



National Association of State EMS Officials



Report on EMS for Advocates April 2013 – NASEMSO Board



As discussed previously, the Advocates board has changed over the last months. While AEMS previously included NAEMSE and NAEMT as sponsorship/board members, both organizations have scaled back to corporate members. NAEMSE changed due to some budget challenges and NAEMT due to their increased emphasis on Field Bill activities and the financial resources needed to accomplish that.

That leaves two primary sponsor-level members – NAEMSP and NASEMSO. The AEMS bylaws provides that each sponsor organizations has two members on the board with one vote for each organization. The board also has two other non-voting members representing the corporate (Aaron Reinhart) and general membership (Ken Knipper) as well as the past president. While the board composition might suggest that there needs to be some bylaws changes, the board has decided to not react yet until the reorganization of AEMS is more stable.

Board reps from NAEMSP are Scott Bourn and Ron Pirrallo. Board reps from NASEMSO are Randy and I. Current president of the AEMS board is Scott and I have been holding office as secretary/treasurer the last few months. At the board meeting last week, it was decided that we need to fill out the officer slots and transition of leadership better. As such, it was decided that Scott will continue as President until the end of the year, Ron Pirrallo will fill the Secretary/Treasurer position and I will fill the president-elect position so that primary leadership will transition to NASEMSO next year.

The Board discussed what activities AEMS needs to be involved with. The current draft list includes:

- NEMSIS Funding – AEMS has already aligned with American Heart Association efforts to gain legislative and funding support for NEMSIS. Even prior to the current budget events going on in DC, NEMSIS funding is not as secure as it needs to be, especially for transition to version 3.0. AEMS will engage with NHTSA, NEMSAC and others on appropriate activities.
- FDA-Related Drug Shortage issues – monitor GAO study primarily at the moment and provide advocacy support for Joint National EMS Leadership Forum
- Liability Issues (disaster volunteers and physician EMTALA protection -- see below from ACS) -- support other association efforts as we've done before
- PAHPA -- continue current efforts around language in National Health Security Strategy but as part of Trauma/EMS Coalition efforts
- Ambulance reimbursement -- monitoring and support efforts of other associations to the extent that they are non-controversial (e.g. signing letters of support)
- Other Coalition support (continue signing letters on defibrillator program for AHA, Injury Prevention Coalition, and trauma system funding efforts)
- PSOB -- finish out for-profits and other crew (e.g. pilots) -- again, supporting efforts working with other org's
- General Approps support for EMSC, NIH office of EMS Research, fire grants, etc. (e.g. draft a general letter to the Appropriations Chairs on major EMS related funding that is a laundry list that we might invite others to sign)
- Military medics legislation (through the House and in the Senate)

- NEMSAC funding

This list is still draft and is a live list of potential AEMS activities and subject to change and revision as appropriate. Future board meetings will focus on defining them better and developing strategies.

There was a discussion about the role that Advocates should take with the Field Bill. This will be up for additional discussion in a future meeting but, in general, board members felt that Advocates can be forum for discussions about the Field Bill, but the field bill cannot be a core activity. Each membership organization can decide individually what support they want to provide to this. To engage Advocates with the field bill at any other level may just drag it right back into the mess that created concerns for NASEMSO and others in the past.

Discussions with other organizations and encouragement to join the 'new' Advocates are ongoing.

Advocates is putting together a letter to Congressional leaders reminding them of the variety of programs and grants that EMS depends on for continued development of emergency care systems. I will forward that to the board when it's finished.

This reorganization in structure and strategy for Advocates is still a work in progress, but I'm feeling good about the direction the board is taking and the potential for Advocates to again become a nimble and effective voice on a variety of issues that are important to NASEMSO and EMS. I will continue to report to the board on a frequent basis and I welcome discussions and questions. No doubt, the board will want to have a focused discussion about Advocates at our annual meeting and certainly the December board retreat. I will do what I can to keep our members apprised and educated such that future discussions about Advocates can be more deliberative than we were able to do in the past.

