



## Awards Nominations – Your Vote Counts!



The time has come again for award nominations for those individuals and organizations who have contributed to EMS in Missouri in a way that is above and beyond the call of duty. We know there is never a shortage of those in our profession who put forth great effort to save lives and further strengthen and unify EMS.

Now it's time to consider those who stand out for these causes and recognize them!

The deadline for nominations has been extended to June 15 – so please take time now to review the award titles, download the nomination form and mail it in or email it to us.

### Award titles include:

- EMT-B of the Year (Kenneth E. Cole, Jr. Memorial Award)

- EMT-P of the Year
- Frank Mitchell Physician of the Year
- First Responder of the Year
- Administrator of the Year
- Community Service Award
- Nurse of the Year
- EMS of the Year
- Presidential Leadership Award
- Quality Improvement Project Award
- Instructor/Coordinator of the Year (Jack Lyon Memorial Award)

Awards will be presented at the annual Combined Clinical Conference in Tan Tar A at Osage Beach.

Winners will not be notified prior to the end of the annual meeting.

### Here is a highlight of a few nomination rules:

1. While it is not absolutely required, supporting documentation and a thoroughly prepared application are highly recommended.
2. Letters of recommendation should be current and include the name of the award for which the person

### Inside this Edition:

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is being nominated

3. Applications must not exceed 12 sheets of paper. However, text may appear on both sides of each page.
4. All applications must be submitted on 8 ½" X 11" paper and firmly fastened along the left margin. Notebooks and plastic page covers are NOT permitted.
5. All applications must include the MEMSA Nomination Form and the nominee's resume (limit 4 pages). These pages are not counted in the 12 page limit.
6. Typewritten applications are preferred but not absolutely required.

**Your participation in this important process is greatly appreciated!**



## **MEMSA & CODE 3 New Look, New Feel and New Functionality!**

The entire MEMSA board of directors is very excited to announce the new MEMSA website and electronic CODE 3 Newsletter!

By utilizing more advanced web tools we are able to save a significant amount of money each year, normally budgeted for the CODE 3 newspaper. In addition, by making CODE 3 the focus of the website, we can offer up-to-date information quickly.

From now on, one simple email will notify readers of the latest edition of CODE 3 which will now be published every two months instead of quarterly.

New tools such as a MEMSA Calendar of Events, Forums, Missouri EMS Directory, an Article Submit feature, Article Printing & Forwarding and more allow for significantly improved interactivity amongst Missouri's EMS professionals.

Now, the MEMSA website is not only an extremely valuable tool for MEMSA, but for the entire Missouri EMS community! Best of all, there are no fees to access the website/newsletter!

All you have to do is register your name and email address – that's it!

From there you'll be able to read full-length features, search for and submit articles (published upon review and approval), easily forward pertinent information to other EMS professionals, keep an eye on important events, testing locations and conferences, enter your organization's contact information into the MEMSA State Directory, post and review employment opportunities on our new job board – and of course, receive CODE 3!

"With so many great advances in web technology, it became very obvious that we could be benefiting our members and all of Missouri's EMS professionals by providing a more interactive site," says past MEMSA president, Ruby Mehrer.

Additional features will be added to the site in the future – for now we're proud of the new look, feel and functionality! And we want your feedback! Let us know how you like our changes and please forward CODE 3 on to as many Missouri EMS professionals as you can. The bigger the online network, the better!

"The new MEMSA website provides an exceptional image to the world regarding our organization and

helps to promote the importance of our organization," says MEMSA president, David Tetrault. "We're really hoping members and non-members alike will see the value in the site and participate in making it even better issue by issue."

## Death Benefit Legislation for Missouri Paramedics, EMTs, Firefighters and Law Enforcement

By Jason White

Presently, HB 551, sponsored by Representative Tom Dempsey, is moving nicely through the Missouri General Assembly. Learn more at the end of the article.

This legislation would provide a \$100,000 payment to the family of a paramedic, EMT, air medical flight crew member, firefighter or law enforcement person who dies in the line of duty.

There is also a stipulation providing for a \$10,000 burial benefit, but the current language does not include paramedics, EMTs or air medical staff. This is a drafting oversight we are seeking to correct as the bill moves through the process.

The Missouri State Council of Firefighters has been working with legislators to draft and move this bill through the process. Missouri Emergency Medical Services Association (MEMSA), Ambulance District Association of Missouri (ADAM) and Missouri Ambulance Association (MAA) have been testifying in support of this legislation and assisting the State Council with the bill.

It is estimated that seven EMS, fire or law enforcement fatalities occur each year in the Missouri. Thus, officials calculate the state's annual cost for the



death benefit program to be under \$800,000 a year – a relatively small price to pay when considering the assistance this money would provide a family that has lost a loved one who died while providing a public service to the state.

The legislation covers EMS personnel no matter whether they work for public or private agencies. The community service provided is the measure of qualification. HB 551 has passed in the House of Representatives and will be heard April 17 in a senate committee.

Now is certainly the time to email your state senator indicating your encouragement of their support for HB 551!

Go to:

<<http://www.senate.mo.gov/>> for the online list of Missouri senators – click the name of your senator to see contact information including an email button which is found to the right of their photos.

Also, please forward this story to as many Missouri EMS, fire and law enforcement people as you can. (See the email icon at the top right of this article).

The EMS job is tough, sometimes dangerous and rarely overpaid. For many of us, EMS is a volunteer service we provide to our communities. For this service, the extra protection of a state death benefit for one's family is a much needed and very valuable program.



## Nominations Needed for MEMSA Board of Directors Before May 30

MEMSA members are invited to nominate new representatives to the MEMSA Board of Directors! Nomination forms can be downloaded here.

Five regions are open for new nominees. Details are as follows:

**Saint Louis Region** – The current board member up for re-election is Ken Koch – nominations must be received by May 30.

**Southeast Region** – The current board member up for re-election is Jacob Stotler (recently appointed to replace Jim Ogden who resigned)—nominations must be received by May 30.

**Kansas City Region** – The current board member up for re-election is Andrew Umland—nominations must be

received by May 30.

**Northwest Region** – No current board member fills this position as Barb Shupe resigned earlier this year – nominations must be received by May 30.

**Northeast Region** – The current board member up for re-election is Rande McCrary—nominations must be received by May 30.

### The Requirements:

1. Nominees must be MEMSA members in good standing at the time of the election and must reside in the region they would represent.
2. A MEMSA member can nominate himself/herself or someone else for the board of directors, but may only nominate for the re-

gion in which they live.

3.

MEMSA needs people to serve on the Board who have strong self-motivation and a vision of the future to improve EMS in the state of Missouri. If you or someone you know matches this description, please send us the nomination!

Between meetings the Board members are busy with committee work, legislative activities and other projects.

The MEMSA Board usually meets on the first Thursday of odd months throughout the year, in Jefferson City at the MEMSA office. There are occasions when special meetings are called as well. The new Board members will be installed in August during the week of the Combined Clinical Conference.

**Code 3 Emergency Publisher**

**Steve Sanborn**

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Code 3 Emergency is published six times a year by the Missouri Emergency Medical Services Association. Code 3 Emergency takes precautions to provide accurate information and does not accept any liability for errors or omissions inadvertently caused by contributors. The views and opinions in the articles herein are not to be taken as the official expressions of MEMSA or the editor unless so stated. MEMSA welcomes submission of story ideas, articles and photographs for Code 3 Emergency. Photographs should be submitted in jpeg form to memsa@memsa.org. Please email your materials to Steve Sanborn c/o memsa@memsa.org.

## How to Submit Articles for Future Editions of CODE 3!



Providing a medium that helps to share each other's EMS related news, information and stories is an important part of our progress in serving Missouri's EMS professionals.

With our new website (a content management system) it is much easier to accept and publish your articles and stories.

Upon review and approval, article submissions may be included in actual editions of CODE 3 or published in other special sections of the website as well as in future archives.

We also offer RSS (Really Simple Syndication) which allows other websites to post articles from the MEMSA website. This helps to spread information to more people more quickly!

Another feature on our homepage is DIGG, which

you will find in the lower left menu. DIGG allows you and others to post articles on the DIGG news site and build awareness of articles found on the MEMSA site.

Types of submissions may include tributes, news & information, pertinent updates, best practices, "at the scene" stories, kudos for EMS professionals or agencies, and more.

As a registered CODE 3 recipient, you'll have easy access to the "submit articles" button which leads to an easy-to-use text box page where you drop in your title and story. After that you just click the SAVE icon (a picture of a floppy disk located at the top right of the screen). Besides reading the newsletter or special sections, readers will also be able to search for articles by keyword.

We do not guarantee that every submission will be published and MEMSA maintains final editing rights. Upon approval and editing you will receive your submission by email before we publish it – to be sure it reflects your original intention.

All articles should be

EMS related and limited to 400 – 600 words. If you have a topic that requires additional content, contact us to discuss it.

### **Don't think you've got much to say? What about:**

- 
- Recent emergency calls that went considerably well due to planning and practice
- Community relationship building practices your organization may be involved in
- Innovative and efficient ways your organization deals with limited resources
- Grants and fundraising information
- Public events you've recently participated in
- Enhancements and/or advances in your community's EMS system
- An EMS professional in your organization who deserves recognition
- 

Questions, comments or ideas about upcoming legislation issues

Any article focusing on important Missouri EMS issues will be considered.

## National News: Advocates for EMS Spring 2007 Report

### By Lisa Meyer - Cornerstone Government Affairs



Many changes have occurred in Washington over the last few months since the Democrats now control the House and Senate. There are new chairmen of committees and new staff in many offices that Advocates and its member organizations are educating about emergency medical services (EMS) issues.

Advocates for EMS members have been conducting meetings with House and Senate offices regarding its top priorities for fiscal year 2008.

These priorities include, increased first responder funding for EMS within the Department of Homeland Security, funding for the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) and a request to have the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) clarify in guidance that non-government ambulance services are eligible for reimbursement when there is a federally declared disaster.

Currently, the Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate are holding oversight hearings on programs and funding levels. The Appropriations Subcommittees will begin marking up bills that fund the varying federal agencies beginning in May. The Chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives, David Obey (D-WI), would like to have all 12 appropriations bills through the House by the July 4 congressional recess.

In addition, a top priority for Advocates for EMS has been establishing a Congressional EMS Caucus. A congressional caucus is a number of members of congress who work together in support of an issue or set of issues. Advocates members have been working to recruit co-chairs (a Democrat and a Republican) for the EMS Caucus. AEMS is in the process of finalizing the co-chairs and we look forward to making an announcement soon.

Advocates and its member organizations are excited about the prospect of an

EMS Caucus as it gives those organizations an automatic base of members to approach when asking for support for issues such as first responder funding, Medicare and Medicaid issues, and funding for NEMSIS and EMS research.

There are two pieces of legislation that Advocates for EMS and its member organizations have followed through the legislative process. They are the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act or STOP Stroke Act and the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act program.

**The STOP Stroke Act** would authorize a grant program to help states:

- Ensure that patients have access to quality stroke prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services.
- Promote a national public awareness campaign to educate the public about stroke warning signs and how stroke can be prevented.
- Promote the Coverdell Stroke Registry and Clearinghouse to collect data and share best practices.
- Educate medical professionals in newly developed diagnostic approaches,

## National News: Advocates for EMS Spring 2007 Report

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- technologies and therapies.

**The Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act program** has provided \$31.4 million since 1990 to help states and territories develop and implement state-wide trauma care systems.

This legislation provides for:

- Increased funding for states to develop and improve trauma systems, including targeted money to rural areas.
- Improved collection and analysis of trauma patient

data to improve overall care for patients and provides for a self-evaluation mechanism to assist states in assessing and improving their trauma care systems.

Finally, the bill creates a separate competitive grant program for states that have already begun the process of establishing a trauma care system using national standards and protocols. The STOP Stroke Act and the Trauma Care Systems Planning and Development Act have passed the House and Senate and have been sent to the President for signature

into law.

Advocates will continue to work to build support for its top priorities throughout the upcoming months as the legislative and appropriations process moves forward. Please contact Lisa Meyer at Cornerstone Government Affairs at (202)448-9500 or [lmeyer@cgagroup.com](mailto:lmeyer@cgagroup.com) This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it if you would like more information on any of Advocates for EMS' activities or have questions on specific federal legislation affecting EMS providers.

## Do-Not-Resuscitate Legislation By Jason White

What may not necessarily be the most exciting topic for the average paramedic or EMT, is a serious issue for many seniors and those with terminal diseases in our state. Allowing patients to pass with the dignity and respect with which they lived their lives is a critical issue and one that we often do not fully recognize in the EMS world.

Our training and instinct as EMS professionals naturally make us aggressive with proposing and imple-

menting patient care policies that sustain life. But the act of saving a life (starting IV's, intubating, etc.) can sometimes have a de-humanizing effect on the dying or terminally ill patient who does not wish to be resuscitated. It can obviously be upsetting and difficult particularly when this takes place in the home with family nearby.

Missouri is one of only three or four states in the nation that has not passed some general legislation to create the basic framework for Do-



Not-Resuscitate orders in the out-of-hospital environment.

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## **Do-Not-Resuscitate Legislation**

*(Continued from page 7)*

In Kansas City we have worked under a regional protocol since 1994. This has worked well but for many services in Missouri no such program exists.

In 2004, the issue of seeking the passage of a DNR bill was brought forward by the End-of-Life Coalition, an organization is comprised of hospice, nursing home and elder care professionals. Legislation was filed in 2005 and 2006 but did not succeed in passing.

Through the summer and fall of 2006, meetings were held in Jefferson City consisting of representatives from the End-of-Life Coal-

ition, the Right-to-Life community and the EMS community. We crafted a bill that everyone either supported or remained neutral on. Once we had all the stakeholders together in the same room working out the key issues it became a process of settling on language.

HB 182 was filed by Representative Mark Bruns for consideration by the Missouri General Assembly and has been moving along nicely. It passed through its committee hearing and then during floor debate in the House, passed 158 to 1. HB 182 is now waiting for a Senate Committee Hearing.

An identical version of the bill, SB 658, was filed in

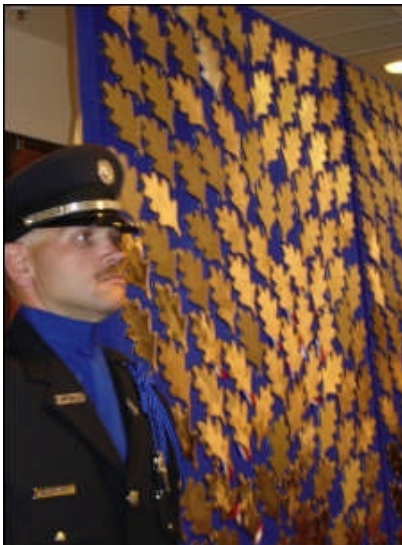
the Senate by Senator Bill Stouffer and was heard recently in a Senate Committee which then voted to support the DNR bill.

If you would like to assist in the passage of this important piece of legislation, please email your state senators (scroll down) and encourage them to support HB 182, as we expect it to be the actual document voted on soon.

If the bill passes, the Department of Health & Senior Services will develop a DNR form and a task force of nursing home, hospice and EMS professionals will also be formed to assure proper implementation of the new law.

[jason.white@mastambulance.org](mailto:jason.white@mastambulance.org)

## **Tree of Life Memorial - National EMS Memorial in Kansas City?** **By Ruby Mehrer**



Emergency Medical Personnel in the Greater Kansas City area are working to bring the National EMS Memorial Project to the Heartland.

The goal of the project is to build a permanent, outdoor Tree of Life memorial to honor those EMS providers who have made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives in the line of duty. Each year on

Memorial Day weekend families visit the national site to honor and remember those who have been lost.

The recent closing of The Rescue Museum in Roanoke, Virginia, which housed the Service's memorial exhibit, the Tree of Life, and the uncertainty regarding its future, have made this matter a priority for the organization.

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According to the committee working on the project, it's a logical step to try to bring the National EMS Memorial to the middle of the United States and Kansas City is the ideal location.

"The Memorial exists for many reasons, primarily to honor our fallen comrades, but the families of these brave men and women are always in the forefront of our decision making process." said Kevin Agard, National EMS Memorial Service Board Member and Tree of Life project chairman. "Our site selection criteria were developed to assure attending the annual Memorial Day service is as easy as possible for the families, friends and co-workers of our honorees."

While there is no guarantee the Missouri site will be selected, the local committee to bring the memorial to Kansas City believes they are on track to meeting all the requirements.

The National EMS Memorial Service Project wishes to move as rapidly as possible, with an eye to a 2010 unveiling.

This effort will be conducted in 4 phases, with the first two phases running



concurrently:

1. Identify and acquire a suitable tract of land for the Memorial.
2. Design concept solicitation and selection.
3. Fund-raising.
4. Construction

The following criteria must be met:

- Within a 60 minute drive of a major hub airport.
- Location suitable for quiet reflection and remembrance.
- Within 10 - 15 minutes of large hotel(s).
- Reasonably level and "accessible" property.
- House(s) of worship

nearby.

- Reasonable access to utilities (electricity, water, sewage)
- In addition to the above, any location seeking consideration should

also have significant support from the local EMS community.

The National EMS Memorial Service relies heavily on the local EMS community for the volunteers necessary to carry out the annual Memorial Service.

All designs should incorporate the "Tree of Life" and "Oak Leaf" concepts.

The Missouri committee has already gained support of many major EMS organizations as well as community leaders. Pledge letters to help defray costs will be out soon.

To learn more about this project visit <http://www.nemsms.org/> or contact Rande McCrary, Ruby Mehrer, or Jason White.



## **Inside Story Headline**



**Inside Story Headline**



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## **Inside Story Headline**



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