



Membership in the EMSCNJ

What's in it for you?

(Revised 04/17/2016)



Intro/Background

What happened to the NJSFAC?

We're still the New Jersey State First Aid Council.

Our role and responsibilities as prehospital providers are constantly evolving, and have changed dramatically during the last 87 years.



What happened to the NJSFAC?

Yes, we still perform patient stabilization, airway clearance, CPR, hemorrhage control, initial wound care and fracture stabilization.

These days, though, we're also about defibrillators, Epi-Pens, aspirin and Narcan.



What happened to the NJSFAC?

We needed an updated, “fresh” moniker that reflects all we do.

Early last year, after much debate, a renaming committee developed the “EMS Council of New Jersey” name. The BOT – including the district VPs – voted overwhelmingly for the name change and chose the new logo.



What happened to the NJSFAC?

Our charter has not changed. We're still the NJSFAC



What does the Council do?

So, what does the Council do? What's in it for you?

So many things!

The Council focuses on issues that benefit member squads, while remaining true to the tenet that patient care is our primary goal.



Types of Benefits

There are tangible and intangible benefits to membership.

The tangible benefits are easier to identify, but often the intangible benefits, once recognized, are considered more valuable.

To reap the most from either type of benefit, squads must actively participate.



Training

Training is so important that it is specifically identified in the Council's charter.

- * The Council holds a large symposium each fall in conjunction with our annual meeting, where important information is provided on various subjects.
- * We often provide national and international speakers that individual squads could not afford to hire.
- * We offer the largest number of BLS CEU classes of any NJ conference, at little or no cost to members.



Training

- * CEU credits are also available through the Gold Cross, the EMSCNJ's official magazine.



Fund Raising

The Council has arranged several fund-raising opportunities, including:

- ✓ Donation bins (through Turnkey Enterprises)
- ✓ Assistance with fund-drive efforts/letters (through our public relations person)
- ✓ A media-and public-relations kit/recruitment tool prepared for member squads
- ✓ Access to Council social media sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter) to advertise district and squad events

Some squads completely offset their dues and even make a profit with a single Council-sponsored funding stream.



Professional Networking

- * The Council provides several venues for EMS providers to meet and discuss various topics.
- * In the past, the Council sponsored a Volunteerism Summit that was widely attended by EMS providers and state legislators.
- * During the annual conference we invite numerous vendors who present new and available products.
- * The Council acts as the main conduit of communication between volunteers and OEMS.
- * Because the Council doesn't report to OEMS, there is no conflict-of-interest relationship.



Professional Networking

The Council represents our membership on the:

- ✓ NJ State Planning Group for Homeland Security
- ✓ Homeland Security Critical Infrastructure Emergency Services Sector Working Group
- ✓ NJ State Highway Traffic Safety Advisory Council
- ✓ NJ EMS Advisory Council
- ✓ EMT Training Fund
- ✓ 911 Commission
- ✓ NJ Fire and EMS Institute
- ✓ NJ Council on Volunteerism



Professional Networking

The Council also maintains communication with other statewide EMS groups outside of New Jersey.



Legislative Activities

Special-interest groups often propose legislation that might not be in the best interest of the public at large, volunteers included.

Together with our legislative advocate in Trenton, the Council acts as an advocate for volunteers and public welfare.

The Council monitors and reviews all legislation and proposed regulatory actions that can impact our member squads.



Legislative Activities

AND WE GET RESULTS!

Many consider this to be the most significant benefit of membership.



EMT Skills

EMS has progressed greatly over the years. Many of the advancements seen in New Jersey are a direct result of Council initiatives.

The Council fought to allow inclusion of appropriate skills at the BLS level, including:

defibrillators

Epi-Pen

aspirin

Narcan



EMT Skills

In anticipation of a possible move to Pit Crew CPR in NJ, the Council has offered Pit Crew CPR classes during the symposium.

The Council supports an annual cadet competition to encourage and aid our youngest members in honing their skills.



EMT Scope of Practice

The DOH has stated on several occasions that there will never be an EMT-I certification in NJ. The Council believes some of these intermediate skills should be available under proper medical control.

We continue to work to introduce additional skills:

- * glucometers
- * metered-dose inhalers
- * C-PAP has been discussed recently



Standardization

The Highway Traffic Safety Act allows for volunteers to set their own training standards. The Council sets minimum standards for member squads:

- * crew configurations
- * equipment standards
- * training resources
- * data collection



Inspections

All member squads must have a Standards Inspection by either a District team or OEMS.

The OEMS inspection was patterned from the Council's original inspection and we continue to remain aligned as much as possible.



Inspections

OEMS focuses on the outside of the truck (letter size, etc.). The Council focuses on doing a full equipment test during each inspection.

OEMS inspection has gone from every 2 years to 4 years due to budget issues.

Council inspections still occur annually.



Equipment Inspections

The most common problems identified during inspections are oxygen delivery and suction units.

OEMS inspections are less frequent and don't always include an equipment test, which leaves "at risk" equipment more likely to remain in use.



Equipment Inspections

Any member squad can request a spot check of any piece of equipment at any time – even if OEMS already inspected that squad.

We believe it's better to identify a potential problem during a test rather than in the field!



Data Collection

The Council was the first group in New Jersey to perform consolidated data collection.

The NJSFACTS system was NEMSIS compliant well before the rest of the state standardized on EMS Charts and it allowed us to do aggregate statistics on a local, regional or statewide level.

The Council also gathers additional information in the Annual Membership Report.



Recruitment and Retention

The Council produced and distributed several public service posters and videos, and a media/public relations kit/recruitment tool squads can use for recruitment or public education.

The Council's public relations person is also available to assist squads with projects involving publicity for events, newspaper articles, recruitment material, etc.



Recruitment and Retention

Several of the benefits available through the Council have been used effectively as recruitment and retention tools.

Some squads use these as “rewards” for members who meet a certain level of service.



Benefits for Individuals

Discount purchase plans

- * Working Advantage
- * Dell
- * Affinity Credit Union
- * Verizon Wireless (no longer available)

Insurance and health care benefits

- * Auto
- * Dental and vision
- * Life insurance, long-term disability
- * Pets
- * Deborah Heart and Lung Center



Benefits for Individuals

Scholarships

- * Cadet – high school seniors going on for a degree
- * Marianne Willis – paramedic studies
- * Gail Lawrence – advanced medical degree

Awards

- * Several categories for individuals and organizations
- * Certificates and pins available for service milestones



Benefits for Individuals

Education discounts

- * EMT Training fund
- * Fairleigh Dickinson University
- * Volunteer tuition credit programs at community colleges
- * Gold Cross Magazine CEUs
- * EMSCNJ scholarships -- for Cadets, Advanced Nursing Professions and Paramedic training



Benefits for Individuals

Visit <http://www.njsfac.org/>
for a comprehensive benefits list.



Dues

All members pay state and local district dues.

The state dues are proposed by the EMSCNJ treasurer and approved by the members at Convention.

District dues are established by each district and approved by their members.

District dues vary throughout the state, depending on the activities supported by each district.



“Why are dues so high?”

Actually, Council dues are quite low compared with those of other professional organizations.

MTA dues are \$85 per month for the lowest level of membership and can be up to \$300 monthly -- plus per-vehicle fees!

Many organizations charge dues for each individual member.

Council dues have remained static for several years at \$310 per squad, per year.



Licensed Squads

Many volunteer squads have started billing for service, which requires them to be licensed.

Council membership allows these squads to meet their OEMS requirements while still providing a mechanism to pose inquiries to OEMS.



Hybrid Squads

Career staff can be rewarded with pay incentives, advancement, employee benefits and even retirement benefits, but what about volunteers of these squads?

Some of these benefits are available through the Council.

Council membership shows volunteers of hybrid squads that their participation is as valuable as that of the paid personnel.



Delegates to the Council

Each squad elects up to 3 delegates and 3 alternate delegates to represent it.

The Council recommends that at least one of the delegates be someone with broad experience and the ability to make decisions for the squad.

Your delegates will vote on various issues and might not always have time to discuss each topic with the membership before casting a vote.

Elect delegates with good judgment!



District Officers

District officers are elected by the delegates, according to each district's bylaws:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Chaplain
- Trustees
- Sergeant at Arms
- District VP

The district chair runs the monthly meetings and establishes committees.

The district VP is the district's main representative at the Council's Board of Trustees meetings.



District Meetings

Districts must meet at least 9 times a year.

Reports are provided on topics affecting EMS. Each district focuses on issues significant to its area:

- * Legislation
- * Training
- * Standards
- * Local hospital issues
- * District VP relays events of state meetings
- * Special projects
- * Best practices, success stories and problems are discussed



State BOT Meetings

- * The Board meets monthly.
- * Any member can attend these meetings.
- * Each District has 2 votes at these meetings.
- * Statewide EMS issues are discussed.
- * Reps to outside agencies and teams provide reports and receive feedback.
- * Districts report on local issues.
- * Policies for the greater good are developed.



General Membership Meetings

General membership meetings are held twice a year:

- * Midyear
- * Convention

Each squad in good standing has one vote.

Although the normal procedure is for issues to be brought forth through the districts, delegates have the opportunity to bring topics to the general membership meetings.

These meetings are also great ways to network.



Value in Membership

Just like officers whose members struggle to answer calls, delegates often struggle to give reports to their squads.

If you don't listen to the reports, provide feedback or participate in the available activities, you are wasting opportunities for income, training, knowledge of the EMS system, and the ability to influence that system.



Does your squad participate?

- * Have you elected delegates that can speak for your squad?
- * When was the last time you asked your delegates to bring a subject to the Council or give input on an issue?
- * Have you given them feedback on issues that have been discussed?
- * If the Council isn't going in the direction you want, have you tried to influence that?



EMSCNJ is the membership

The Council is here to serve the needs of the membership and the public.

The Council is not the Board; it is the membership -- each and every squad.

By working together, our members are stronger and can accomplish more than by working alone.



EMSCNJ Contacts

President Joe Walsh: emscnj.pres@gmail.com

Northern Area VP Cyndy Reardon: navp@njsfac.net

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Secretary Barbara Platt: recsec@njsfac.net

Membership Secretary Sue Meyer:
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Treasurer Ken Weinberg: treasurer@njsfac.net

Assistant Treasurer Leroy Gunzelman:
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EMSCNJ Contacts

We have an online member directory, which provides important contact information on all member squads, state and federal agencies, and relevant legislation passed or still under consideration.



Questions?

Thank you for allowing us to present this today.

We'd be glad to answer any questions now
or in the future.

Council officers are always available to answer
questions. Feel free to contact your officers using the
information in the Council directory.