**STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The association has had a pretty successful year to date and I would like to take a few minutes to provide you, the members, about things that are progressing within NDEMSA

1. NDEMSA remains financially sound with adequate reserves to sustain the organization into the future. The association, while attempting to sustain the Education Coordinator position, did run a deficit the past 3 years. With the recent elimination of this position now have a sound fiscal operating budget with the duties of that position re-assigned.
2. Education is a continued high priority for NDEMSA. In addition to providing training through the Department of Health and American Heart Association training contracts, have been educating students at the EMR level for the past 18 months. The current online class has 34 students and this EMR training will continue for the foreseeable future, as ll as exploring other educational opportunities to assist services who have difficulty in staffing.
3. Our Advocacy Committee has been hard at work during this legislative session. They have been working diligently alongside our full time Lobbyist on numerous bills. ’ve published two position papers regarding two bills in which the association did not support. Those bills re to 1) repeal mandatory schedules of volunteer ambulances and 2) QRU’s transporting patients. The EMS Association did support REPLICA, which is an interstate licensing compact with neighboring states to allow reciprocity during times of emergency. REPLICA does require a federal background check during initial licensure and of all personnel over a gradual time period in the next 5 years. This bill be signed by the Governor very soon. Grant funding as always has been a hot topic in the legislature. The advocacy committee and the department of health has testified a number of times on the grant funding. An initial bill that was introduced did change significantly and continues to be amended in the house and senate joint committee. It is anticipated that even with passage there will be continued work on the funding formula within the EMS Advisory Council and the Department of Health.
4. The NDEMSA Board at my request established three new committees. The first committee will be chaired and developed by our Vice-President Cheryl Flick. The goal of this committee is to look at different avenues of EMS sustainability outside of funding. EMSAC and its sub-committee REMSA is dedicated to investigate and research funding for ND EMS. This committee will search for a goal to sustain EMS through education, staffing, community support, awareness and any other avenues the committee can develop. This committee will be comprised of NDEMSA members and other associations in North Dakota, such as: the Association of Counties, 911 Association, Hospital Association, and others. If you are interested in being on this committee, please reach out to Cheryl Flick.

The second committee will be chaired by SW Regional Director Adam Parker and the goal of this committee is to develop another tier of membership within NDEMSA. Currently, NDEMSA is an individual member association. This additional tier of membership would be an ambulance service membership. This new level of membership is so can continue the great work and technical assistance the Regional Advisors have provided, management training, along with other membership benefits that are more relevant to ambulance services, rather than individual members. If you are interested in being involved with this committee, please speak to Adam Parker.

The third committee will be chaired by NE Regional Director Bill Tuttle. This committee has been tasked in researching, planning, and implementing a ND State LODD Memorial. This memorial, location to be determined, will clearly list and honor those fallen in the LOD and possibly fallen due to suicide. If you would be interested in being involved with this committee, please speak to Bill Tuttle.

1. Another exciting and informative benefit on the horizon is a sharing and networking platform for EMS managers, staff leadership, squad leaders, and others in key leadership roles the access to communicate with each other. This Q&A site will be monitored closely along with additional resources and services provided by NDEMSA leadership, board members, staff, and Regional Advisors. In addition to this sharing service are researching the ability to conduct binars on topics such as completing grant applications, leadership questions, and other informative topics requested from within this closed group. For more information, please speak to any NDEMSA BOD for more information.
2. Finally, this spring and summer ’ll continue our long-standing partnership with the UND Center for Rural Health Flex program to offer a wide array of educational activities and meetings. Regional Advisors will continue with technical assistance and strategic planning for select EMS agencies along with Hospital/EMS meetings. also have a number of Mental Health First Aid, EMS Safety, Management Essentials, and the 5th annual Management Conference June 3rd and 4th. It is undoubtedly going to be an active summer as head into the 4 regional conferences this fall and winter.

Don’t forget to mark your calendar and join us for the milestone 45th Annual Conference on April 2-4, 2020 here in Bismarck!

Thank you for your time.

Kelly Dollinger

NDEMSA - President