

# Developing future leaders is crucial

**A**N OFTEN QUOTED STATEMENT ABOUT LEADERSHIP IS that “the final test of a leader is that he or she leaves behind in other people, the conviction and the will to carry on.”

With the NAEMT election season in full swing, I thought it would be an opportune time to share with you some of the work that our association has undertaken recently to ensure that it is fostering and supporting the development of qualified and inspired leaders for the future. In 2009, at the recommendation of my immediate predecessor, Patrick Moore, the NAEMT Board established a Leadership Development Committee.

The purpose of this committee is to help our association develop future leaders by identifying active members who may possess the knowledge, skills, interest and motivation to serve in leadership positions within the association; provide them with mentoring and guidance to help them develop their leadership capabilities; and identify or develop leadership training opportunities to support the development of future leaders.

In 2010, this committee developed descriptions for all elected leadership positions within our organization, including president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer and director, to help members interested in serving as an elected NAEMT leader to fully understand the responsibilities of each position. These descriptions were approved by the Board and now are posted on the Elections page of the NAEMT web site.

This year, the committee took on the task of establishing a process for identifying and mentoring future leaders. Committee members felt that NAEMT should take a more proactive approach to identify active members who possess the qualities and characteristics that would make them well-suited to serve as a NAEMT leader. The committee identified the experience and skill sets that would be beneficial to a member of the Board, including:

- Full understanding of prehospital patient care.
- Experience in leading an EMS association.
- Knowledge and understanding of the federal political process.
- Good interpersonal communication skills.

- Ability to build relationships.
- Ability to clearly and accurately articulate NAEMT’s messaging and positions.

Through attendance at national and state EMS conferences, and through outreach to current leaders within EMS, the committee will seek out members to discuss with them the opportunities and benefits of serving as a director on the NAEMT Board.

Individuals who express an interest in serving will be mentored by the committee on an ongoing basis. If you have an interest in becoming a future leader in the association, you may contact the Leadership Development Committee at [leadership@naemt.org](mailto:leadership@naemt.org).

The committee members also reviewed current leadership training and development opportunities in EMS. They found that while some quality programs exist, most of these

programs were not easily accessible throughout the country, and often were provided in a semester-long course by a college or university.

It was also noted that most leadership training for EMS focuses on operational management rather than strategic leadership.

The committee is now in the process of identifying how NAEMT might provide easily accessible, quality leadership training to our members. Committee members will be looking at possible leadership topics and institutions that may be interested in partnering with NAEMT on the development of leadership curriculum.

In upcoming issues of *NAEMT News*, we will keep you posted on the work of this committee and also will be sharing with you leadership ideas and tips, as included in this issue’s cover article by John Brophy.



Connie A. Meyer  
President

**NAEMT is fostering and supporting the development of qualified and inspired leaders for the future.**