



Volume 1.9
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EMT Thoughts



What's Inside:

- ▶ Conference Recap
- ▶ Conference Award Winners
- ▶ Conference Photo Album
- ▶ IC Society
- ▶ SDEMSEA Halloween

SDEMSA Conference 2023

Secretary of SD DoH

South Dakota Department of Health Secretary Melissa Magstadt, in her speech, highlighted the EMS association's positive history and its vital role in healthcare, while also acknowledging the challenges such as workforce shortages and an aging population. She called for increased funding, attracting new providers, and recognizing EMS as a profession, emphasizing the need for unity and provider input in regulations to drive transformative change. Magstadt's speech aimed to empower the audience by making them feel valued and giving them a voice in legislation, recognizing the pivotal moment for EMS and the importance of collective efforts in shaping its future.



President's Report

SDEMSA President Keith Sharisky began his speech by thanking District 6 for organizing the conference and recognizing the efforts of the Executive Council and Executive Board. He also expressed gratitude to the Office of EMS for their guidance and the shift in leadership structure towards the Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners, with SDEMSA having a say in the direction. Sharisky highlighted the importance of succession planning in the organization, acknowledging the challenge of finding suitable volunteers, and urged the audience to learn about council responsibilities to ensure a smooth transition of leadership, emphasizing the need for continuity in the organization.



Training Officer's Report

During his speech, Doug Glover, the Training Officer of SDEMSA, emphasized several significant points. He expressed his strong desire to be actively involved in the EMS community by seeking an invitation to local district meetings, underscoring his eagerness to collaborate and contribute effectively. He also revealed his commitment to enhancing the organization's resources by actively seeking out expert speakers for EMS World, with the goal of providing valuable insights and knowledge to the community. Additionally, he shared the establishment of a dedicated task force within SDEMSA that is focused on improving pass rates for EMS professionals.

By-Law Updates



Secretary's Report

In her speech, Sina Glover, SDEMSA's Secretary, discussed the restoration of the Line of Duty Death Memorial with the help of Family Memorials.

She also provided guidance on accessing and completing necessary forms via the SDEMSA website.

To access these forms, individuals can log onto the SDEMSA website and locate them under the conference tab.

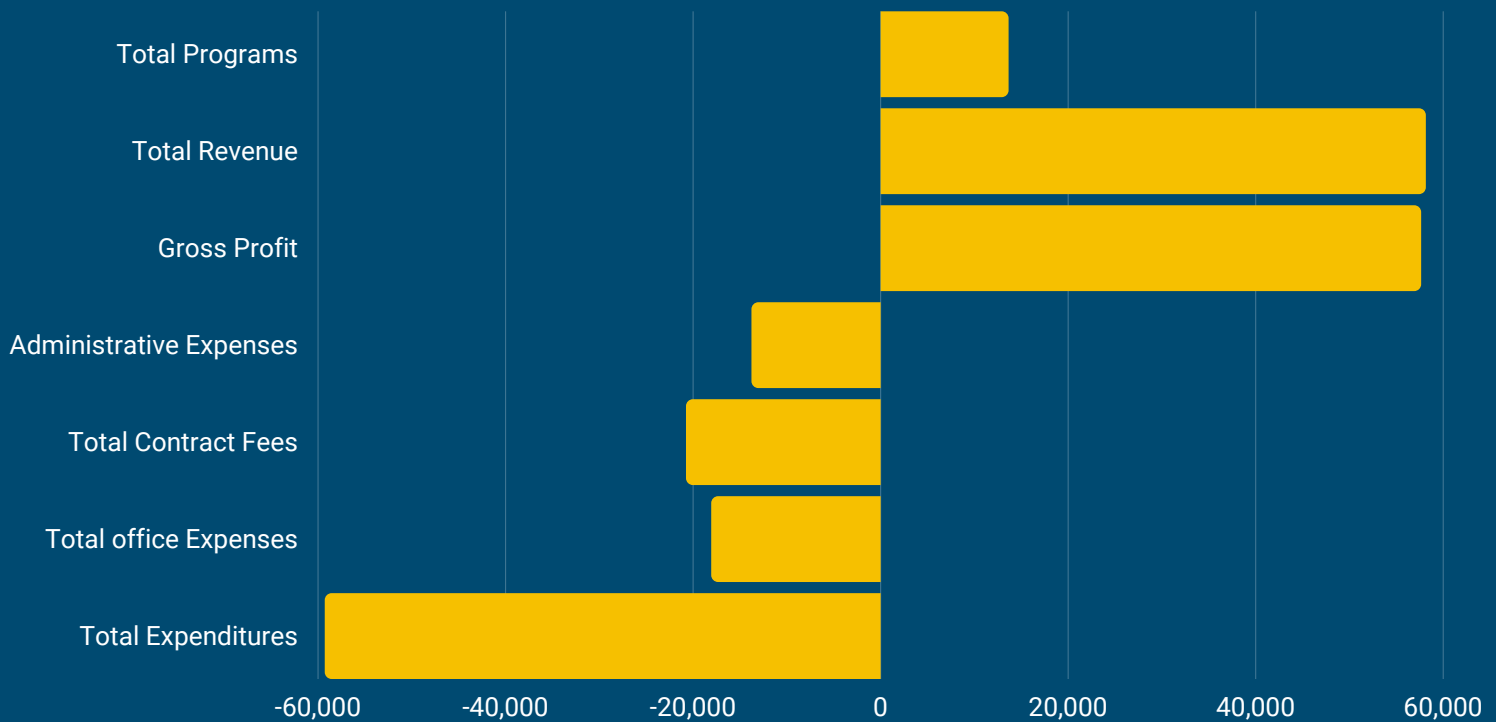
Two types of forms are available: one for Line of Duty Death, which is more comprehensive and relates to benefits and another for memorial service, which should be filled out in the context of the conference service.

In her speech, Amy Marsh discussed important updates to the SDEMSA by-laws. These updates included:

1. Nominations for Lifetime membership (Article I, Section 1, Subsection 4, Letter D) are now required to be made to the State Secretary by July 1 of each year.
2. The previous maximum limit of five Lifetime memberships per year (Article I, Section 1, Subsection 4, Letter E) has been removed.
3. Membership dues (Article I, Section 3, Subsection 1) will now be determined by the Executive Council when approving the annual budget.
4. The term "Corporate/Membership" (Article II, Section 2, Subsection 2) has been changed to "Corporate Sponsorship."
5. The purpose of the Education Committee (Article V, Committees, Section 1, Subsection 5) has been expanded to focus on providing quality education to EMS providers, with an emphasis on saving lives and developing effective education delivery methods.
6. Two new committees have been added:
 - a. The Corporate Sponsorship Committee (Article V, Committees, Section 1, Subsection 7) will be composed of a minimum of three individuals appointed by the State President. Its role is to secure corporate sponsors to support EMS through equipment, education, and patient care.
 - b. The Political (Advocacy) Committee (Article V, Committees, Section 1, Subsection 6) will also have a minimum of three individuals appointed by the State President. This committee will study pending legislation and offer recommendations to support, oppose, or take no position on the legislation to the SDEMSA Executive Council. It will also address EMS issues brought to its attention by members and provide recommendations to the Executive Council as needed.

These updates aim to improve and streamline various aspects of the SDEMSA organization, including membership, education, and advocacy, ensuring it remains a dynamic and responsive entity in the field of EMS.

Treasurer's Report



Casey Huffman's Treasurer's Report highlighted the following key points:

Membership: The report noted a significant increase in membership, with numbers rising from 1,018 to 1,179, indicating a growing and engaged EMSA community.

Total Assets: The report revealed that EMSA's total assets amount to \$303,564.34, underscoring the organization's financial stability and ability to support its activities.

Main Account Budget: The budget for the main account was set at \$58,024.00, and the actual amount spent was slightly higher at \$58,326.40. This information suggests that the organization remained within a reasonable range of its budgeted expenses, indicating responsible financial management.

Casey Huffman's report highlights the positive growth in membership, strong financial assets, and responsible budget management within EMSA, which bodes well for the organization's sustainability and future activities.



Conference Memorial Service

During her speech, Sina Glover, the Secretary of SDEMSEA acknowledged and paid tribute to the individuals listed on the Line of Duty Death Memorial, honoring their contributions to the EMS field.

These individuals include:

Don Forseth

Betty Kaltenbach

Margaret Knock

Michaelle Lund

Royce Martz

Raymond Schulte

Jerry Bickley

Steve Hawkins

Robert Hausmann

Margie Hovorka

Donna Kringen

Don Radel

Lori Thomas

Eldora Morrison

Donna Wik

Jana Jones

Susan Stadler

Brad Stone

Al Schorg



Conference Award Winners



EMS Instructor of the Year

This award is presented to an EMS Instructor who has shown unwavering dedication and commitment to providing EMS education in the state of South Dakota. We proudly acknowledge Travis Spier as the recipient of the EMS Instructor of the Year award. His tireless efforts in educating and training future EMS professionals have made a significant impact on the industry.



Lifetime Membership

Lifetime Membership is a prestigious recognition for individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and service to the SDEMSEA over a period of 15 years or more. This year, we celebrate the accomplishments of five exceptional members: Brenda Sinning, Ron Carlson, JD Geigle, Shawn Fischer, and Bonnie Nelson.

These individuals have contributed countless hours to the advancement of the SDEMSEA's mission, which is to strengthen patient care in South Dakota through advocacy, education, and representation of EMS providers. Through their tireless efforts, they have helped to shape the direction of the organization and have been instrumental in achieving many of its goals.



Paramedic of The Year

Chad Madsen's excellence in patient care, advocacy, professionalism, and continuous commitment to professional education have earned him the well-deserved title of Paramedic of the Year. His dedication to patients and his colleagues exemplify the highest standards of EMS practice.

Throughout his career, Chad Madsen has been a role model for other paramedics. He has consistently demonstrated his passion for providing the best possible care to his patients. His tireless efforts to improve his own knowledge and skills have also had a positive impact on the wider EMS community.



EMT of The Year

Scott Larson's exceptional patient care, advocacy, professionalism, and dedication to ongoing professional education have made him a role model for all EMTs. He is a shining example of what it means to be the EMT of the Year.



Volunteer EMS Service

Volunteer EMS services are the backbone of many communities, providing essential care without hesitation. This year, we applaud Plankinton Ambulance and Leola Ambulance for their dedication as Volunteer EMS Services of the Year.



Career EMS Service

Lennox Ambulance, predominantly staffed by career professionals, is recognized as the Career EMS Service of the Year. Their unwavering commitment to patient care and their community is inspiring.

Sue Schuurman's Memorial Award

The Sue Schuurman's Memorial Award is a tribute to the memory of a dedicated EMS advocate. This award allows recipients to purchase essential equipment for their squads. We are thrilled to announce that this year's winner is Sturgis Ambulance, who will use the award to acquire equipment designed to improve the administration of IVs to children. Their dedication to enhancing pediatric care deserves commendation.

Military Medic of the Year

The Military Medic of the Year Award honors the extraordinary achievements of military medics who excel in the performance of emergency medicine, particularly in theater patient care. We proudly congratulate Sargent Rachel Hobbs for her remarkable service. Her dedication to military emergency medicine is truly commendable.



President's Award

The President's Award is presented to those who have significantly contributed to furthering the goals and objectives of EMS in South Dakota. We are delighted to honor Margaret Farrel and Mikayla Titus for their outstanding dedication and service to the SDEMSA.



Appreciation and Gratitude Award

Amy Marsh received the Appreciation + Gratitude Award, a recognition from the SDEMSA President for her remarkable contributions to the organization. Her selfless dedication is truly appreciated.



Sanford Health Trauma Wars and AirMethods Escape Room

In the spirit of healthy competition, Rosebud Ambulance, Piedmont Ambulance, and Sturgis Ambulance showcased their skills and dedication in the Sanford Health Trauma Wars. Congratulations to Sturgis Ambulance for taking home the first-place trophy! Holly and Sloane impressed us all by conquering the AirMethods Escape Room, displaying teamwork and problem-solving abilities.



Congratulations to all the award winners at the 2023 SDEMSA Conference. Your dedication, commitment, and excellence in emergency medical services do not go unnoticed. Your contributions are the foundation of strong and resilient healthcare in South Dakota, and we salute your unwavering efforts. Thank you for all that you do to make our communities safer and healthier.

David Page

David Page, a prominent speaker in EMS, presented talks on crucial topics. His first talk, "The Acute Abdomen," stressed evidence-based practice, introduced AEIOU acronym for abdominal issues, and highlighted identifying immediate life-threatening conditions, including ectopic pregnancy. Differential diagnosis and less life-threatening conditions were also discussed. Page covered abdominal anatomy and provided a case example.

His third talk "BLINK! What your gut knows before your mind can catch up" explores the concept of thin slicing and the idea that our gut instincts often know things before our conscious minds do. He shared various stories illustrating instances where people had knowledge or intuitions ahead of their conscious awareness. Page emphasized the importance of not rushing to judgment and recognizing the role of unconscious bias in our decision-making processes.

Finally, in his talk "Cardiac Arrest? You Need a Plunger and Pit Crew " began with a historical overview of cardiac arrest and the importance of training individuals in the community to perform chest compressions and a discussion of the fundamental principles of CPR. His presentation aimed to highlight the importance of involving the community in life-saving efforts, focusing on the essentials of effective CPR techniques, and staying updated on the latest developments in cardiac arrest management.

David Page's series of talks covered a wide range of essential topics in the field of emergency medical services, emphasizing evidence-based practice, critical evaluation of research, the power of intuition, and effective life-saving techniques.



In his second talk, "What's Hot and What's Not," Page emphasized evaluating evidence and relying on peer-reviewed research. He discussed essays relevant to EMS, challenging existing practices, and the importance of self-care for providers.



Jon Politis



Jon Politis delivered a series of talks covering various crucial aspects of emergency medical care. In his first talk, "Wild Medicine Case Studies in Trauma," Politis emphasized the need to adapt medical care to wilderness environments, where rescue operations can take extended periods. He discussed the roles and challenges of wilderness rangers and presented a case study of a mountain climber's fall, showcasing the complexities of providing trauma care in the wild.



In his second talk, "Sexy Airway Secrets," Politis focused on essential aspects of airway management during emergencies. He stressed the importance of proper airway assessment, nasopharyngeal airway sizing, equipment quality maintenance, avoiding over-inflation during positive pressure ventilation, and shared guidelines and strategies for effective ventilation techniques.

In his third talk, "Care in the Austere...Secrets of Care Where the Ambulance Won't Go," Politis underscored the importance of adapting medical care to challenging environments, where traditional ambulance services may not be readily available. He provided examples illustrating the need for flexibility in delivering medical care in austere conditions.

Jon Politis's talks covered a wide range of topics, including wilderness trauma care, airway management, and providing care in challenging environments, ensuring that EMS providers are well-prepared to handle diverse emergency situations.

He also spoke on the following topics: Syncope and Hemorrhage Control

Dr. Deanna Lassegard

Dr. Deanna Lassegard's talk on Pediatric Emergencies covered three main areas. Firstly, she discussed the physiological and anatomical differences in children, highlighting how these distinctions impact pediatric emergency care. She then addressed common illnesses and injuries that often affect children, shedding light on the specific challenges and considerations associated with each. Lastly, Dr. Lassegard emphasized the importance of safe care practices for children, underlining the need for tailored approaches to ensure the well-being of pediatric patients in emergency situations. Overall, her talk aimed to provide valuable insights and guidance for healthcare professionals dealing with pediatric emergencies.

Office of EMS Panel

The South Dakota Department of Health's EMS panel highlighted new initiatives like a statewide assessment and the adoption of LifePak and Telemedicine services. AVEL ECare collaborated with 85 ambulances, achieving an 82% technical success rate and an average service value of 4.5 in 750 encounters on camera.

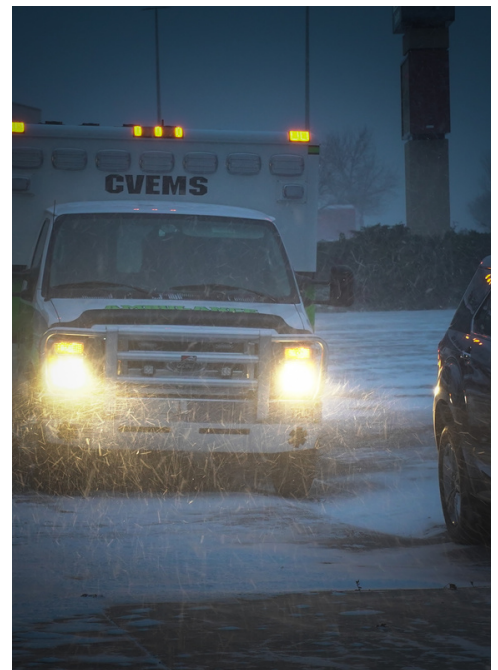
Eric Van Dusen

Eric Van Dusen's talk on obstetrics introduced the OB Worksheet, a structured tool for collecting essential information during obstetric assessments. The worksheet includes key parameters such as the number of weeks of gestation, gravida (number of pregnancies), para (number of previous live births), LMP (last menstrual period), EDC (estimated due date), the presence of active labor, time of labor onset, history of prenatal care, any pregnancy complications, whether it's a multiple pregnancy, and details about previous deliveries. The worksheet is a valuable resource for systematically documenting and managing obstetric cases, ensuring that all relevant information is considered during assessments and care planning.



Conference Photo Album





Upcoming Events Calendar

December 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27 White Lake - Special Healthcare Tyndall - November Training Philip - Respiratory Emergencies	28 Avera Careflight - Chart Review Tripp - Special Healthcare Onida - November Training Parkston - November Training	29 Ipswich - Cardiac Emergencies	30 Brookings - Carbon Monoxide Poisoning and Asthma	1	2
3	4 Iroquois - Toxicological Emergencies Sanford - Toxicological Emergencies	5	6 Carthage - Toxicological Emergencies	7 Woonsocket - Toxicological Emergencies	8	9 Initial EMT Course
10	11 Platte - Toxicological Emergencies	12 Huron - Toxicological Emergencies	13 Vermillion - Cold Weather Emergencies	14	15	16
17	18 Howard - Toxicological Emergencies	19	20 Armour - Toxicological Emergencies Corsica - Toxicological	21 White Lake - Toxicological Emergencies	22	23
24	25	26 Tripp - Toxicological Emergencies Onida - December Training Parkston - Toxicological	27 Ipswich - Neurological Emergencies	28 Tyndall - December Training	29	30

Training Opportunities

Resuscitation Bundle Education.

There has been a grant awarded to Jeremy Robertson through the South Dakota Department of Health to provide free training to incorporate a "Resuscitation Bundle" to your Cardiac Arrest care. The grant is for ambulance services and other first responder organizations state wide. The goal of this training is to bring all of the pieces of resuscitation into one systematic organized approach to all Cardiac Arrest Events. The course is slated for 4 hours of continuing education

The goals of the course:

- Provide a working knowledge of Chest Compression Fraction CCF
- Mastery of the concept of High Performance Teams
- Provide a blueprint for resuscitation so all members work out the same playbook.
- Remove the chaos of a resuscitation
- Chest compression practice and tuning
- Airway options mastery of use
- Oxygen, Ventilation, End-tidal CO2 monitoring
- AED/ Defibrillation mastery and options. Life Pac 15 and the CR 2 (PD AED grant)
- LUCAS deployment and strategies
- "Button-ology" -proficiently at running all of the buttons LP15/LUCAS
- Post- Resuscitation Care
- ALS providers—Vascular access and Medications
- Hands on practice, rehearsal and timing scenarios.

When I applied for this grant, I realized that that state has invested substantially in equipment for our Cardiac Arrest. This grant is designed to invest in the providers to utilize the equipment to the best of their abilities. Jeremy is an active member in the SDEMSA and EMS educator for Sioux Falls Fire Resue. He has a passion for simplicity and resuscitation. The course will be incorporating best practices in resuscitation to make you crews more comfortable and save more lives. I also have the philosophy that if you crews can do one thing VERY well, all of you patient care will get better through communication and understanding.

The grant covers travel cost and onsite delivery of the training with your current equipment. Since this is a large undertaking, I do ask for a little flexibility with scheduling as we may not be able to do this on you normal meeting night and I would like to have all organizations represented in your community I.e.. EMS, FD, LE.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

Jeremy Robertson

jrobertson@siouxfalls.org

New Vice President: Alan Perry



Currently I serve as President of District 2 and as the chair of our communications committee in addition to working full time as the Director of EMS for the Lennox Area Ambulance and as a working paramedic. In my almost 15 years involved with the EMS field in South Dakota, I have spent countless hours working to improve care and services provided to our patients. If we are honest with ourselves, each one of us can see EMS struggling-from inability to find qualified staff, to financing of an ambulance service, to reimbursement rates. I have experience working in multiple different ambulance services and understand the challenges of small services as well as large services. My commitment to the members of the organization is to work transparently to ensure that the SDEMSEA moves forward with ambulance services of all sizes in one unified collective of EMS professionals to ultimately provide better care to our patients. If we don't adapt and move forward, we can't expect to survive as EMS professionals.

Instructor/Coordinator Society

Join the SDEMSEA's
I/C Society Today!

The mission of the South Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association Instructor Coordinator Society (SDEMSEA I/C Society) is to practice and promote excellence in EMS Education. The SDEMSEA I/C Society is committed to and responsible for providing relevant, challenging, evidence-based education.

SDEMSEA I/C Society Officers

President: Katheryn Benton
bentco@midstate.net

Vice President: Ruth Airheart
casiems@gwtc.net

Secretary: Hapsie Nutley
hapsie.nutley@gmail.com

Treasurer: Amy Marsh
ajmarsh@aol.com

SDEMSA Halloween!

Get ready to relive the Halloween spirit as we unveil a collection of photographs capturing the festivities from our local South Dakota ambulance services' Trunk or Treat event and Halloween celebrations. These heartwarming snapshots showcase the community's creative costumes, decorated vehicles, and the joyous moments shared by all. Join us in celebrating the spooktacular fun and camaraderie that filled the Halloween season in our community.

