

**\*\*Statement of Candidacy for NAEMT Board of Directors – Midwest Region Director (2026-2027 Term)\*\***

I am excited to declare my candidacy for the position of Midwest Region Director on the NAEMT Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 term. My motivation for seeking this position stems from a deep commitment to the EMS community and a desire to contribute to the future direction of NAEMT. I believe that my experience and passion for advocacy can help elevate the visibility and impact of our organization among EMS providers.

As a dedicated EMS professional, I recognize the importance of having a strong voice within NAEMT to guide its initiatives. I am eager to leverage this platform to enhance NAEMT's public presence and advocacy efforts. My goal is to create a more engaging dialogue between NAEMT and EMS agencies, ensuring that valuable information about resources and educational opportunities is effectively communicated to all levels of personnel. By fostering these connections, we can enhance the perception of NAEMT and its vital role in supporting EMS professionals.

Two significant challenges currently affecting the EMS profession are employee retention and the quality of continuing education. These issues are closely linked; engaging and relevant educational opportunities not only motivate providers but also open pathways for career advancement in leadership and education roles. While NAEMT has established a reputation for delivering high-quality educational programs, there is a pressing need to improve outreach and incentivize agencies to promote these courses. By creating a structured process that encourages agencies to advocate for NAEMT's offerings, we can empower providers with the knowledge and skills they need to excel, ultimately fostering a more committed workforce.

With 16 years of diverse experience in EMS, I believe I am well-suited to represent the Midwest region effectively. My journey has taken me from rural EMS, where I often operated without immediate hospital access, to serving as a Federal employee providing EMS training to Army soldiers. I have also taught at the community college level in EMT and AEMT programs, and worked as part of the education staff at a large metropolitan EMS service, training new recruits. This breadth of experience allows me to understand the

varied challenges faced by different EMS agencies and to advocate for solutions that address their unique needs.

As an Army veteran, I bring a strong sense of duty, resilience, and a commitment to seeing tasks through to completion. I am tenacious in pursuing goals and dedicated to improving the EMS profession for all providers.

I am excited about the opportunity to serve as the Midwest Region Director and to work collaboratively with the NAEMT Board and our members to address the critical issues facing our profession. Together, we can enhance the support and resources available to EMS professionals, ensuring they feel valued, engaged, and equipped to provide the highest level of care to their communities.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the chance to contribute to the future of NAEMT and the EMS profession.

Dennis Scales

NRP, IN PM PI, TN PM-CC I/C