

**FAEMSE
January 2007
Meeting**



**01/24/2007
9:00 AM
Jacksonville, Fl.**

Meeting Minutes

The meeting began at 9:12 AM with a welcome by President Danny Griffin.

Discussion began with an announcement that the membership renewal date will be moved to January to match the calendar year.

Testing: The members expressed concern about the integration of the new Advanced Cardiac Life Support standards on the paramedic state board tests. An MQA representative states that questions incorporated from this date forward would be based on the new standards. Mr. Ricky Stone from the State Bureau of EMS stated the questions on the January tests that did not reflect the current standards were graded as correct regardless of which answer was chosen, and that this represented very few questions.

Instructor Class and Clin-con: Mr. Griffin opened a discussion on the prospect of renting a room Clin-con so they can pilot the new Instructor certification class currently under development by FAEMSE. He also asked the group to entertain the idea of hosting another guest workshop on teaching techniques.

Membership issues: Mr. Griffin announced that FAEMSE will be issuing membership cards to current members. He discussed the possibility that in the future membership cards may be required to vote on items at meetings. A poll of the audience revealed that less than a quarter of those present were current members.

The idea of restricting the list server to members only was discussed. The general consensus among those present was that these restrictions would unnecessarily limit the scope of the discussion on the list server.

Mr. Griffin also asked members to consider the idea of adding corporate sponsorships as an option.

Polo Shirts: Mr. Griffin said the board had discussed the idea of producing some FAEMSE logo polo shirts that would be offered for sale at somewhere around \$20 each.

Web Site: Louis Mallory reported that a group web site is under construction that will include a member database, and that a Moodle site could be constructed to facilitate the online portion of the instructor certification course.

Finance: Rod McGinnes reported that the association's account balance as of the January statement was \$1307, and that this balance did not reflect recent deposits of \$210 and \$434 in outstanding obligations.

Bureau Chief John Bixler asked to address the meeting. He announced that the package of proposed changes to the 401 state statute would not be going forth at this time. He stated that the package would be returned to Dr. Schatz where he could decide on further changes. He stated that the next advisory council meeting would be held in Cocoa Beach in April of this year. Mr. Griffin thanked Chief Bixler for his assistance with the testing issue.

John Todero expressed concern that the company CE Broker had been telling prospective continuing education students that some courses weren't approved, and pointed out that course approval is a function of the State Bureau of EMS rather than of CE Broker. Ricky Stone of the State Bureau of EMS stated that the CE Broker process was still new, and that this issue had been addressed by the Bureau

Chief Bixler stated that although the 401 package did not go forward, the requirement that EMS providers have wave form capnography on their ALS units was incorporated into rule December 18th of last year. He added that agencies have one year from that date to comply with the rule.

Mr. Griffin added that primary schools need to begin teaching capnography. Chief Bixler also announced that during provider inspections the Bureau will be focusing on whether the providers have the equipment and supplies needed to implement their protocols rather than focusing on a fixed list of items.

Dr. Joseph Nelson then spoke on several topics.

The Institute of Medicine Report: Dr. Nelson discussed the EMS section of their report, to be published in March of this year. The key findings of this report were as follows.

- EMS is fragmented
- There are no firm national standards for EMS
- EMS is ill prepared to respond to disasters
- There needs to be an initiative to improve patient safety
- they found that some kind of error was made on 50% of all EMS calls
 - Errors need to be discussed
- There needs to be an environment where people feel comfortable about self reporting errors

Dr. Nelson also stated that he would like to see a state standard for paramedics performing critical care functions, possibly called a "Specialty Care Paramedic". He stated that every day paramedics are transporting patient with drugs and devices that they are not familiar with.

John Tudaro offered that Idaho, Iowa and Colorado have developed a set of competencies for critical care paramedics and that these are available online. He also cautioned that if the industry does not address this issue, it will be decided for them by judges in response to litigation.

Dr. Nelson stated that currently agencies that seek reimbursement at the special care transport rate are being denied because the State of Florida does not have a recognized special level of care provider.

An audience member asked Dr. Nelson if it was his intention to require a critical care paramedic on certain types of calls, to which Dr. Nelson responded that we are just discussing a certification level.

Dr. Uland added that the need for these kinds of transports is increasing due to increased specialization among hospitals.

John Tudaro added that EMLRC currently has a critical care curriculum , and agreed that there should be guidelines.

Jamie Green asked if we need to form a joint Educator/Medical Director committee to address this issue.

Dr. Nelson suggested that we start with a general direction and then look at multidisciplinary groups later to hash things out.

Rule Changes and Testing: Mr. Ricky Stone of the Bureau of EMS then spoke. He pointed out that there is a new application form for training institutions, which is now available online, and added that previous forms would not be accepted.

He also pointed out new changes in the medical director contract, ride-along and certification requirements in 64E. He added that the new version of Rule 64E was available at the information booth on site.

Narina Stelanovsky pointed out that recent changes in the EMT testing procedure were a “real disaster”. Mr. Stone discussed the current procedure for EMT testing. Several educators expressed concern that the complexity of the process was causing graduates not to sit for the test.

Marci Fisher of FCCJ reported that 25% of her graduates had not attempted the test because they couldn’t successfully navigate the current process.

Trish Siebold of Levy County EMS stated that of a recent class of 18 students in her rural county that seven had become frustrated with the process and opted not to take the exam, and that this loss had a significant impact on her areas EMS system.

Mr. Griffin asked that we look at returning to a state constructed exam.

Jamie Green pointed out the current process for the Paramedic exam functions very well, and opined that the previous bid for the EMT exam had been unnecessarily restrictive, and suggested that we mimic the paramedic exam procedure.

A motion was then put forth for the association to investigate the feasibility of designing an EMT exam or purchasing an exam from one of several vendors who currently offer validated EMT exams. The motion carried.

Mr. Griffin asked Marci Fisher to chair a committee to look at the EMT testing issue and options for change of vendors or creating a state EMT test similar to the paramedic test currently used.

Ricky Stone added that the Bureau currently has to absorb \$30 per student because the cost of administering the exam exceeds the amount they are permitted by statute to collect.

Rob Holburn suggested that the changes in 401 needed to be put through to correct thus and many other problems.

An audience member suggested that the package did not have to be presented to the legislature by the Bureau of EMS. He added that any citizen or group could present the package to the legislature through an individual legislator.

Jane Bedford, returning to the issue of testing, asked that educators and agencies begin documenting problems with the EMT testing process. It was then suggested that these items be posted on the FAEMSE list serve for compilation.

Lois Mallory asked Ricky Stone and the MQA representative which entity had the ultimate say on which test is used. Mr. Stone stated he believed the final say rested with the Bureau of EMS, but that he needed to check his references to answer with absolute certainty.

Rob Holburn then put forward a motion that the association find a legislator to push forward the education related changes in 401. Several audience members suggested that we attempt to move the entire change package forward, rather than just the education related pieces. Ricky Stone asked that the Bureau be kept informed in the event that the package was submitted to a legislator.

Dr. Holburn's motion to put forward the education portion of 401 was approved.

Mr. Griffin put forward a second motion that the association bring up the possibility of pushing the entire package forward to the President's Association later in the day. This motion also carried.

Louis Mallory then put forward a motion that the association make a formal records request to the Bureau of EMS for a copy of the current version of the proposed 401 changes. Motion carried.

Ricky Stone then introduced Steve McCoy, a new member of the Bureau's team. He then asked the association about their progress on the education minimum equipment list. Mr. Griffin stated that the list had been completed and met with the association's approval. Mr. Stone stated that the bureau would look it over and return it to you with any changes.

Educator Course: Dr. Holburn then updated the group on the association's ongoing effort to develop a curriculum for EMS educator training. Mr Griffin stated that while the Bureau had tasked the association simply with recommending a minimum number of required hours, that the association had decided to take the initiative and develop an entire course structure for EMS educators at several levels. He thanked all who helped construct the document and stated that the final draft of will be posted on the list server soon.

Standards Project: Mr. Griffin stated that Marge Bowers could not be at the meeting due to a death in the family, but that she was working diligently on NITSA's Standards Project, which will take the place of the current National Standards Curriculum.

FAEMSE Elections: Mr. Griffin reminded everyone that the association will begin taking nominations for three board member at large positions **beginning April 25th at the FAEMSE meeting (nominations from the floor) and continue via email (FAEMSE@roaddoc.com) ending May 9th, 2007. Election voting will be take place via e-mail (FAEMSE@roaddoc.com) for two weeks beginning May 16th and ending May30th, 2007** and the winners will be installed at the meeting in Orlando.

Awards: Mr. Griffin then discussed the awards upcoming association sponsored awards, to include

EMT Educator of the year

Paramedic Educator of the Year

Program Director of the Year

Preceptor of the year

Continuing Education Instructor of the Year

Jane Bedford asked if anyone was interested in being on the awards committee. She also mentioned that the association was still seeking sponsors for awards. John Todero immediately responded that he would offer a free registration to Clin-con for the winner of the preceptor of the year award.

Mr. Griffin reminded everyone that the State EMS awards are coming up, and that nominations must be submitted to Lisa Walker at the Bureau by March 15th, 2007.

Awards include:

Educator of the Year

Provider of the Year

Medical Director of the Year

Paramedic of the Year

And EMT of the Year

Membership Package: Marci Fisher stated that she is in the process of putting together a membership package which will include a welcome letter, an explanation of the benefits of FAEMSE membership and possibly an FAEMSE sticker to be sent to new members.

Rules Workshop: Ricky Stone announced an upcoming rules workshop in Miami

Simulation Class: John Tudaro announced that there will be a pre-conference at Clin-con on how to use simulators in EMS instruction.

Mr. Griffin passed out DVD's that contained data acquired from last years NAEMSE swap meet, and suggested that FAEMSE conduct similar swap meets.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35am

Join list serve by sending email to djgriffin1@cox.net