

NCEMSF NEWS

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
NCEMSF Award Winners	2
NCEMSF 2011-12 Calendar	2
Alumni Corner	2
National Coordinator Q&A and Regional Roundup	3-4
Title Wars	5
New NCEMSF Web Site	6

“Establishing a broad support base is the best way to ensure a stable future”

Message from the President

George J. Koenig, Jr., DO, NCEMSF President

The arrival of spring marks the rapid approach of exams and the end of the semester. It also marks change for your organization as new leaders are transitioned into their positions. The success of your organization relies on a seamless transition. Many organizations spend a considerable amount of time and effort on training to ensure that the new officers are ready to assume their leadership roles. Several organizations have resource manuals that they exchange to provide continuity within the organization. This transition occurs like clockwork, over and over again, often with the intricacies unnoticed.

Unfortunately despite our efforts to create a seamless foundation, occasionally organizations falter and fail. Their leaders are left wondering what happened. Emergency meetings are convened with urgency to track backwards in time to figure out what went wrong. In a systematic fashion, conversations are recalled and events are reviewed. Questions are raised as to how this could happen overnight. How could an organization that surpasses everyone's expectations fail? An action plan is formulated and efforts are made to salvage the existence of the organization.

In the end, for many organizations the administration decides against them and disbands their organization. Perhaps the reason that they fail is because it is too late by the time the organization becomes engaged in the fight to justify their existence. Over the past several years, witnessing several organizations fail, I have repeatedly asked myself was it preventable and what were the circumstances that preceded their closure?

There are very few instances that are not preventable that lead to an organization being ordered to cease operations. The key to preventing such a situation from occurring is by predicting future circumstances, responding by building alliances, and implementing change. It is a common misconception that an

organization failed because of the actions of a single member. While we prefer to rationalize that there was a single event that caused the organizational failure, it is rarely the case. Administrators understand that despite your best efforts that occasionally members will need to be disciplined. This is aligned with their goals of providing you education while transforming you into an adult at the same time.

When looking back at failed organizations, in almost every circumstance, they fail because of the lack of supporters within their administration. We tend to not aggressively build and strengthen ties within our campus administration when things are running smoothly. Overtime our complacency leads to erosion of our support base. In turn, we become more reliant on a single supporter, our immediate supervisor, and neglect our future needs.

As the natural dynamics of change on a college campus occur as people receive administrative promotions or seek career advancement at other institutions, not having a strong support base threatens the existence of your organization. Take a moment and think to yourself, who would stand up for your organization if they had to? There are very few administrators that do not believe that what we do is amazing, worthwhile, and provides great benefit for our campus community. However, these administrators are not supporters. A supporter is one whom you can rely on to speak for you and who truly believes in your mission.

Developing supporters takes time. It is a process that requires effort. The first time that you meet with the Dean of Students it should not be because of a problem. It is essential to establish a rapport with the expectation that one day you will need their support. Building these bridges is not just for leaders of your organization. All members of your organization

(Continued on page 5 - PRESIDENT)

Collegiate EMS Skills Competition Winner Represents CBEMS at JEMS Games and Other 2011 NCEMSF Award Winners

Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps at SUNY Stony Brook, as the winner of the 2011 Physio Control ALS Skills Competition at the 18th Annual NCEMSF Conference, was awarded the opportunity to represent the whole of campus based EMS at the Annual JEMS Games held at the EMS Today conference in Baltimore this past March.

Ionut Pupazzan, a paramedic with Stony Brook, writes: "We had a wonderful time at the JEMS Games, even though we were unsuccessful at making it to the final round. We learned a lot about how they run their competition and I think we will be better prepared for next year. I feel that our success in the NCEMSF Skills Competition and our participation at JEMS has encouraged more SBVAC members to compete next year. I can't wait for next year's NCEMSF Conference in Baltimore it was a wonderful experience."

Texas A&M EMS took first place in both the BLS and MCI competitions. Villanova EMS and University of Pittsburgh EMS rounded out the top three finalists in the BLS Skills competition.

Other NCEMSF annual award winners included:

Organization: University of Pennsylvania
Provider: Jason Smith, Clark University
Advisor: Michael Newton, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Web site: Rochester Institute of Technology

Vomacka Speaker: Daniel J. Johnson, PennState

Video: University of Delaware
EMS Week: Cornell University

Fourteen schools also successfully completed NCEMSF's Striving for Excellence Program and were publically recognized.



NCEMSF Calendar 2011-2012

June 1, 2011: New Membership Year Begins

Renew your membership online and indicate your continued support for campus-based EMS as well as NCEMSF programs and activities.

November 7-13, 2011: Collegiate CPR Day and 13th Annual Collegiate EMS Week

Join in educating as many college students as possible in a single day in the basic principles of how to save a life and celebrate campus based EMS' contributions to the campus community all week long. An updated information and activity packet will be posted early fall, but the 2010 is available today to begin the planning process.

February 24-26, 2012: 19th Annual NCEMSF Conference - Baltimore's Inner Harbor

The Hyatt Regency Hotel
300 Light Street
Baltimore, Maryland

Begin the budgeting and fundraising process now and plan on joining campus EMS providers, advisors, medical directors and administrators from across North America in Baltimore next winter. Help us work towards our goal of 1,000 attendees from 100 colleges and universities. (2011: 875 and 92)

Visit the NCEMSF Web site for updates beginning early fall including Conference Schedules, Fees, Travel Arrangements, Lodging, Vomacka Student Speaker Competition, EMS Skills Competition and Annual Awards.

Information for potential speakers and sponsors is already posted. Email: confinfo@ncemfsf.org with questions.

Alumni Corner

Joshua E. Glick, NCEMSF Alumni Coordinator

With graduation just around the corner, many collegiate EMS squads will face the annual turnover of senior members. Organizational oversight rapidly changes hands and new squad leaders struggle to prepare for the recruitment of new members and the numerous events that will take place at the start of the fall semester.

With this transition in mind, the importance of maintaining accurate alumni records becomes all the more important. As seniors graduate, contact information changes rapidly. Many squads maintain campus-based contact information for members, which immediately becomes out-dated after graduation. Therefore, it is crucial to collect permanent contact information from senior members. This information includes:

- An e-mail address that does not end with .edu
- A cell-phone number
- A post-graduation or family mailing address

Alumni are a valuable resource for all collegiate EMS organizations, whether your group is a new start-up or well-established. Alumni can provide advice and counseling to new squad leaders, as well as assist with training presentations and methods. Alumni can also serve as a valuable career-development resources for undergraduate members looking for employment or post-graduate education in a new city or state. Only through maintaining accurate and up-to-date alumni records can these benefits be obtained.

Finally, as the academic year comes to a close, it is important to keep alumni members updated with squad events, trainings, and call statistics through an annual newsletter. While many alumni are no longer involved with collegiate EMS, all are interested in seeing the continued success of their undergraduate squads.



Regional Roundup

News from Around the NCEMSF Regions

From the National Coordinator

The Regional Coordinator (RC) network exists to facilitate communication between NCEMSF and its near 300 constituents. It is through the Regional Coordinators that NCEMSF is best able to accomplish its mission of advocating and supporting campus based EMS. The Regional Coordinators are equipped to assist each squad with the day-to-day issues it faces and to help publicize squad achievements. There are few issues that the NCEMSF leadership has not seen before and for which it is not equipped to offer advice and guidance. If you are a CBEMS leader and have not met your Regional Coordinator, please contact me (Michael Hilton, NCEMSF National Coordinator) and I will gladly introduce you to your RC.

I usually write a relevant evidenced based research article for my column in NCEMSF News, however, this edition, wanted to respond to several common questions I am often asked about collegiate EMS. The following are my standard replies. Please share your answers to these common inquiries as well on the NCEMSF online discussion board - NCEMSForum. Each is posted as a thread for all to read and reply. I am sure you have frequently been asked the same and we are curious how you respond. Share your voice.

“What is the point of college-based EMS?”

College-based EMS exists as a service to the local college at which it is based to provide emergency medical evaluation, treatment and, in many cases, transport. However, it is much more than just your average emergency squad. It is an outlet for students who are motivated and who enjoy the challenges of prehospital medical care. Even more importantly, it serves as a way for students to develop as leaders. There are many ways for students to learn leadership skills in collegiate EMS. Most obviously, there are leadership tracks: director, captain, and lieutenant. However, leadership development comes from being a crew chief on calls, from scheduling, from managing equipment and from being involved in the day-to-day mission of collegiate EMS. Collegiate EMS also provides an important community service to both the college campus and the local

neighborhoods in terms of offering blood pressure screenings to alcohol education to CPR and first aid classes.

“But what benefit does campus EMS provide. If campus EMTs didn't respond, wouldn't someone else show up?”

Someone else will eventually respond, but when? Most campus-based EMS squads report a response time of less than 3 minutes – owing to superior knowledge of the environment they serve - as opposed to the national average of 8 minutes. However, campus EMS is not about faster call response times -- its about peers helping peers and students becoming leaders and community activists. College students call on their peers to rescue them in their time of need and rely on them to provide expert, uniquely compassionate tailored care. The typical campus provider does not mind the routine non-emergent transport that often taxes municipal systems, but rather is happy to spend the time and energy ensuring that his/her fellow student's needs are addressed. Furthermore, campus based EMS offers the benefit of a closed college healthcare system allowing for superior follow-up care and the possibility of transporting to the health center as opposed to the ED, when appropriate.

“Who gets involved in these groups? Don't they all go into medicine?”

Students with quite varied backgrounds join collegiate EMS squads. Some come into college with a volunteer EMS background and want to continue the activity while at college. Others see the organizations as an opportunity after they get to college and train to become a member. Some do this as an activity because they are interested in medicine. However, many are not interested in medicine as a career goal. Some will go into law, others into business. Some go into EMS as a career and enter leadership roles in the greater EMS community. We like to believe that those with a collegiate EMS background will help shape the future of EMS through whatever field they enter. Alumni of collegiate EMS programs frequently return to the NCEMSF Annual Conference as speakers. From looking at our speaker profiles, you can see alumni from the fields of law enforcement, fire

suppression, EMS, nursing, medicine, business, law, web design, computer engineering, civil engineering, and public health

“Aren't those that participate just crazy whackers or yahoos!”

Collegiate EMS providers are a dedicated group who believe in the mission of providing an important health service to their campuses and volunteering their time for their peers, at times to the detriment of their academic and social lives. If that's crazy, then sure, but I'd argue more that they are a uniquely responsible and committed group.

Canada

University of Guelph First Response Team (U of G FRT) played host this year to the National Conference of Campus Emergency Responders - NCCER for short. The conference, held this year the same weekend as the NCEMSF conference (an anomaly), brings Canadian campus response teams together. NCCER focuses more on the skills competition aspect of the weekend than does NCEMSF. The weekend was well attended by almost a dozen teams from across Ontario and Canada. Professional lectures and the annual formal banquet ensured there was adequate time for both work and play. Overall it was a very successful conference with record attendance.

University of Windsor Emergency Response Team (UWERT) - After much hard work by its membership, UWERT was able to win a student referendum that allots 99 cents per semester per student to the group's operating budget. This gives the team a much needed funding boost. The team's executive leadership was also reorganized for next year, making it smaller and able to focus more on core important issues.

Midwest

Case Western Reserve University EMS (CaseEMS) is currently expanding its CPR education program to increase income and awareness around campus. It is also working on making connections with more EMS and fire agencies in the area to make more educational

(Continued on page 4 - RR)

(Continued from page 3 - RR)

opportunities available to its members. The squad is also transitioning to a new medical director, and is trying to make the change as smooth as possible. CaseEMS thanks Dr. Jeffrey Lubin for his service since CaseEMS' founding and wishes him best of luck in his future endeavors.

John Carroll University EMS (JCUEMS) has been working closely with other university departments to better its relations with resident assistants and campus police. For the university's spring concert, JCUEMS provided standby medical assistance for the 1,100 attendees. The group has also created a more efficient disposal method for biohazardous materials. Plans are in the works for the complete renovation of the team's facilities to better accommodate patient care.

University of Dayton Rescue Squad - Nine UDRS members had a very enjoyable and educational experience at the NCEMSF conference in Philly this past winter. UDRS is currently in the midst of transitioning to new leadership for the 2011-2012 academic year and planning its annual 5K to benefit the Epilepsy Foundation. Members are also busy as usual responding to calls, wrapping up the year, and preparing to graduate 17 seniors!

New York

Columbia University EMS has instituted an alumni speaker series this semester in which alumni have been invited back to campus to attend and address the current corps at bimonthly general membership meetings. This has provided members with an outstanding opportunity to interact with alumni of all different walks of life and for alumni to reunite with their alma mater. The idea came out of the alumni Facebook group that current leadership developed over winter break and that had over 75 members from over 30 years of CUEMS history join within 24 hours of its creation. NCEMSF Secretary and former CUEMS Captain and Director, Joshua Marks, spoke this month as part of the lecture series about the value of campus based EMS and collegiate EMS advantage for those planning to continue their careers in medicine. He also provided a few clinical lessons and reminisced with current members about memorable moments in CUEMS history. Fellow e-board member, now physician as well, Scott Hunter, joined and also shared similar reflections.

Regional Coordinator Network

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West	Amanda Wong	west-rc@ncemsf.org

Northeast

The College of New Jersey Lions EMS is looking forward to its Annual EMS Banquet as well as covering the Union Board's Late Nighter Land event and the College Union Board's Spring Concert.

Northern New England

Dartmouth College will be hosting the second annual Northern New England Regional Collegiate EMS Conference, Saturday, April 23rd on the Dartmouth College campus in Hanover, NH. The day, sanctioned by NCEMSF, will consist of morning training sessions followed by two different MCI drills in the afternoon. This year's regional conference promises to be a spectacular opportunity for learning, networking, and socializing for New England colleges. Last year's inaugural regional conference was very successful and enjoyed by all. Colleges throughout New England are invited to attend. NCEMSF President, George Koenig, and several regional coordinators will also be attending.

University of Vermont Rescue celebrated its 39th year of service at its annual banquet on April 16 in South Burlington, VT. UVM Rescue has an extensive history and is one the largest and busiest squads in the region.

Pennsylvania

Juniata College EMS - QRS8 elected new officers, and held a mock crash in mid April involving local fire, EMS, and

including a helicopter landing on campus. It also recently hosted an overnight retreat.

West

Santa Clara University EMS (SCU EMS) has decided to sign up for a local run (5K/10K/9 miles) as a team. In addition to participating in this run, SCU EMS is also fund raising to support Japan in its current crisis. So far the squad has raised over \$800.



Do you have news about your squad you'd like to share? Contact your Regional Coordinator and look for it in the next issue of NCEMSF News.

Indicate your support of NCEMSF on your organization's home page!



Email info@ncemsf.org for a copy of the graphic

NCEMSF wants your squad photos for our New Web site...

Send us actions shots, whole corps' photos and EMS Week and Conference pictures to:

webmaster@ncemsf.org

About This Publication

NCEMSF NEWS is an official publication of the National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation (NCEMSF). This newsletter is published as a service to the Foundation's members and the national EMS community.

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Title Wars

Dr. Joshua A. Marks, NCEMSF Secretary

Recently the NCEMSF Awards Committee received a formal nomination from a squad to consider its Web site for Collegiate EMS Web Site of the Year. The letter was well written, seemed to highlight the key features of the Web site and was signed by an officer of the squad submitting the nomination. Two days later, the Awards Committee received a follow-up email from another officer of the same squad retracting the nomination. The short email apologized for inconveniencing the committee and stated that the individual who submitted the award nomination did not have the authority to do so. This caught the attention of the committee and the other NCEMSF officers. We in fact looked at the Web site, investigated further, and uncovered a leadership problem not uncommon to campus based EMS.

Too often, individual personalities, positions and titles interfere with what is otherwise in the best interests of the corps that all are trying to promote and serve. In the case above, there was significant infighting within the squad's leadership. During my college days, we had a similar scenario with our corps' leadership. My captain and I, as Director, did not see eye to eye on many issues. While our corps' structure was such that the captain was to be in charge of medical affairs and the director in charge of administrative affairs, the lines were often blurred and the director was the one ultimately in charge of the corps. It was not until we effectively started working as a leadership team, however, that we began to make headway on several key projects. It took time, but we eventually recognized through painstaking fights that we shared similar end goals and although had drastically different ways of accomplishing those goals, we could bring our strengths together to accomplish them more easily. We expended great energy working against each other, undoing what the other had done, and checking the other that when we stopped and pooled our energy the corps was all the better for it.

Leadership tension sets a tone that even the newest members observe and it can damage

global corps morale. When we started working as a team, morale improved. More people had buy-in and felt that they were a part of something of which they could be proud.

The university community noticed as well. When only one of us would show up to meetings, even if the meeting went well, people would ask where was the other leader. Administrators were used to hearing from two head officers, not just one and could sense internal strife. It is hard to branch out and convince the larger community of your value if internally you reinforce the very notions they hold naturally about student groups and college students.

While a group speaking with a unified voice and a leadership hierarchy are important for the proper functioning of an organization, such a hierarchy must itself be functional and not impede progress. Often when NCEMSF begins work with new startups, the students who contact us have already picked titles and assigned roles. Many debates have occurred as to what title the lead person will assume - chief, captain, lieutenant, president, director - and who the lead person will be. Groups have fallen apart before they even start over such pettiness. Our advise, work as a team. Utilize everyone's personal strengths to make the team stronger. The leaders of the team will emerge and titles, as necessary, can be assigned later. No matter the title though, the key is that any respect associated with a particular title is not bestowed, but rather must be earned. Similarly, it is crucial to maintain mutual respect for all within the organization, regardless of title or lack thereof. Leadership, in particular, must be certain to reciprocate respect for all members as well as their fellow leaders.

But for the internal conflict, the officer that contacted us might very well have won a major award for their squad. Hopefully we have helped them far beyond granting an award though and their squad is now even stronger as a result.

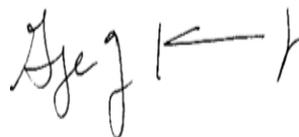
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need to learn to create a constant dialogue of the positive aspect of your organization. They need to be educated and provided with speaking points for when they may have chance encounters with administrators. As with most problems, prevention is the best answer. Establishing a broad support base is the best way to ensure a stable future.

Have a safe summer.

Regards,



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The NCEMSF Database of Collegiate EMS Providers is an excellent resource in the event of natural disaster or other public health emergency. Please keep your information up-to-date so that should the situation arise, we can contact you and collectively as campus based EMS answer the call to act!

Graduating seniors especially, please login to the new NCEMSF Web site and update your profile with your post-graduation contact information - university emails tend to expire within six months to a year of graduating.

REMEMBER, NCEMSF Membership follows the academic year - All 2010-2011 memberships expire 5/31. Please renew your commitment online starting June 1. Thank you for your ongoing support of campus based EMS and NCEMSF!

Much Anticipated and Delayed - It's Now Finally Here: The New NCEMSF Web Site!



All of the latest campus-based EMS related information now available at your fingertips! Redesigned from the ground-up, the new NCEMSF Web site utilizes a state-of-the-art content management system that offers unparalleled searchability in a graphically enhanced setting. All NCEMSF online resources, including Forum (NCEMSF's Online Discussion Board), are now housed under one roof with one login and password with links to popular social media sites. The new Web site also allows for future expansion of services to continuously meet the growing needs of our constituent organizations and members. Many new features are planned and will be added over the coming months.

**GOOD LUCK ON
YOUR FINAL EXAMS!**

**CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATING
SENIORS!**

**HAVE A SAFE AND
RELAXING SUMMER
VACATION!**

Please let us know what you think and report any glitches we may have inadvertently missed. Thank you and Enjoy!