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MUSCATINE FIRE DEPARTMENT AMBULANCE SERVICE  
CAREER SERVICE OF THE YEAR

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# VOICE



Volume 2013-01, January-March 2013

The Voice Newsletter is published quarterly by:

IOWA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
ASSOCIATION

8515 Douglas Avenue, Suite 27B \* Urbandale, IA 50322

**2013**

**IEMSA**

## Board Meetings

March 21, 2013

WDM EMS Station 19 1:00—3:00 pm

April 18, 2013

WDM EMS Station 19 1:00—3:00 pm

June 20, 2013

WDM EMS Station 19 1:00—3:00 pm

August 15, 2013

WDM EMS Station 19 1:00—3:00 pm

October 17, 2013

WDM EMS Station 19 1:00—3:00 pm

November 7, 2013

Annual Conference 6:30—7:30 pm

December 19, 2013

Teleconference 1:00—2:00 pm

### 2013 UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 1, 2013 IEMSA BILLING & MGMT  
CONFERENCE**

**May 18, 2013 EMS MEMORIAL**

**November 7-9 2013 IEMSA 24th ANNU-  
AL**

**2013**

**IEMSA**

## Board of Directors

**President:** Jerry Ewers

**Vice President:** Linda Frederiksen

**Secretary:** Brad Buck

**Treasurer:** Brandon Smith

**Immediate Past President:** John Hill

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John Hill

### Southwest Region

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### Education

Mary Briones, Brian Rechkemmer

**Medical Director:** Dr. Forslund

**Lobbyist:** Michael Triplett

2013 EMS BILLING & MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

IEMSA's Annual  
**EMS BILLING AND  
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

With Doug Wolfberg  
of Page, Woflberg & Wirth, LLC



**NAAC**<sup>TM</sup>  
National Academy  
of Ambulance Coding

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Watch our website and eNews  
for more details and for when  
registration is open.

**Wednesday, May 1st, 2013**

**Waterloo, Iowa**

**8 am—5 pm**

**Waterloo Center of the Arts**

**225 Commercial St**

**Waterloo, Iowa 50701**

Special IEMSA \$79.95 room rate at the Ramada Inn, 205 W  
4th St., Waterloo, Ia 50701.

Call 319-233-7560 to make your reservation.

Book your room by April 9th to receive the discounted rate.

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# EMS MEMORIAL CEREMONY

West Des Moines Station #19  
8055 Mills Civic Parkway  
West Des Moines, IA 50266

May 18th, 2013  
10:00 am Continental Breakfast  
10:30 am Ceremony

*Ceremony will include a Presentation of Colors with the Honor Guard and Bagpiper, speakers, presentation to the families of the Honorees, and helicopter fly over.*

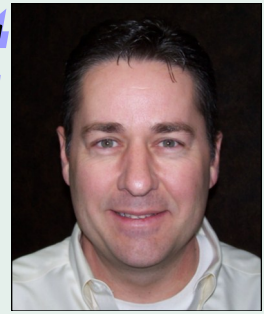






# *A Message from the President*

Jerry Ewers, Fire Chief, EMT-PS  
IEMSA President, Board of Directors



With the IEMSA Executive Board nominations and elections behind us I have the honor and privilege to serve as your President for one more two (2) year term. With that comes the responsibility of writing 8 more articles for the "Voice." Normally I would begin the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Voice article mentioning something about the past years events and accomplishments and what's in store for the new year, but this year I have to say that I feel compelled to do something a little different.

I would like to dedicate this article to the Mercy Air Med crew, EMT-PS Russ Piehl, Flight Nurse Shelly Lair-Langenbau, and Pilot Gene Grell, all of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice on the night of January 2, 2013 while enroute to pick up a critical patient in Emmetsburg, Iowa.

The job of a helicopter emergency medical crew member ranks as the highest risk occupation based on death rates, which is more dangerous than deep-sea fisherman, logger, and nine other hazardous jobs according to a recent study by Dr. Ira Blumen of the University of Chicago Hospitals.

I still clearly remember that dreadful phone call Wednesday night informing me of the fatal helicopter crash near Ventura. What made it even worse was that I was informed that the paramedic on board was a dear friend and fellow IEMSA board member representing the North Central region.

I wanted to share with you what Russ's brother Gregg Piehl was quoted as saying the following day. "My brother Russ died last night, doing what he loved to do most in this world. He was aboard a medical helicopter on its way to help someone in need when it crashed. How many of us left behind live our lives doing what we love? He told me more than once that this was God's plan for him while on this earth." I personally will miss his laugh. Over the past few years while being on the IEMSA board I really got to know Russ and his wife Mel and we had some good times and memories during the annual conference in Des Moines.

Please keep the families of Russ, Shelly, and Gene in your thoughts and prayers during these difficult times. I would like to personally thank the Mason City Fire Department for providing Honor Guards for both services in Mason City and Forest City for Russ and Shelly. Also, a big thanks to all the EMS, Healthcare, Fire, and law enforcement that attended the visitations and funerals. I know the families, friends, and colleagues were appreciative of the support from all of you.

As an organization we will be honoring Russ, Shelly, and Gene during the EMS Memorial event in West Des Moines at 10:00 am on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Their names will be added to the memorial wall.

These heroic individuals will be joining several other incredible individuals who gave the Ultimate Sacrifice as an Iowa EMS provider, including:

Hallie Burns  
Steno Schipper  
Suellen Barton  
Sheryl Stoolman  
Maureen Griffin  
Earl Reece  
Pat Scollard  
Nick Roetnor  
Wanda Waterman  
Dennis E. Patrick

Also, IEMSA is in the process of establishing a scholarship in honor of Russ Piehl. This scholarship would be for IEMSA members who are interested in attending an EMT class. The Scholarship committee will be tasked with setting this up. Additional information will be announced at a later time through eNews and will also be posted on the IEMSA website. Russ, Shelly, and Gene will also be honored during the “Honoring our Own” ceremony during the Annual Conference on November 9, 2013.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention to remind everyone to double check or verify who you have listed as a beneficiary on your personal life insurance policies and the IEMSA's free \$10,000 AD&D policy. Please ensure your beneficiary information is up-to-date.

The \$10,000 accidental death and dismemberment insurance offered by IEMSA helps you protect yourself and your family should an unforeseen tragedy occur. This insurance is provided for IEMSA individual members at no additional cost. The policy provides \$10,000 in benefits should a covered IEMSA member be dismembered or killed in an accident.

To make sure that your intended loved ones are named as beneficiaries, it's important to update your beneficiary information. If you are eligible for this benefit as an IEMSA member and have not submitted your beneficiary form, you may access this under the “Members Only Section” of the website. [http://www.iemsa.net/pdfs/beneficiary\\_form.pdf](http://www.iemsa.net/pdfs/beneficiary_form.pdf)

Please stay safe and I look forward to seeing you at the IEMSA Billing and Management Conference on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Waterloo or at the Memorial in West Des Moines on May 18th. As always, if you have any questions about the organization, please don't hesitate to send me an e-mail, or call me in person. Also, please tell us what we are doing well and what we can improve upon. Again, this is YOUR organization. Take care and God Bless.

Thanks.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerald P Ewers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

## CORPORATE PROFILE: IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM LIFE FLIGHT– AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

Iowa Methodist Medical Center was the first central Iowa hospital to provide an air ambulance service. When emergency medical care is needed, time is critical in saving lives. The ability to stabilize and transport patients as quickly as possible is crucial, which is why Life Flight can often be a deciding factor in a life-threatening situation.

A typical Life Flight transport involves a patient who has experienced a medical or cardiac emergency such as a heart attack, respiratory distress, multi-system failure, congenital abnormalities, etc., or some form of trauma, including car accidents, falls, work-related accidents, criminal incidents, gun-related mishaps and recreational accidents.

Life Flight brings critical care and aviation capabilities together to serve communities and hospitals throughout the state. Physicians, nurses, rescue, law enforcement and industrial health officials may request LifeFlight. Within minutes our flight is airborne and on the way to sustain the lives of serious ill or injured patients.

However, Life Flight is not a replacement for existing ground emergency medical services. The primary purpose of LifeFlight is to assist and augment the capabilities of community hospitals and EMS services by providing prompt emergency response and transport for patients requiring specialized medical facilities.

Together, Life Flight and the emergency and trauma teams at Iowa Methodist Medical Center and Blank Children's Hospital work with local emergency personnel to provide the most efficient emergency medical treatment and ultimately, patient survival.

Life Flight is an integral component to the community's emergency services. As experienced transport clinicians, Life Flight's medical personnel are trained in critical care, advanced life support, pediatric and neonatal advanced life support and advanced airway management. Highly specialized teams are available from Blank Children's Hospital. Flight paramedics have received Pre-hospital Advanced Trauma Support training, and all flight nurses have successfully completed a nationally recognized Flight Nurse Advanced Trauma Care Course. These combined skills are essential to evaluate and treat our patient's physical and psychological needs.





## Life Flight Time Line

**1979 ::** Iowa Methodist Medical Center introduces Life Flight on July 12. It's one of about 15 hospital-based programs in the United States, and the only air ambulance service in central Iowa

**1980 ::** Tragedy strikes. Life Flight crashes in Webster City, killing nurses Maureen Griffin, Hal-lie Burns and pilot Nick Roetner.

**1987 ::** Life Flight, The Movie premiered in Des Moines. Produced by American Media Inc. and filmed partially at Iowa Methodist Medical Center, this film was loosely based on the IMMC program. The Life Flight helicopter was used for filming, and pilots and crew members assisted with the technical aspects of the film.

**1993 ::** Life Flight celebrated its 15 year anniversary. Life Flight offices move to a newly constructed critical care tower. The new tower includes a rooftop helipad and megavator to further enhance transportation and treatment of patients.

**1996 ::** Life Flight receives the Air Medical Safety Award from American Eurocopters in recognition of 10,000 consecutive accident-free missions.

**1999 ::** Life Flight celebrated its 20th anniversary.

**2002 ::** Life Flight is pleased to announce the arrival of their new helicopter. The new helicopter is an AS350 B2 aircraft from Rocky Mountain Helicopters in Provo, Utah and replaces the former Life Flight helicopter of 10 years and brings many additional features and capabilities to this service.

**2004 ::** Life Flight celebrates its 25th anniversary.

**2008 ::** Selection is made for a new aircraft. The Eurocopter EC 145 is chosen as the new Life Flight helicopter. Planning and customization of the aircraft begins.

**2009 ::** Life Flight celebrates its 30th anniversary. In October, Life Flight unveils and puts into service its new EC 145 helicopter. The EC 145 is the largest medical helicopter in the state.

# Spotlight on Training

## Iowa Central Community College Fort Dodge, IA

Iowa Central Community College is located in Fort Dodge. Iowa Central also has satellite campuses in Webster City and Storm Lake. Iowa Central serves the counties of Buena Vista, Pocahontas, Humboldt, Wright, Sac, Calhoun, Webster, Hamilton, and Greene. Iowa Central Community College was organized in 1966 with a broad mandate to offer a vast array of educational opportunities to the residents of its nine county area. Iowa Central was built on the firm foundation of three area junior colleges which had been operating since the 1920s by the local public school systems in Fort Dodge, Webster City, and Eagle Grove. In 1975, Iowa Central joined with Buena Vista College (now Buena Vista University) in Storm Lake in a cooperative venture whereby students can earn a bachelor's degree attending evening classes. The student's first two years are completed at Iowa Central and the final two years at Buena Vista at the Fort Dodge Center.



Iowa Central currently offers Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced EMT (AEMT), and Paramedic initial education training. In addition Iowa Central offers various EMS continuing education opportunities and training through the American Heart Association (AHA) Training Center. Initial EMS education is coordinated by Paul Arens, EMS Coordinator, at the Fort Dodge campus. EMS continuing education and the AHA Training Center are coordinated by Rod Case at Trinity Regional Medical Center in Fort Dodge. Iowa Central Community College offers CPR, ACLS, PALS, and PHTLS classes on a frequent basis.



Paul Arens has been the EMS Coordinator at Iowa Central since September 2008. Paul has his Bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and is a Nationally Registered Paramedic. Prior to starting at Iowa Central Paul was employed as a Paramedic in Anamosa, Decorah, and Spirit Lake, Iowa. Paul currently works as a PRN Paramedic for Algona EMS. In addition to Paul many adjunct instructors make up the faculty that instruct initial EMS classes on the Fort Dodge campus as well as at local fire departments and ambulance services.

The Iowa Central Community College EMS program recently submitted its Paramedic program self-study to the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP) and hopes to complete the accreditation process by the end of 2013. Paramedic program accreditation will allow Iowa Central to continue to graduate competent Paramedic candidates as well as ensure that our program meets nationally accepted standards for Paramedic initial education.



# Spotlight on Training

In 2011 Iowa Central acquired five Gaumard high fidelity patient care simulators that are utilized by the nursing and EMS programs at Iowa Central. The simulators allow EMS students to practice high acuity low frequency skills in a controlled environment. With the use of the simulators it has allowed our EMS students to practice skills and techniques that may be hard to obtain in the clinical and field setting. The simulators provide real-time feedback that allows the instructor and the student to know whether skills and procedures have been performed correctly. The simulation lab contains a professional audio visual system that allows the instructor to record the simulation session and then replay that session to the students in a debriefing format. Along with the audio and visual recording the recording software records any interventions that have been performed on the simulator. Students are able to critique their performance and learn from the experience.

Iowa Central strives to be on the cutting edge of EMS education so that our program graduates are prepared to be competent EMS providers now and into the future!



# **THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS:**

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Bringing ***faster response times***  
to south central Iowa with a  
Bell 429 in Knoxville



**MERCY ONE**  
**DES MOINES**

The 2013 Legislative session is in full gear and there is a lot of work being done at the Capitol. IEMSA is working with both the Governor's office and the two chambers on the first priority of the Iowa Cares Program and the funding and reimbursement of ambulance transports to either Broadlawns Hospital in Des Moines or University of Iowa in Iowa City. To this point the two hospitals get paid for care but the ambulance does not get paid for transport. IEMSA is working with Iowa Hospital Association on this as well because the local hospital also does not get paid for care rendered outside of the two hospitals. Both of our groups agree that probably Medicaid should get expanded to cover this population, but the Governor is opposed to an open expansion without a great deal of study on the cost to the state. IEMSA has a survey monkey out to directors of service programs to gather the data about our cost for Iowa Cares over the past 3 years.

The next item on our Legislative Agenda is the disparity of funding for Public Safety in the state. Right now EMS is not considered an "essential service" and thus does not get the funding from townships and cities as Fire and Police. Because we are part of the "Public's Safety" in many situations we are pursuing language that elevates EMS to the same service expectation as fire and police. IEMSA believes if we can be a part of the Public Safety Triangle then the funding will follow appropriately when government looks at the funding for the health and welfare of the public.

Mike Triplett, IEMSA Lobbyist is working with partners on the 911 Enhancements and the disparity of the surcharge on Wire line and Wireless lines. At last conversation it sounded like all but one entity was in favor of both being a surcharge up to \$1.00 per line.

Lastly as this letter goes to press we are watching and working with other groups on Senate File 92 a bill for an act providing reserve police officers with an individual income tax credit and including effective date and applicability provisions.

Senate File 37-A bill for an act requiring safety helmets by certain young persons operating motorized bicycle, and providing penalty.

Senate File 9-A bill for an act concerning public safety training and equipment trust fund, establishing a public safety training and facilities task force, and making appropriations.

This last one has another bill just introduced that would remove EMS from the Task force. Mike is currently speaking with the sponsors of this new bill as to why EMS would be removed from this task force. Every year prior to the legislative session Mike Triplett and Thomas Craighton meet with the Joint Public Safety Legislative group to look at legislation we can work on together and this would be one of those areas IEMSA wants input.



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