

**2015 NAEMT General Membership Meeting**  
Celebrating 40 Years of Advancing the EMS Profession

**Chuck Kearns, NAEMT President:**

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the 2015 NAEMT General Membership Meeting and Awards Presentation. Tonight, we celebrate 40 years of advancing the EMS profession, honoring our history and paying tribute to those individuals who led our organization to become the great association it is today!

NAEMT has a remarkable history that tells a story of self-determination. Our organization has always chosen its own path, relying on the commitment, resolve and perseverance of our members to achieve our goals and advance our profession.

To help tell our story, I am honored to welcome the following Past Presidents with us this evening:

- Paul Maniscalco, NAEMT President 1990 - 1991
- Nathan Williams, NAEMT President 2000 - 2002
- Ken Bouvier, NAEMT President 2004 - 2006
- Jerry Johnston, NAEMT President 2006 - 2008
- Pat Moore, NAEMT President 2009 - 2010
- And Don Lundy, NAEMT President 2013 - 2014

**Pat Moore:**

Thank you, Chuck. NAEMT was born in the 1970's, a turbulent time in the United States. In some ways, a continuation of the 1960's when minorities fought for equal rights, and many Americans joined the protest against the Vietnam War. Watergate, plus high unemployment and high inflation, weighed heavily on many Americans. "Malaise" was often used to describe the mood of the country.

In these challenging times, **on January 8, 1975**, representatives from each of the nine state EMS associations established at the time met in Chicago, Illinois to discuss the creation of a national EMS association. EMS pioneer Rocco Morando, then-founding Executive Director of the National Registry of EMTs, arranged the meeting. Despite the difficulties plaguing our country, Rocco inspired the group in Chicago to adopt his vision and become the founding members of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians - NAEMT.

His perseverance earned him the title of NAEMT Founder, and his diligence in creating a national presence for a profession that was largely unknown to the public, is honored in our history and remembered in the mission of our association.

Along with Rocco, our founding members:

- Created the first association bylaws and membership requirements.

- Held their first official meeting later that year, elected Roger Fox of Oregon as NAEMT's first President; and
- Began operating as a national association of state associations. States collected the membership dues — initially set at two-dollars to support NAEMT's agenda.

We would be remiss if we did not mention the TV series "Emergency!" which ran from 1972-1979. This program shaped our national understanding of EMS and inspired a generation of young people to enter the EMS profession.

In 1978, the full NAEMT Board met for the first time at the inaugural NAEMT Annual Meeting at Kent State University in Ohio. In that same year:

- The first National EMT of the Year Award was presented, and
- We adopted the original EMT Oath, written by Dr. Charles Gillespie, who also created the EMT Code of Ethics.

Let's thank the presidents from the first years of NAEMT for their leadership.

**Nathan Williams:**

The 1980's was a decade of great change and growth in the U.S. The end of the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, Chernobyl, and other global events, along with the founding of CNN with round-the-clock world news, re-shaped our view of the world at home. Personal computers, VCRs, Cell Phones and Nintendos were introduced in the market, a sign that the "information age" was beginning. And, let's not forget some of the outlandish fashions and hairstyles that many of us wore!

In EMS, the 80's brought a series of changes within our federal government that helped shape EMS systems and the EMS profession.

- The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 consolidated EMS funding into state block grants;
- NHTSA implemented a statewide EMS technical assessment program to evaluate EMS systems.
- Programs targeting EMS, such as the EMS for Children program – were established; and
- A federal report called for greater development of trauma care systems to help decrease the number of accidental deaths in the US.

Prehospital cardiac interventions were also recognized for saving lives; and lessons learned from the Vietnam War provided the basis for how trauma care should be provided in the field. In 1980, the American College of Surgeons launched its Advanced Trauma Life Support course. Shortly thereafter, at the urging of Dr. Norman McSwain, a key figure in the College's Committee on Trauma, the NAEMT Board authorized development of a non-physician version of ATLS, called Prehospital Trauma Life Support. Dr. McSwain and Bob Nelson developed a prototype of PHTLS under the title "Improved Trauma Management" and introduced it to a packed room at the 1983 NAEMT annual meeting in Dearborn, Michigan.

By 1984, the first PHTLS Committee was appointed and the first National PHTLS Faculty course was held at Dr. McSwain's own Tulane University. Publication of the first PHTLS textbook followed in 1986.

Other NAEMT milestones in the '80s include:

- The transition from an association of state associations to an individual membership association.
- The first Paramedic of the Year award in 1983;
- Creation of the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1984; presented to NAEMT Founder, Rocco Morando.
- And, Janet Head was elected the first female president.

Let's thank our 1980's presidents for their great leadership.

**Paul Maniscalco:**

The 1990s marked the end of both a century and millennium. Movements such as [grunge](#), the [rave scene](#) and [hip hop](#) spread to young people, thanks to cable TV and the Internet. But, new kinds of violence - the bombing in Oklahoma City; the siege in Waco; the first World Trade Center bombing, the shooting in Columbine, and the first Gulf War, made our post-Cold War world still quite dangerous.

Those in EMS began calling for greater training and preparedness of our nation's EMS system to respond to acts of violence and natural disasters, such as Hurricane Andrew. The Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act was passed – spurring a plan to improve EMS and trauma care. And, in 1996, NHTSA published the visionary *EMS Agenda for the Future*, which called for the EMS of the future to be "community-based health management that is fully integrated with the overall health care system."

Big changes were happening at NAEMT as well...

- The first international PHTLS course was held in Mexico in 1990.
- In 1994, the Headquarters Office was established in Clinton, Mississippi.
- The PHTLS program was now being conducted by the U.S. Air Force P.J.'s and Navy Seals, using the military version textbook.
- The Advanced Medical Life Support course launched in 1999.
- And, the first NAEMT website launched.

We greatly appreciate the leadership of our 1990s presidents

**Paul Maniscalco:**

Y2K – the beginning of a new millennium ushered in the decade of information technology. Apple introduced the IPod in 2001, Facebook launched in 2004, Twitter in 2006, and the first iPhone became available in 2007. Technology was fundamentally changing the way people connected and communicated.

On September 11, 2001 our nation and its people changed forever. The attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, including hundreds of first responders, ushered in a new era that created the Department of Homeland Security and launched more than a decade of war. During this time, our government initiated many programs to enhance our domestic security to prevent further attacks.

**Don Lundy:**

Between 2000 and 2009 our industry worked collaboratively with federal partners to create a framework and system for educating the EMS workforce and moving us toward the vision outlined in the 1996 Agenda for the Future. It culminated in the National EMS Education Standards under which we operate today.

In 2006, the Institute of Medicine published a landmark report called "Emergency Medical Services at the Crossroads" outlining systemic problems plaguing EMS that impeded achievement of our vision. The IOM's report would eventually become the catalyst for creation of the Field EMS Bill.

For NAEMT, the 2000's was a decade of great transition... A time when our organization matured.

In August, 2005, NAEMT held its annual meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana in conjunction with EMS World Expo. On August 29, Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coasts. Many of our members were stranded in the city. Many chose to stay and help. Our NAEMT President that year was Ken Bouvier. He worked tirelessly to help his city recover and rebuild. Our organization united behind Ken and supported his efforts.

In 2006, the NAEMT Board of Directors proposed a new governance structure for the association that would give each active member the right to vote for the directors and officers of the organization. The Board took this proposal to the members as a referendum. Members voted overwhelmingly to support this change, which has resulted in a more diverse group of leaders representing all parts of the country and all types of EMS delivery models. We also modernized our committee structure, revamped our member benefits package, and resolved to focus our efforts on serving and representing our nation's EMS practitioners.

Other NAEMT milestones in this decade:

- Our first strategic plan was published in 2006.
- The Emergency Pediatric Care program was launched in 2007.
- In 2008, we:
  - Launched our electronic newsletter the NAEMT Pulse
  - Partnered with EMS World Expo in the National EMS Awards of Excellence, to create one national award for EMT, Paramedic, Paid Service and Volunteer Service of the year.
  - Established NAEMT's legislative advocacy program and our Affiliate Advisory Council.
  - Published our first annual report with full financial statements, and
- In 2009, we made the decision to hold an annual EMS on the Hill Day.

We are very grateful for the leadership and dedication of our presidents from the 2000s.

### **Ken Bouvier:**

Our history in this decade is still being written. Global leaders refer to this decade as the "transformation decade" characterized by:

- A changing understanding of what it means to communicate as we all become more mobile and virtual;
- A major generation shift taking root as baby boomers retire, and Gen X'ers and millennials assume the mantle of leadership;
- Biology and technology merging;
- And creativity and innovation are more valued than ever before.

Our country's healthcare system is dramatically transforming too, and EMS along with it. The passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in 2010... the ACA... sometimes called "Obamacare," has accelerated the pace of this transformation from a quantity based, fee for service structure, to a patient-centered, values and outcomes-based structure.

NAEMT recognized that this transformation was coming and has been working collaboratively with other EMS organizations to prepare our industry and our workforce for what lies ahead. The need for collaboration and alignment within our profession has never been greater. Much of our effort over the last five years has been focused on bringing EMS organizations together to prepare for the future.

In 2010, we:

- Held our first EMS On the Hill Day, where EMS professionals from all delivery models are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

- Launched the EMS Safety Course and published a new AMLS textbook.
- Began teaching the Dept. of Defense's Tactical Combat Casualty Care course.

In 2011, we:

- Revamped our agency membership program to provide benefits for both their employees and to support the operation of their agency
- Supported passage of the Field EMS Bill.
- Established the NAEMT advocacy coordinators network
- Offered members a \$15 voucher toward NAEMT education courses.
- Launched an NAEMT EMS Week site open to all practitioners and the public.

**Jerry Johnston:**

And in the last few years, the number of our accomplishments has soared.

In 2012, we:

- Established a leadership mentoring program to identify and mentor future leaders of our association.
- Held our first World Trauma Symposium, developed by our PHTLS Committee in partnership with EMS World.
- Collaborated with other EMS organizations to launch the EMS Voluntary Notification Tool, or "EVENT", for EMS practitioners to anonymously report patient safety errors, near misses, line of duty death incidents, and violence against practitioners.
- Made veteran's transitioning to civilian EMS a legislative priority.

In 2013

- We added an EMS Educator of the Year award to the National Awards of Excellence program.
- Launched the official NAEMT Facebook Friends page and Twitter account.
- Established a new MIH-CP Committee to identify ways to help our industry prepare for this new type of patient care.
- Launched the Law Enforcement and First Response Tactical Casualty Care course with the help of Denver Health Department of EMS Education.
- Launched the new break-through course, Principles of Ethics and Personal Leadership, the first course to explore the ethical decision-making and communications needed by EMS practitioners to succeed in the "new" EMS.

And, our Board voted unanimously to lead the effort to pass the Field EMS Bill.

In 2014, we:

- Launched NAEMT Espanol Facebook page.
- Launched the Online NAEMT Instructor Course to replace the individual instructor courses for each of our education programs.
- Partnered with the American Geriatric Society and Jones and Bartlett Learning to develop the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition GEMS course.

- Published our country's first national survey of MIH-CP programs, and produced a video to explain MIH-CP to the larger healthcare industry.
- Launched Bleeding Control for the Injured Course designed to train the public and non-tactical police officers how to save a person's life during an active shooter or mass casualty event, and
- Partnered with ACEP to lead the promotion of National EMS Week.

We thank our presidents from this decade for their time and expertise.

**Chuck Kearns:**

The same perseverance that established NAEMT forty years ago is present and active in our leadership today. From 1975 on, the strength of our association has been and will always be the unwavering support of our members.

NAEMT... *WE* ... have come a long way. We should be proud of the advancements we've helped bring to the EMS profession. Our progress speaks to our commitment to the medical care our patients receive, whether in their home, at an accident or on the battlefield.

Have we made some mistakes along the way? Of course we have. We hope we have learned from our past mistakes and continue to grow from our experiences. I look forward to our future as we continue to serve our members, our profession, and our patients.

Please join me in congratulating our great association on our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.