

QUARTERLY BOARD/ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH DAKOTA EMS ASSOCIATION

President Mark Weber called the quarterly board meeting of the North Dakota EMS Association to order at 7:33 PM on April 11, 2007 at the Ramkota Inn, Bismarck.

ROLL CALL: See attendance and voting record. A quorum of board members was present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mark Weber thanked everyone for being on time for the meeting and introduced three new Board members: Stacy Little from Jamestown, Brian Bergstrom from Nunan, and Doug Anderson from Divide. He also introduced a guest, Diane Witteman, from Mohall.

READING OF MINUTES: Motion by Steve Fugelstad second by LeAnn Domonoske to suspend the reading of the minutes and approve as written. All in favor. Motion carried. Debbie Backman is filling in for Sandy O'Connor as Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS:

President's Report: Mark thanked everyone for filling out the surveys and stressed it is important to increase communications and keep everyone informed. The summary shows that we have a few problems but the Board is seeing improvements. Mark asked for comments and there were none.

Mark said there are going to be a lot of issues coming up. We have been fairly successful on the previous issues but need to start working right away on the upcoming ones. ND EMS will probably need to make new rules and regulations and reallocate education money.

Increased Communications: A lot of work and questions will come to Board of directors, and we need to be informed. We need some sort of a communications plan or idea on how to get the information to the Board, then to the membership, the public and local government and legislators. So again the question is how to keep Board of Directors informed? Primarily it is Mark and Dean's job to help us understand and they are wondering what they can do to help us. It was felt that the summaries and emails have been helpful and phone conferences were discussed but picking a time is difficult and they are expensive. An internet connection was also discussed along with the fact that not everyone wants to get involved in all aspects so there may be a need to divide into groups. Mark would like to keep updating via email. There was discussion on the importance of the legislative issues and how the Board needs to look at the whole picture and not just our own local ambulance services. Board members are viewed as leaders and need to motivate squad members to become involved and aware. It was suggested we invest in some sort of motivational sessions to get ourselves involved and that we need to start in advance of the next legislation session so we are on top of it. Mike suggested we take some time at the general sessions at the conference to explain this to the people but Dean reminded everyone that people are expecting continuing education hours and that this wouldn't qualify as continuing ed. Mark stated that we do have two times scheduled at conference this

year. This was discussion on again assigning squads to Board members. Mark said we need to focus on bringing squad leaders to regional meetings so we can get them informed.. It was also suggested that we get the email addresses for the squad leaders and forward them the information so that they get it to their members. Mark stated it's his job to keep the Board informed, and the Board's job to keep their assigned squads informed. Debbie suggested listing the Board members and squads they are responsible for in the Response Times and on the web site so they can contact their Board member if they wish to.

Membership: There was discussion on going back to assigning Board members squads to visit.

Elected officials: Mark feels that in May when this legislative session is over we need to start relaying information to our members so that when all the bills are figured out, we can keep them informed. We need lots of prep work so when we go into the 2009 session it will be obvious how well we have done our job.

10 minute break at 8:40 resume at 8:50

"Rural EMS Help is on the Way" was presented by Mark. Rural and urban services don't have the same problems. The following issues were discussed:

Outline strategies for rural issues: It's tough to recruit and retain members when they are all volunteers. Funding also presents another problem and it's not a one size fits all situation. We need to understand our own needs, the needs of other ambulance services, agree to help each other, and then move in the right direction. We are moving in the right direction as far as having ALS & BLS working together.

Education requirements: There was discussion on lowering the education requirements, whether or not it would make it easier to recruit and retain members and what the repercussions would be because less education would mean a lower level of care.

Minimum staffing requirements: There was discussion on lowering requirements for who we allow to transfer patients but was felt this would not help in recruitment and retention either.

Funding formula: Would more funding help? We need to help rural areas with coverage and education requirements. There was discussion on whether paying some providers would make for less volunteers and cause resentment toward the paid providers. It was felt it is important to pay for everyone's education and it should be in or near your community and of high quality. We also need administration/management classes to help everyone understand local taxing and mil levies.

Working Together (EMS Systems): It is important to look at the big picture instead of focusing on just our own squads. There are less people to draw on for volunteers and even though we need to use the volunteer program as long as possible we need to be aware that this eventually may go away. When that happens we need to supplement where we can't use the volunteer program and keep decisions as local as possible. Most ambulance services now have

some sort of monetary motivation, either by paying for runs, transfers or on time duty. We need to identify who needs the help the most and help them first.

Break at 9:44 PM and resume meeting at 9:49 PM.

Executive Director Evaluation: Mark sent the questionnaire for Dean's evaluation to the Executive Committee and it will be reviewed at our June meeting.

Executive Director Job Description Review: Dean sent the Job Description Review to Mark.

OLD BUSINESS:

NDEMSA Meeting Dates:

June 13, 2007, Wednesday, at 7:00 PM at Trinity Hospital in Minot. The Board will visit the facilities where the 2008 Conference will be held.

September 26, 2007, Wednesday, at 6:00 PM at the Chieftain in Carrington.

January 25, 2008, Friday, at 7:00 PM in Jamestown.

April 16, 2008, Wednesday, at 7:30 PM at the International Inn in Minot.

Rural EMS Problems: Mark/Dean

Suggestions were given for our regional meetings for 2007 – Dean and Mark will work on these.

HRSA Grant: – Dean Lampe reported that a curriculum is being developed to train regional teams and he is working on communication issues. Two-thirds of ambulance services are trained on NIMS and triage.

There was discussion on how to keep members informed on Homeland Security grants.

Division of Emergency Medical Services – DEMS - Tim Meyer reported they will be sending a team to the state conference to interview people to get an assessment of what their weaknesses are.

Tim will have a lot of rules to write before distributing the money we will be receiving from the State and would like this done by January 1.

DEMS recently hired a research analyst.

CAT testing is going well with just a few bumps in the road. UND will be coming up as a test site but Dickinson refused. There has been good feed back from students. Friday and Saturday of Spring Conference the National Registry will be here to offer testing.

Membership Numbers:– Dean reported that the percentages remain the same and that members can go on line to find out if their membership is due.

Other Old Business - Mark reported the rent for the storage unit is now \$70 per month and that we will be looking for a heated unit. There is lots of old stuff in storage that isn't worth anything and Dan Ell volunteered to do an inventory. We will also work on getting an inventory of the equipment Board members have.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget & Finance: – Mike Hall/Dean - Our assets keep going up. As the Financial Statements show, there are no big changes. The bank accounts have been reconciled. **Mike Hall made a motion to have the report approved, Steve Fugelstad seconded it.**

The year end financial statement will be reviewed at June meeting. The Budget summary was discussed. **Mike Hall made a motion to accept the Budget as presented, second by LeAnn Domonoske. Motion passed.** Since Mike Hall is the Treasurer, he should not make the motions. **Neil Frame made a motion to accept both reports, Steve Fugelstad seconded. Motion carried.**

Government/Political Action: – Dean reported on pending legislation. A thank you was given to Dean and Arlene for all the hard work they have done on legislation.

Break at 10:55 PM – resume at 11:00 PM

Mark had Dean step outside so the Board could discuss giving Dean a bonus for all the extra work done on legislation. Mark recommended we increase the bonus we gave Dean after the last legislative session. **Tammy Roehrlich made a motion we give Dean an increased bonus, Neil Frame seconded.** Discussion on giving a bonus or raising his salary, increasing his benefit package and other issues. **Roll Call vote. Motion carried.**

Constitution/Resolutions: – Scott Sundhagen was absent - no report.

Nominations/Elections: – Janice reported for Derek. There have been no new nominations so we will ask for unanimous ballot on the floor.

Conference: – Cheryl and Curt thanked everyone for helping. We are under budget for the overall conference. One item over budget was travel for the speakers. 834 are currently registered for conference. Tammy handed out assignments and asked for volunteers to go get the logo stuff and bring it to the Civic Center.

Publications: – Deb Backman reported that the next deadline is May 15th and asked that everyone let her know of any changes and email any submissions to her.

Logo: – Janice Bruins - nothing new to report. Dean hasn't finished getting the logo trademarked. Dean will continue working on this.

We have two proposals from vendors wishing to sell logo items. **Rudi Bloomquist moved we make a decision tonight regarding a vendor. Mona Marquart seconded. Discussion. Motion carried.**

The Sports and Shirts proposal came after our proposal from GM Creations and Sports and Shirts knew what the GM Creations proposal was so it was felt this was unfair. Dean suggested we have either company pay a certain amount for each logo item that they sell, giving them both a chance to sell items. This would not be limited to clothing items. **Steve Fugelstad made motion we go with Deans idea and that we have a say as to what they put our logo on.**

The Logo committee would have the right to accept or reject any items. Mike Hall seconded. Motion passed.

Marketing: – Tyrone Johnson reported that a Distinguished Service Award has been created. Six of these awards will be given at the banquet.

Other Awards: – Steve Fugelstad reported that awards will be given for Medical Director, EMS Provider and EMS Service of the Year.

Testing Team: – Tyrone Johnson - Nothing new to report.

Advisory Committee: – Cheryl Flick, Neil Frame – Nothing new to report.

Service Directors: – Neil Frame reported there will be a presentation Friday morning and a Service Directors meeting tomorrow.

Historian: – Mona Marquart will be taking pictures as conference.

Foundation: – Steve Fuglestad reported that they gave out 4 scholarships and will give a quick recognition of these at the banquet.

SOCIETY REPORTS:

I/C Society: – Nancy Capes reported there will be a pre-conference workshop on Thursday with an expected 40 people.

ALS Society: – Janie Cutshaw - Nothing to report.

ND Rescue Society: – Steve Fugelstad will attend Board meetings in the future with Al continuing as President. They will meet on Thursday at 7 PM to discuss an instructors class.

Past Presidents : – Derek Hanson – absent - no report.

REGIONAL PRESIDENTS REPORTS:

Northwest – Janice Bruins - Regional Conference will be January 11, 12, and 13 at the Grand International in Minot.

Southwest – Neil Frame - Regional Conference will be September 15 and 16 in Medora.

Northeast – Jim Restemeyer - Regional Conference will be Oct. 27 and 28 in Devils Lake.

Southeast – Curt Halmrast - Regional Conference will be January 26 and 27, 2008 in Jamestown

Jeff Moberg read a letter of resignation from Scott Sundhagen.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 13, 2007, at 7:00 PM at Trinity Hospital in Minot.

Mark Weber made a motion to recess until Friday morning at 8:00 AM at the opening session of conference, seconded by Steve Fugelstad. The meeting was reopened at the Friday morning opening session. **A motion was made by Steve Fugelstad and seconded by LeAnn Domonoske to cast unanimous ballots for Mike Hall for Treasurer and Tyrone Johnson for Vice-Present. The motion was carried.** The meeting was closed.

The minutes for this meeting were recorded by Deb Backman and transcribed by Sandy O'Connor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra M. O'Connor, Secretary