

Zartman - Statement of Candidacy

I am honored to announce my candidacy for re-election as NAEMT Midwest Regional Director. Serving in this role has been a privilege, and with your continued support, I will carry forward the mission of advancing EMS through advocacy, education, and leadership.

The EMS profession is at a defining moment. Our providers are called to do more than ever—delivering high-quality prehospital care while also serving as a critical bridge in community health. Yet we face persistent challenges: workforce shortages, retention and recruitment struggles, provider wellness, financial sustainability, and evolving models of care. These challenges also create opportunities to strengthen our profession, elevate our clinicians, and build EMS into a fully integrated and respected pillar of the healthcare system.

Throughout my career, I have embraced those opportunities. I have served as an EMS Director, Program Chair, educator, commissioner, and advocate. Today, I serve as **Program Chair for Paramedic Science at Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis, IN, Commissioner for the Indiana State EMS Commission**, and your **NAEMT Midwest Regional Director**. My credentials include Paramedic, Primary Instructor, and Instructor/Provider certifications in CPR, ACLS, PALS, PHTLS, AMLS, TECC, EPC, and EVOC. I have spent decades in both frontline EMS and executive leadership, ensuring that my perspective is grounded in the realities of the field while also strategic at the policy level.

If re-elected, my priorities will include:

- **Workforce Recruitment and Retention** – Building sustainable solutions to attract and keep EMS providers through fair compensation, career advancement opportunities, and expanded support for wellness and mental health.
- **Funding and Recognition** – Advocating for EMS to be recognized as an essential service, with sustainable funding models that reflect the true value of prehospital care.
- **Educational Advancement** – Expanding access to high-quality training and academic pathways, ensuring EMS professionals are prepared to meet the complex needs of today's communities.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships** – Strengthening ties with allied healthcare professions, social service organizations, and public safety partners to deliver holistic, community-based solutions.
- **Transparency and Engagement** – Maintaining open, two-way communication with Midwest members and ensuring your voices shape NAEMT's policies and direction.

NAEMT has made tremendous strides in advocacy, education, and professional development. Yet we cannot stop here. We must continue to push forward—expanding opportunities, amplifying our voice, and preparing the next generation of EMS professionals for the future of our industry.

My leadership philosophy is simple: **listen, collaborate, and act**. I believe in servant leadership, where the needs of our members and patients come first. My decades of service—spanning clinical practice, education, administration, and advocacy—equip me to bring experience, stability, and innovation to the role of Midwest Regional Director.

I respectfully ask for your support and your vote. Together, we can continue strengthening the foundation of EMS, supporting our clinicians, and ensuring our profession thrives.

John R. Zartman

Candidate for NAEMT Midwest Regional Director