

## 2023 NAEMT General Membership Meeting SCRIPT

[slide: walk-in + videos]

[slide: SUSAN Title]

<Voiceover: “Ladies and Gentlemen... Welcome to the 2023 NAEMT General Membership Meeting. Please welcome NAEMT President SUSAN BAILEY to begin our program.”

**SUSAN:**

[slide: Welcome]

Welcome members and guests to the 2023 NAEMT General Membership Meeting! We are honored and thankful to have so many of our members and friends with us this evening. Throughout the year, I have had the opportunity to meet with many members from across the country and around the world. I have been so inspired by the tremendous contributions our members are making to patient care in their communities and to strengthening and advancing EMS in the wake of stiff headwinds. I have witnessed firsthand the enthusiasm and commitment of so many of you in carrying out association projects that help advance our profession. I truly appreciate all of your efforts and dedication!

In the next hour or so, we will celebrate the accomplishments of our association and recognize the very best in our profession.

[slide: Pledge of Allegiance]

Before we begin, please rise as we renew our commitment to our nation, and the communities we serve by reciting our Pledge of Allegiance.

<rise, pledge>

Thank you.

[slide: Honoring the Sacrifices]

Although many of our members wanted to be with us in New Orleans, they instead are responding to the needs of their communities, and/or responding to disasters. They are still with us in spirit, and we send prayers for their safety and wellness.

Also missed are the many colleagues we lost in the line of duty...from crashes... to shootings... to violence... We must honor and remember our brothers and sisters for their sacrifice. We owe it to them to do everything in our power to make sure that communities and elected officials recognize their sacrifice and provide EMS with the resources needed to protect our workforce.

[slide: Honoring Sacrifices 2]

In July, the National EMS Memorial Service was held in Arlington, Virginia, to recognize and honor the sacrifices of the 2023 honorees who died in the line of duty. Representatives from the NAEMT Board attended the Service to honor our fallen and their families.

[slide: Title: Jana]

To pay tribute to those brave Paramedics and EMTs who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their patients during that time, Jana Williams from the National EMS Memorial Service will lead us in a prayer for our fallen heroes.

*<Jana goes to podium><Jana delivers prayer>*

[slide: EMS/angel]

**SUSAN:**

[slide: Never forgotten]

Thank you, Jana. These EMS heroes will never be forgotten. Their sacrifice inspires us to make our EMS profession better — and safer — for our practitioners and for the patients we serve.

*<pause>*

[slide: Annual Report series]

And now, I am pleased to provide an update on the work that has been accomplished on behalf of our members and to advance our profession. It's been a very busy year and we still have over 3 months to go. First, let me share with you the highlights of our advocacy work. Through our efforts:

- The Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs (SIREN) Reauthorization Act was introduced in the [Senate](#) and the House and we are on track to see this very important grant program receive congressional reauthorization.
- The EMS Counts Act of 2023 was introduced in the [House](#) and [Senate](#) to require the Department of Labor to accurately count the number of EMS personnel in the country.
- Letters were sent to [Senate and House leaders](#) to ask for EMS workforce development funds for EMS agencies. And, we submitted comments to the Senate and House leadership on the need for federal help to address the EMS workforce shortage and to ensure that EMS personnel receive the disaster preparedness training that they need to effectively respond to the increasing number of disasters.
- [EMS On the Hill Day](#) was held on March 30 at which 240 EMS professionals from 39 states and the District of Columbia participated in 217 meetings with their members of Congress and staff to discuss our key legislative requests. We appreciate the efforts of all who were able to walk the halls of the Capitol with us.
- A letter was sent to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the CMS Administrator to express our deep disappointment in their decision to terminate the ET3 Model on December 31, 2023, two years before the originally scheduled date for the end of the pilot project.
- Another letter was sent to the Ground Ambulance Payment Billing Advisory Committee recommending that the committee ask Congress to require commercial insurers to adequately reimburse ambulance

services to eliminate the need for balance billing, and that interfacility transfers be regulated differently than 911 ambulance services, which operate under a different financial model.

- A joint letter was sent to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to request a delay in implementation of the final rule on changes in the rates that the VA pays for ambulance services, and a meeting with the Secretary and his staff to discuss how the VA and EMS can work together during the delay to help ensure that veterans can continue to receive ambulance services.
- Member advocacy campaigns were conducted this year to generate support in Congress for our legislation. The eight campaigns resulted in 5,590 emails sent to 428 members of Congress. Thank you to all members who participated in these campaigns!
- The results of a [national survey](#) on how EMS economic and operational models have been changing in the face of unprecedented challenges were published.
- The results of our [national survey on MIH-CP programs](#) were also published.
- The 49th [National EMS Week on May 21-27](#) was promoted across the country. This year's theme, *EMS: Where Emergency Care Begins*, highlighted the important contributions of EMS practitioners in safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of our communities.
- Three new position statements on key issues were adopted calling for:
  1. State Medicaid reimbursement for EMS that covers the actual cost of response.
  2. For the federal government to establish an [Emergency Support Function \(ESF\) specifically for EMS](#) within the National Response Framework, decoupling EMS from ESF #8, Public Health and Medical Services.
  3. And, for the level and quality of [participation by EMS in DHS fusion centers](#) to be standardized across the nation to ensure that fusion centers have consistent access to information and intelligence collected by EMS.
- A new page was created on the NAEMT web site to provide [EMS workforce development resources](#) to members and four [scholarships](#) were awarded to help students in underrepresented groups to enter the EMS workforce.

We have been working hard to provide our members with more benefits and services to support their careers and improve their health and well-being.

- [NAEMT Radio](#), our latest initiative to inform and engage members, made its debut in February. Podcasts are published twice a month on trending topics presented by the top leaders and subject matter experts in EMS.
- The 2024 class of [Lighthouse Leadership](#) mentees was selected, joining the first class selected in 2023. Created for our members, the program is designed to match mentees with mentors who can guide and support them in achieving their leadership goals.
- Two NAEMT members were awarded and accepted [scholarships](#) to advance their careers. The application period for our next round of scholarships just ended and those recipients will be notified next month.
- Free webinars with CE credit were offered to members on
  - changes to EMS economic and operational models,

- best practices in coordinating education courses,
- navigating CMS compliance with Medicaid supplemental payments,
- prehospital stroke assessment and treatment,
- cybersecurity readiness and response,
- prehospital trauma standards of care,
- preparing your EMS comms system for disaster response and recover,
- extreme weather impacts on first responders and patient care, and
- lessons from the first round of Medicare cost data collection.

More free webinars will be offered throughout the remainder of the year.

- In gratitude for their service, a raffle was conducted each day during EMS Week for full NAEMT members in the U.S. Multiple gifts were distributed, with winners announced on the EMS Week [Raffles and Discounts](#) page of the NAEMT website. And this month we are raffling off products to members for National Preparedness Month.
- To help our members understand and access all of the benefits that come with NAEMT membership, the *Membership Monday's* newsletter was launched in June. Each monthly issue highlights a selection of benefits, explaining what members receive and how to access them.
- Virtual listening sessions were held in February with our Board members so that members could share their needs, interests, and concerns regarding EMS and NAEMT. And, next month, we will open up our virtual committee meetings to all members so that they can learn about the projects that our committees are working on.
- We are working on the development of a new mobile app for our members to notify you of NAEMT courses in your local area, advocacy alerts, limited time discounts, your membership status, and easy navigation to your NAEMT member benefits. This new app will become available in the Spring of 2024.

We continue to develop some of the best education curricula for EMS practitioners to strengthen their knowledge and skills.

- The 10th edition of our PHTLS [course](#) was published earlier in the year. It's a fantastic course and I encourage all members to take PHTLS to refresh and enhance your trauma response.
- NAEMT's Mental Health Resilience Officer ([MHRO](#)) course was published in an 8-hour classroom format, in addition to the previously released online format. This is an important course that assists EMS agencies in building and supporting the mental health resilience of their personnel.
- Three additional courses in our [Community Paramedicine Series](#) were published: Endocrine Disorders, Cardiac Disorders, and Respiratory Disorders. These courses teach participants working as community paramedics how to care for patients diagnosed with chronic cardiac, endocrine and respiratory illness.

- The 3rd edition of Geriatric Education for EMS has just published. It includes a new course schedule, and all new lessons and patient simulations. The first official 3<sup>rd</sup> edition course was conducted today right here in New Orleans.
- Development of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of All Hazards Disaster Response has been completed and the first official 2<sup>nd</sup> edition All Hazards course was held yesterday here at EMS World Expo. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition course materials will be available for training centers early in 2024.
- A new online EMS Safety Officers course has been developed and will publish by the end of the year. This new course helps prepare EMS personnel to serve as their agency's EMS Safety Officer.
- Congratulations to our AMLS Committee for the 4th edition AMLS Instructor Update, which was held on Monday. This committee has been hard at work revising and editing the AMLS textbook, updating the course schedule, and writing the course lessons and patient simulations. We deeply appreciate all of the committee's work to ensure that this 4<sup>th</sup> edition of AMLS is outstanding.
- And congratulations to Drs. Warren Dorlac and Meg Morgan for leading the [12th annual World Trauma Symposium](#). Once again, the Symposium presented a lineup of the very best experts in prehospital trauma to a global audience. Thank you for your leadership of this world-class event.

[slide: Thank You]

These are just some of the highlights of the tremendous work being accomplished by the hundreds of members who volunteer their time to these projects and keep our association moving with forward momentum. The active engagement of our members is NAEMT's greatest asset. With your support, we will continue to advance the EMS profession. It is my honor to serve you. Thank you sincerely for your contributions!

*<pause for applause>*

[slide: NAEMT Board]

Some of our most active volunteers are the members of the NAEMT Board of Directors. It is my great pleasure and honor to introduce my fellow members of the 2023 NAEMT Board of Directors:

1. Chris Way, President-elect
2. Rob Luckritz, Treasurer
3. Troy Tuke, Secretary
4. Bruce Evans, Immediate Past President
5. Steven Kroll, Region I Director
6. Rom Duckworth, Region I Director
7. Juan Cardona, Region II Director
8. Melissa McNally, Region II Director
9. Dave Edgar, Region III Director
10. Shannon Watson, Region III Director
11. Tim Dienst, Region IV Director
12. Karen Larsen, Region IV Director
13. Maria Beermann-Foat, At-Large Director
14. Matt Zavadsky, At-Large Director
15. Dr. Douglas Kupas, Medical Director

Thank you all very much for your dedication and commitment!

[slide: Title Jarvis]

Please join me in recognizing and thanking Dr. Jeff Jarvis who serves as NAEMT's Associate Medical Director.

*<pause>*

**SUSAN:**

[slide: images of Steve Kroll, Juan Cardona, Dave Edgar and Karen Larsen]

At the end of this year, four of our highly valued directors will be transitioning off of the NAEMT Board. Last year, the NAEMT Board voted to replace the previous four NAEMT regions with 10 new regions in order to reduce the overall geographic size of each of our regions and make it easier for directors to get to know our members. The Board voted unanimously to make this change, recognizing that some of our Board members would not be able to run for re-election in their new regions as these positions are currently filled. Each of these directors have made great contributions to our association and profession:

- Steve Kroll serves as the Vice-Chair of our Advocacy Committee, Chair of the NAEMT EMS PAC, a member of the EMS Economics Committee, our New York State Advocacy Coordinator, and our representative to NVFC.
- Juan Cardona serves as a member of the Advocacy Committee, Lighthouse Leadership Committee, Latin American Education Committee, and is our representative to the Panamerican Trauma Society and IAFC.
- Dave Edgar serves as the Chair of NAEMT's Lighthouse Leadership Committee, a member of the Finance Committee, and as our representative to CAAS.
- Karen Larsen serves as the Vice Chair of the NAEMT Affiliate Advisory Council, a member of the Education Committee. Kansas Membership Coordinator, and our representative to IBSC and AAMS.

Each of these directors has represented NAEMT at federal and state meetings and key EMS events. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve with these Board members and thank them for their great service. Each of them is committed to remaining active and engaged in NAEMT activities.

*<Directors are provided with their plaques, photos are taken, and then they return to their seats.>*

**SUSAN:**

[slide: Past Presidents]

While NAEMT is a forward-focused association, we never forget how we have grown over the years and the leaders who led us through the challenges along the way. We are very grateful for the leadership provided to NAEMT by our Past Presidents. Thank you very much for your service.

*<Ask those past presidents in the audience to please stand. pause>*

It is now my pleasure to introduce our Treasurer, Rob Luckritz

[slide: Title Rob Luckritz]

<Rob comes to podium>

**ROB:**

[slide: Corporate Partner Series]

NAEMT's Corporate Partners support our mission and the programs that represent and serve the EMS profession. On behalf of all members of NAEMT, please accept our appreciation and gratitude. It is my pleasure to recognize NAEMT's 2023 Corporate Partners:

**Prestige Level**

FirstNet, Built with AT&T

**Elite Level**

EMS World

**Premier Level**

Columbia Southern University

Public Consulting Group

ZOLL Medical / Zoll Data Systems

**Diamond Level**

Medline EMS

**Platinum Level**

Amazon Business

Jones and Bartlett Learning Public Safety Group

Journal of Special Operations Medicine

Laurel Road

McKesson Medical-Surgical

Rev Group, Inc.

Stryker

**Gold Level**

Demers-Braun-Crestline-Medix

**Silver Level**

American College of Emergency Physicians

National Registry of EMTs

Ninth Brain

NPP.GOV

OnStar

Page, Wolfberg & Wirth, LLC

**Bronze Level**

American Red Cross

EMSPRO

General Devices

KlipWeb LLC

Skedco

University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing

## Annual Level

5.11 Inc.  
Bound Tree Medical  
Coalition Against Bigger Trucks  
Handtevy-Emergency Pediatric Standards  
Logis Solutions  
Lowe's  
MorTan/Morgan Lens  
National EMS Museum  
North American Rescue  
Pulsara  
SAM Medical  
Solutions Group  
Technimount EMS  
The Student Loan Help Group  
TrueClot

*<raise hand toward screen>*

And all the service partners you see here on the screen.

[slide: Thank you]

Thank you to all corporate partners for your support and for the innovations, products and services you provide.

[slide: CEC]

In 2019, NAEMT launched the EMS Corporate Engagement Council to provide a forum for those who supply the EMS industry with products and services and those who provide EMS care to discuss key issues impacting the industry and their implications. Ten national and international EMS companies are participating this year. The Council has been instrumental in helping align our industry around the key issues that impact agencies, practitioners, and our patients. And, they have partnered with us to advocate for critical legislation. Please stand and be recognized.

Thank you to the members of our Corporate Engagement Council.

*<Rob leaves the podium. pause>*

**SUSAN:**

Thank you, Rob. Now I invite Steve Kroll, NAEMT's PAC Chair to the podium

*<Steve comes to the podium>*

**STEVE:**

*<slide of new PAC LOGO>*

Thank you, Susan, for the opportunity to briefly speak about NAEMT's EMS political action committee.

NAEMT EMS PAC is a key component to our association's three-pronged advocacy strategy of:

- grassroots member advocacy;



- NAEMT’s professional lobbyists, who advocate for us in Washington, DC; and
- contributions to candidates for federal elective office through the NAEMT EMS PAC to help elect or re-elect federal candidates who are friends of our profession and the patients we serve.

Our chances of achieving our legislative goals are greater when all three components are strong and coordinated. The NAEMT EMS PAC strengthens our advocacy by giving a unified voice to thousands of Paramedics and EMTs across the nation through the selection of elected representatives who champion the goals of the EMS community. By pooling individual contributions into a PAC fund, there is strength in numbers that makes the NAEMT EMS PAC more impactful than individual political contributions.

I encourage all NAEMT members to contribute to the PAC. Contributions of any amount are welcome. Members can make a one-time contribution or set it up to contribute a specific amount each month. Several of our Board members wearing the NAEMT EMS PAC pin will be available at tonight’s reception to answer any questions about our PAC and how to contribute. We also have a PAC table at the reception with information that you can pick up.

I look forward to seeing you at tonight’s membership reception.

*<Steve leaves the podium. Pause>*

[slide: NAEMT logo]

**SUSAN:**

Thank you, Steve.

[slide: NAEMT Committees]

Our accomplishments would not be possible without the active engagement of our committees and councils. They are truly the engine that drives our association. NAEMT committee members spend many hours on our projects and initiatives.

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 NAEMT Committees and their Chairs. Members of the committee, please stand when your committee is called and remain standing:

1. Advocacy Committee, chaired by Chris Way
2. Affiliate Advisory Council, chaired by Tim Dienst
3. Advanced Medical Life Support Committee, chaired by Cory Richter
4. Candidacy and Elections Committee, chaired by Dennis Wilham [Will-um]
5. Education Committee, chaired by Rick Ellis
6. EMS Disaster Preparedness Committee, chaired by David Blevins
7. EMS Economics Committee, chaired by Matt Zavadsky
8. EMS Lighthouse Leadership Committee, chaired by Dave Edgar
9. EMS Workforce Committee, chaired by Garrett Hedeon
10. Emergency Pediatric Care Committee, chaired by Jon Willoughby
11. Executive Committee, which I chair.
12. Finance Committee, chaired by Rob Luckritz
13. Latin American Education Committee, chaired by Elkin Fuentes
14. Membership Committee, chaired by Melissa McNally
15. Mideast Education Committee, chaired by Ahed Najjar [Nih-jah]
16. Military Relations Council, chaired by Michael Williamson
17. Prehospital Trauma Committee, chaired by Joanne Piccininni [Peach-i-nini]
18. Regional European Education Committee, chaired by Armin Reisinger

[slide: Thank You]

Thank you for your support and contributions.

*<Pause for Applause and for them to be seated>*

I also wish to recognize those members who serve as coordinators within their states and regions, and internationally to support our programs.

- Our network of state, regional, and national education coordinators in the United States and in countries around the world. Our network of state Advocacy Coordinators. These members are our grassroots advocacy powerhouse. And our network of Membership Coordinators working to recruit, retain and engage our members. Thank you for your outstanding work in the field!

[slide: Foundation]

Now, I would like to recognize and thank the Board of Trustees of the NAEMT Foundation. The NAEMT Foundation is a separate, non-profit organization. Its mission is to support a better future for EMS. The NAEMT Foundation awards scholarships to individuals interested in pursuing careers in EMS and supports our future health professionals by providing judges for the EMT competition at the HOSA International Leadership Conference.

1. Cory Richter, President
2. Don Lundy, Vice President
3. Rob Luckritz, Treasurer
4. Connie Meyer, Secretary
5. Rod Barrett, Trustee
6. Rick Ellis, Trustee
7. Fergus Laughridge, Trustee
8. Scott Matin, Trustee
9. Jason Scheiderer, Trustee

*<pause>*

[slide: Affiliates]

We know that state legislation and regulation can have a profound impact on EMS agencies and practitioners. NAEMT is proud of our long-standing relationship with state EMS associations and other EMS organizations affiliated with NAEMT. Representatives of these 47 organizations comprise NAEMT's Affiliate Advisory Council. Tim Dienst serves as our Council Chair and Karen Larsen, Council Vice Chair. Thank you, Council members, for your support of NAEMT and for sharing your insights and perspectives on important EMS issues.

[slide: logo slide]

**SUSAN:**

[slide: Presidential Leadership Award]

Each year, the NAEMT President has an opportunity to select individuals to receive Presidential Leadership Awards for their outstanding contributions to NAEMT and EMS. This year, I would like to recognize three very special members for their outstanding service to our association.

[slide: Dr. Doug Kupas]

First, I ask Dr. Doug Kupas to please join me at the podium...

*<Doug Kupas to podium>*

I am recognizing Dr. Kupas for his active engagement and tremendous contributions to our association. As our Medical Director on the NAEMT Board, he actively engages with Board members and provides insightful clinical perspectives that help us when considering policies and positions that impact our members. He is serving as the Medical Editor for the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the AMLS textbook. He is passionate about the safety of EMS practitioners and serves as the Medical Director for the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of our EMS Safety course. He traveled to the Philippines this year to conduct the first EMS Safety course in that region and to help establish our new Asian Education Committee, and he will travel to Dubai next month to present lectures on EMS Safety to our Mideast Education Committee. Dr. Kupas has been instrumental in expanding our collaboration with NAEMSP on webinars, the development of education content, and EMS advocacy. Thank you, Dr. Kupas for your service to our association and the profession.

*<applause><award presentation><photo>*

*<Doug exits stage>*

Now, I'll ask Joanne Piccininni to join me at the podium and Dr. Warren Dorlac, NAEMT's PHTLS Medical Director, to help me present this award.

*<Joanne and Warren go to podium>*

Joanne has been a key leader in NAEMT education for several years, serving as Affiliate Faculty for most of NAEMT's courses, serving as our education coordinator for the state of New Jersey, and serving as an author of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition GEMS course. In 2021, Joanne was appointed to serve as a member of NAEMT's Prehospital Trauma Committee. She was instrumental in the development of the 10<sup>th</sup> edition PHTLS course, authoring several lessons and patient simulations. In January, I was delighted that Joanne accepted my invitation to serve as the Chair of the Prehospital Trauma Committee. In this role, she is leading projects to develop the 10<sup>th</sup> edition PHTLS refresher course and the 10<sup>th</sup> edition PHTLS for First Responders Course. She readily shares her time and expertise with NAEMT and always says "yes" when asked to provide feedback. She has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership in all of her NAEMT work and I am pleased to present her with this Presidential Leadership Award. Dr. Dorlac, please join me in presenting this award to Joanne.

*<Photo is taken and then Joanne exits podium>*

*<pause>*

Dr. Dorlac, please remain at the podium.

#### **SUSAN:**

Dr. Dorlac became NAEMT's Tactical Medical Director in 2018 and then PHTLS Medical Director in 2021. Since that time, he has made extraordinary contributions to our PHTLS program and NAEMT education worldwide. He has provided medical oversight of all PHTLS 10<sup>th</sup> edition materials. He has traveled to Europe to present the PHTLS 10<sup>th</sup> edition medical changes to NAEMT's European Education Committee, and will attend a meeting of our Latin American faculty next month in Panama to present the 10<sup>th</sup> edition medical changes. He traveled to Brazil to represent NAEMT at the annual meeting of the Panamerican Trauma Society and met with the leadership of NAEMT's education partner in Brazil. Dr. Dorlac has served as the moderator of globally recognized World Trauma Symposium. In this role he has brought the most outstanding prehospital trauma experts to share their knowledge and expertise with EMS practitioners and other prehospital providers. In addition, Dr. Dorlac serves as NAEMT's liaison to the Committee on TCCC and has been instrumental in building NAEMT's relationship with the

Dept. of Defense Joint Trauma System. Dr. Dorlac has also made it his personal mission to help NAEMT's training centers and faculty in Ukraine. He has spent countless hours providing advice and guidance to field providers and educators on best practices to save lives and limbs on the battlefield. It is my honor to present a Presidential Leadership Award to Dr. Warren Dorlac.

*<applause><award presentation><photo><Warren exits stage>*

[slide: Presidential Leadership Awards]

**SUSAN:**

Congratulations to the 2023 recipients of the NAEMT Presidential Leadership Awards!

*<applause><award presentation><photo><all exit stage>*

**SUSAN:**

[slide: National EMS Awards]

Now, it gives me great pleasure to begin the presentation of the 2023 National EMS Awards of Excellence. This year we received many excellent nominations and the recipients selected truly represent outstanding examples of the very best of our profession.

I would like to call to the podium NAEMT Board Member Juan Cardona to present our first award.

*<Juan comes to podium>*

**JUAN:**

[slide: Paramedic of the Year]

Thanks, SUSAN... Our first award is the 2023 NAEMT Paramedic of the Year, sponsored by Velico. I ask Ciaran Flanagan from Velico to join me on the stage to present the award.

*<XXX comes to podium>*

It is now our pleasure to recognize **Richard "Ricky" Battle of Hawthorne, California**, as our 2023 Paramedic of the Year. Ricky, please join us at the podium...

*<Ricky comes to podium>*

"Every day, do something nobody asked you to do" is a motto Ricky Battle lives by, especially in providing care to his patients. Working for the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Ricky provides superior cardiac, trauma and other emergent and non-emergent care. Not only does he practice and train others in EMS in proper lifesaving techniques and care during transport, but he takes the time to care for the family. Through his actions, Ricky can transform any scene from being chaotic to compassionate. He is an advocate for both the patient and family. He also helps to educate crews about the importance of building good working relationships with nursing home and long-term care facility staff. Ricky devotes time to building the profession of EMS. He volunteers to help with the EMS Clinical Challenge and has been integral in promoting the diversity and equity themes in the challenge. He is an instructor, lifelong learner, and one of the most sought-after preceptors for LA County Fire.

**Ricky, thank you for your service and congratulations on your award!**

<photo><Juan, XXX and Ricky leave podium>

**SUSAN:**

Now, I invite NAEMT Board Member Shannon Watson to present our next award.

<Shannon comes to podium>

**SHANNON:**

[slide: EMT of the Year]

Thanks, SUSAN... Our 2023 NAEMT EMT of the Year Award is sponsored by Demers-Braun-Crestline-Medix. Our sponsor is unfortunately unable to be with us this evening.

It is my pleasure to introduce **Wayne Chan of Monroe, New York**, as our 2023 EMT of the Year! Wayne, please join me at the podium.

<Wayne comes to podium>

Wayne Chan has been an EMT for over 20 years and is the president and training officer for Monroe Volunteer Ambulance in Monroe, New York. He is also a delegate to the Orange County EMS Council and serves as treasurer for the Hudson Valley Regional EMS Council. Wayne's patient care skills are exemplary and his confidence "makes everyone around him feel they are in good hands." He has a way of interacting with patients and their families that instantly puts them at ease. He is a patient advocate and has built a great rapport with area physicians and healthcare administrators to request help with volunteer retention, funding for equipment, and long patient turnover times at the hospitals. He also continues his education path in active shooter events by researching and participating in drills to refine his skills in responding to mass casualty incidents.

**Wayne, thank you for your service and congratulations on your award!**

<photo><Shannon and Wayne leave podium>

**SUSAN:**

Now, I invite NAEMT Secretary Troy Tuke to present our next award.

**TROY:**

[slide: Educator of the Year]

Thanks, SUSAN... Our next award is the 2023 NAEMT EMS Educator of the Year Award, sponsored by Jones & Bartlett Learning Public Safety Group. I ask Cathy Esperti from PSG to join me on stage to present the award.

<Cathy comes to podium>

And now, we are pleased to recognize **Eric Bauer, of Bowling Green, Kentucky**, as our 2023 Educator of the Year. Come join us, Eric!

<Eric comes to podium>

Eric Bauer is president and CEO of FlightBridgeED. He is also founder of the FlightBridgeED Podcast, FlightBridgeED Air & Surface Transport Symposium, and created an award-winning prehospital Ventilator Management Workshop and critical care review course. Eric has committed himself to delivering high-quality continuing education for more than 30 years. He inspires leaders to be better role models and students to keep learning. He was an early adopter of short and focused clinical education. He is an accomplished instructor, author, and podcaster. Eric was the first paramedic to become an honorary fellow of the Academy of Air & Surface Transport Nurses. He has served as a development partner with education institutions, and a regional clinical compliance and education manager at a large air medical service. Bauer is working on his doctorate of education in Health Care and continues to work as a paramedic.

Eric, congratulations on your award!

<photo><Troy, Cathy and Eric leave podium>

**SUSAN:**

Now, I invite NAEMT Board Member Dave Edgar to present this next award.

<Dave comes to podium>

**DAVE:**

[slide: Military Medic of the Year]

Thanks, SUSAN... Our next award is the *2023 NAEMT Military Medic of the Year Award*, sponsored by *North American Rescue*. I ask David Davis from North American Rescue to join me on the stage to announce the award.

<David comes to podium>

On behalf of our country, association, and the patients served, it is our pleasure to announce

**Staff Sergeant Sean Clerkin of Manassas, Virginia**, as our 2023 Military Medic of the Year! Staff Sergeant Clerkin is unable to be with us this evening, but we will hear from him shortly.

Staff Sergeant Clerkin sets himself apart as a special operations medic, flight medic, and leader. He has an incredible work ethic, exemplifies servant leadership, and demonstrates passion for educating others and pursuing medical knowledge. Over the past 12 months, Staff Sergeant Clerkin has been deployed to two locations for greater than 90 days. During these deployments, he responded to two urgent casualties in the back of an aircraft, providing outstanding care despite evasive maneuvering. His expert resuscitation of patients with penetrating abdominal wounds as well as extremity hemorrhage highlights his dedication to the fundamentals of damage control resuscitation, ensuring these wounded servicemembers survived. He is pioneering safe and efficient methods to rescue critically injured patients in an austere Arctic environment. He led the initiative for bringing the first unit of fresh whole blood on an ARSOA aircraft north of the Arctic Circle.

**Staff Sergeant Clerkin... thank you for your service to our country, and congratulations on your award!**

<Roll video><applause><photo><Dave and David exit stage>

**SUSAN:**

Now, I invite NAEMT Medical Director Dr. Doug Kupas to present our next award.

<Doug comes to podium>

**DOUG:**

[slide: EMS Medical Director of the Year]

Thanks, SUSAN... Our 2023 NAEMT EMS Medical Director of the Year award is sponsored by Bound Tree and I ask Tim Rubert to join me in presenting the award.

*<Tim comes to podium>*

It is our pleasure to present **Dr. Matthew Letizia, of Elizabeth, New Jersey**, with our 2023 NAEMT EMS Medical Director of the Year Award. Dr. Letizia, please join us on stage...

*<Dr. Letizia comes to podium>*

Dr. Letizia is the medical director for a significant number of EMS, fire, law enforcement and ocean rescue agencies in New Jersey. He is actively involved with each agency, advising, guiding, directing, and identifying areas for improvement. He assists EMS personnel with learning critical decision making, clinical assessments, and procedures during high-pressure situations through field training and regularly scheduled lectures. He believes every call is a learning opportunity and does frequent ride-alongs with EMS practitioners, offering mentoring and training on scene. Dr. Letizia reviews and continually updates department policies and protocols. He also helped to advance patient safety by creating a Just Culture and stressing the importance of safety incident reporting. He is the medical director of the community college EMS program and has secured agreements with hospitals and EMS agencies to provide students the opportunity to complete their required observation hours. His unrelenting self-awareness, positivity, humility, empathy, professionalism, and integrity make up his prehospital reputation.

Congratulations, Dr. Letizia. Thank you for your service to your community and our profession!

*<photo><Doug, Tim and Dr. Letizia leave podium>*

**SUSAN:**

Now, I invite NAEMT Board Member Karen Larsen and Michelle Olech-Smith (oh-leck) with American Academy of Pediatrics to help present our next award.

*<Karen and Michelle come to podium>*

**KAREN:**

[slide: Pediatric EMS Award]

Thanks, SUSAN... For our Pediatric EMS Award, we'd like to ask Peter Antevy from Handtevy-Pediatric Emergency Standards, our award sponsor, to join us on stage to present the award.

*<Peter comes to podium>*

It is our sincere pleasure to present the 2023 NAEMT-AAP Pediatric EMS Award to **Dr. Jennifer Anders of Baltimore, Maryland!** Dr. Anders, please join us on stage...

*< Dr. Anders comes to podium>*

Dr. Anders is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins Children's Center and associate state EMS medical director for pediatrics at the Maryland Institute for EMS Services. She has been a leader in pediatric EMS care for almost two decades. Through her research, education, mentorship, and clinical leadership, she has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to ensuring that children throughout Maryland and the country receive high-quality, professional EMS care. She has led research, education, and policy initiatives that have directly improved EMS care for children. Jennifer is the chair of the Maryland Institute for EMS Systems Pediatric Quality Improvement Committee and Data Analysis and Research Team. She has published dozens of peer-reviewed manuscripts focused on improving pediatric EMS care and has received multiple national awards for her research. Anders is a powerful advocate for children in EMS systems throughout Maryland. She has also partnered with the Maryland EMSC Family Advisory Network on developing a pediatric termination of resuscitation protocol for EMS and children in severe respiratory distress.

Congratulations on your award, Dr. Anders!

*<photo><Karen, Michelle, Peter and Dr. Anders leave podium>*

[slide: National EMS Awards]

And now I'll hand things back over to SUSAN.

*<SUSAN steps to podium>*

**SUSAN:**

Other National EMS Awards of Excellence will be presented tomorrow morning at the opening ceremony of EMS World Expo. While they will not be joining us onstage this evening, please join me in congratulating the recipients of the following EMS Awards of Excellence:

**[Acknowledge winners/sponsors on slide]**

**Plum Emergency Medical Services, Inc., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

2023 NAEMT-ACEP/Technimount EMS Safety in EMS Award

**Salem (VA) Volunteer Rescue Squad, Salem, Virginia**

2023 Digitech Volunteer EMS Service of the Year Award

**Jamie Gray, BS, AAS, NRP**

2023 EMS World/Dynarex EMS Caring Award

**Sheldon Community Ambulance Team, Sheldon, Iowa**

2023 EMS World/FirstNet®, Built with AT&T Wellness and Resilience Award

**Sachse Fire-Rescue, Sachse, Texas**

2023 Dick Ferneau Career EMS Service of the Year Award, Sponsored by Ferno

Thank you... and congratulations again to this year's National EMS Awards of Excellence recipients. You are all shining stars in our profession. Thanks again to our sponsors for their support in recognizing those whose outstanding achievements have made a difference for their patients and communities.

[slide: Morando Award]



Our final award... the Rocco V. Morando Lifetime Achievement Award... is NAEMT's most prestigious recognition of an individual's contribution to prehospital emergency medical care and the EMS profession. The award is granted to select individuals who, through their actions, leadership, and spirit, have demonstrated a lifetime commitment and dedication to the advancement of EMS. The National Registry of EMTs is the generous sponsor of this award. Dr. Kevin Mackey, Chair of the National Registry Board of Directors, joins me in presenting this award.

*<Dr. Mackey goes to the podium>*

[slide: Deb Cason]

THE 2023 ROCCO V. MORANDO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT IS BEING PRESENTED to **Debra Cason!**  
<applause>

I am thrilled to present this award to one so deserving! Deb has devoted her professional life to the education of EMS practitioners for decades. She has been a key national EMS figure in moving the profession forward. She was instrumental in getting national accreditation accepted and implemented for paramedic programs in 2013. She was also vital to the development of curricula and national education standards. She led countless efforts to advance, evolve, and improve EMS and EMS education.

Deb has chaired the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions, is past president of the National Association of EMS Educators, and is the past chair of the National Registry. She has worked closely with the EMS Education Agenda and its components.

Deb retired from her position as Program Director and Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine Education at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas where she worked for more than 38 years. Her position included oversight of initial EMT and Paramedic education programs and paramedic continuing education. Prior to this position, Deb worked in the Emergency Department at Parkland Memorial Hospital as Head Nurse. Deb is a registered nurse and Paramedic. She holds a Master of Science degree.

Congratulations, Deb, and thank you for all you do on behalf of EMS!

**SUSAN:**

*<applause><acceptance><photo><return to seats>*

[slide: Logo]

**SUSAN:**

We are now at the conclusion of this year's General Membership Meeting, generously sponsored by Columbia Southern University and FirstNet, Built with AT&T. I invite you all to join us in the next room for some fun at the NAEMT Member Reception. Thank you!