges and opportunities you believe NAEMT and the EMS profession are facing
 - 1. One of the greatest challenges we face is the fragmentation within EMS. Divisions between fire-based, private, hospital-based, and specialty care along with inconsistent state standards create barriers to progress. Yet, this challenge also presents an opportunity: NAEMT is uniquely positioned to lead efforts that unify the profession and elevate our collective voice.
 - 2. Another challenge is the culture and politics that inhibit EMS advancement. Issues like low reimbursement rates, workforce shortages, and outdated staffing models persist because of institutional resistance to change. However, I view this as a cultural challenge that NAEMT can help address by promoting progressive leadership and elevating new voices in the profession.

- How you believe NAEMT should address these issues
 1. NAEMT is already making meaningful strides through standardized EMS continuing education courses, advocacy efforts like EMS on the Hill, and collaborations with other professional organizations. These efforts help align the field under shared principles and standards.
 2. To address cultural barriers, NAEMT must go further by working directly with members to plant the seeds of change fostering unity, promoting positive leadership, and encouraging innovation. This work begins with the Board and extends through every member and initiative. It's not just about what we say nationally, but what we model locally.
- Why you are the best candidate for the position
 1. I may not claim to be the best candidate, but I know I'm dedicated, driven, and fully committed to the advancement of EMS. My career has centered around leaving every organization, policy, and program better than I found it. I give 110% to every initiative, and I live by the motto: if I set my mind to it, it's already done. I just have to work out the details.

If given the opportunity to serve, I will bring that same energy, accountability, and vision to the NAEMT Board and the East Central Region.