Leadership Change @ BEMS

The Pennsylvania Department of Health’s Bureau of EMS Director position has seen a change in EMS system leadership. For the past nine years, Joseph Schmider (Joe) has been our state’s EMS Director. Pennsylvania’s loss will be Texas’s gain, as Joe accepted the EMS Director’s position for the State of Texas!

Members of Joe’s immediate family have been living in Austin, Texas for the past several years. So the move to Texas puts him within minutes, not days, of his family.

Pennsylvania’s EMS system has flourished under Joe’s leadership. His influence will be felt for years to come. Initiatives such as Pennsylvania’s new EMS Act (Act 37), development of draft rules and regulations, statewide EMS system responses to disasters both in and out of Pennsylvania, implementation of statewide treatment protocols, implementation of high performance CPR, plus a statewide hands only CPR challenge, and the list goes on… were implemented under Joe’s tenure. We wish Joe the best in his new position as Texas’s EMS Director!

While we say goodbye to Joe, we also welcome a familiar face to EMS providers in northwest Pa, as Richard Gibbons, Jr. (Dick) has been appointed as the new Bureau of EMS Director. We’re looking forward to working with Dick in his new role in the Bureau of EMS.

Best wishes to both Joe and Dick in their new job positions! Congratulations!!!

Richard Gibbons, Jr. New BEMS Director

Northwest Pa native Richard (Dick) Gibbons, Jr. has accepted the vacant position at the Pa Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, as the State EMS Director. Dick began his new position on July 15, 2013.

Dick comes to the EMS Directors’ position with years of prehospital and public safety experience. He is a past recipient of the EMMCO West EMS Achievement Award, and formerly served as CEO of EmergencyCare and operational director of Community Ambulance Service.
New EMMCO West Staff Member

EMMCO West is pleased to welcome our newest employee, Kaylen Redmond. She began her position as the Coned Office Operations Specialist on July 1, 2013. Kaylen is from Sandy Lake, Mercer County. Kaylen’s primary job tasks are:

- Administration of the electronic coned programming
- Addressing customer issues related to continuing education
- Assisting with patient care reports
- Processing renewals and certification materials
- Serving as support staff with regional programming and projects
- Processing outgoing, incoming mail
- Managing the short term equipment loan program
- Performing additional administrative tasks.

“We’re pleased to have Kaylen as our newest employee”, stated Executive Director, Bill McClincy.

Kaylen’s email address is support@emmco.org.

EMMCO West Corporate Happenings

This past June, EMMCO West board of directors conducted its annual organizational meeting. Each year board members and committee members are affirmed by the board of directors.

In 2004, a restructuring of the EMMCO West board of directors occurred. Primary, governmental, disaster, and at-large board appointees were identified. The board appointments are for two-year terms, after which the appointee must be reaffirmed by the board of directors.

There are standing committees that are sanctioned by the board of directors. These committees include:

- RMAC— Regional Medical Advisory Committee
- QI— Quality Improvement Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Communications Committee
- Executive Committee
- Special taskforces and organizations are identified by the board of directors. The regional Critical Incident Stress Management Team, is recognized by the board of directors.

There are currently 24 board members on the EMMCO West board of directors. Board members represented include:

- 12 hospitals (Primary)
- 7 county governments
- 1 disaster response
- 4 at-large appointees

Board member backgrounds include physicians, hospital administrators, nurses, paramedics, EMT, EMR, police officers, mental health, active aging, EMS agency managers, EMA directors, American Red Cross, and various types of EMS agencies/organizations.

Contact EMMCO West if you are interested in participating on one of the board sanctioned committees. Board of director meetings have an open attendance policy.

The EMMCO West board of directors meet on a quarterly basis. A schedule of meeting dates and a listing of current board members can be found at www.emmco.org. Click the “About EMMCO West” tab.
New EMS Horizon—Mobile Integrated Healthcare

Today’s EMS healthcare system is centered around the transportation of patients. However tomorrow’s healthcare system may not be as focused on the transportation of patients as it will be on providing effective and efficient healthcare delivery to patients. The new Mobile Integrated Healthcare paradigm is expanding beyond it’s initial focus of “community-based paramedicine”. Mobile Integrated Healthcare has the potential to redefine prehospital care as we know it today!

Here’s an example of a community based paramedicine scenario. Often patients that are released from hospitals end up returning to the hospital because they experience a reoccurrence of their existing medical ailment. Hospitals are now faced with new healthcare insurance requirements that impose fines and penalties for readmissions of these patients within 30 days. In many cases, if there was “someone” able to check in on these patients, counsel them, and monitor their medical conditions, the patient might not need to be readmitted to the hospital. Trained paramedics and EMTs can assess these patients, consult with their family physician, and determine a treatment plan that often avoids a return to the hospital.

Hospitals and insurance carriers recognize the versatility and utility of mobile integrated healthcare initiatives. Presently there are several pilot projects being pursued in Pennsylvania. Dr. Daniel Swase, UPMC, has created a project in Allegheny county. Both UPMC Healthcare Insurance and Highmark Insurance have provided funding for the community-based paramedicine project. In addition, the Pa Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, has announced it will be providing assistance to several other community based paramedicine projects in central and eastern parts of Pennsylvania.

At Symposium 2013, Matt Zavadsky, MedStar Mobile Healthcare, spoke on how they have implemented the mobile integrated healthcare concept. In fact his EMS agency, MedStar EMS, changed it’s name to reflect the changes in their healthcare delivery system.

Mobile integrated healthcare is adaptable to the needs and demands of the prehospital and hospital care systems. It can be a physician referral-based system or a 911 response system.

Aside from customer service and administrative training, most EMTs and paramedics have the essential education to operate within a mobile integrated healthcare system.

This is the next frontier for EMS system design and EMS career development. For more information, check out emergencybestpractices.com and the July 2013 Best Practices Special Edition, “Finding a New Seat at the Healthcare Table”.

IRRC releases final draft Act 37 Rules & Regs

Pa’s Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) has released the final draft Act 37 Rules & Regulations that it will be considering. Act 37 was signed in July 2009 by Governor Rendell. Since Act 37’s signing, rules and regulations to implement Act 37 have been drafted, townhall meetings held, and then an official comment period occurred in the Fall of 2011.

The PA Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, has been responding to the comments and made changes to the draft regulations, based on these comments.

In the coming months, a hearing by IRRC will occur to decide if the regulations will be approved. Check the EMMCO West website for the latest information—updates.
Under Appreciated Assessment - Olfactory Sense

Think about all the smells you experience everyday. Truthfully we don’t think much about them. Of the human senses, the use of the olfactory nerve system (smell), is somewhat under utilized compared to the use of our sight and hearing senses.

Yet smell can be a powerful sense that can influence our memories in an instant. Think about the smell of Thanksgiving Day dinner, yummm!

There are specific situations in EMS for which we use the sense of smell to help us assess our patients. For example, we can smell the breath of a diabetic patient for the presence of ketones. We often notice the “odor of alcohol” in suspected impaired patients. Patients who have become unconscious often have the smell of incontinence on their body.

These kind of “smells” or “odors” help us with our assessment of a patient. But, aside from these obvious odors, there are other smells that EMS providers need to be sensitive to.

As we approach a wrecked auto, are you noticing the smell of battery acid or engine fluids coming from the vehicle or the smell of gasoline or diesel fuels? Do you smell “electrical wires burning” or the smell of smoke from a fire?

Upon entering a home, what smells are present? Is it a musty odor, urine smell or is it pleasant smelling (smelling clean). EMS providers are mandated reporters of neglect/abuse. These kind of odors, coupled with the physical conditions of a house, may be a reportable situation.

Odors can also be triggers for pleasant and not-so-pleasant memories. Olfactory sensory signals travel through various areas of our brain. Past memories can be relived simply based on the smell of an object or situation.

As you enter any scene, consciously stop and smell the scene. It just might give you clues as to what is occurring or might occur!

Dr. Brian Risavi, DO, EMMCO West’s Regional Medical Director, and coauthors Dr. Richard Wadas, Jr., MD. and Dr. Douglas Kupas MD., State Medical Director, published an article in the Journal of Emergency Medicine regarding the use of CO detectors by EMS personnel. Dr. Risavi is presenting specific case studies from the research project at the EMMCO West Safety Conference on Nov. 2, 2013.

The use of CO detectors has improved the safety of EMS personnel by providing a recognition of carbon monoxide in situations in which the presence of CO was not suspected.

Licensed and recognized EMS agencies in the EMMCO West region have been provided CO detectors. CO detector activations can be reported at www.emmco.org “operations”
EMS Instructor Course
October 4 -20, 2013
EMMCO West Education Center

Primary Instructor– Course Coordinator
William McClincy,
Course Cost: $125.00
Includes textbook and lab materials

- Prerequisites
  - 18 years of age
  - Possess a high school diploma, GED, or higher degree
  - PA certified EMT, paramedic, PHRN with > 1 year experience providing prehospital care
  - 20 hours of documented instruction in a PA Department of Health training institute

- Course
  - 44 hour classroom
  - 12 hour internship at Pa DOH training institute
  - Eligibility for Pa DOH EMS Instructor recognition
EMS Instructor Course

Application Form

Name: _______________________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Day Phone: (      ) __________________________________________________________

Email: ______________________________________

Certification Level & Number: (Check level and write in ID #)
___ EMT: ____________________
___ Paramedic: _________________
___ PHRN: ____________________

Number of years certified? (Write In) _________

Current Professional Rescuer CPR?    ____ Yes    ____ No

Identify previous instructional experience (Write in):
__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Course cost: $125.00 (Includes textbook and course materials)
(Money orders or checks ONLY. Insufficient funds on checks will be subject to bank fees + $25.00.)

Payment/Reimbursement:
Online registration with credit card www.emmco.org “Events”

The course cost is due with the submission of the course application. If the course is cancelled, the course cost will be refunded in full. For withdrawals five days prior to the starting date, the course cost will be refunded in full. After four days prior, there are no refunds for the course. If a student withdraws from the course they will receive the textbook and course materials.

Send Application:

EMS Instructor Courses
EMMCO West, Inc.
Suite 101, 16271 Conneaut Lake Rd.
Meadville, PA 16335

Registration Deadline is Sept. 20, 2013
Holy Cow!!! This Stuff Really Works

By: Melissa Thompson

The other day I happened to be at a local convenience store when a woman suddenly came running to the checkout counter screaming. She was on her cell phone yelling at the clerk wanting the address for the store. She told the clerk her brother had passed out in the restroom.

When I arrived in the restroom, I found someone else had already started CPR. We began tag teaming the CPR, doing sets of two hundred compressions. The local fire department was on scene within a couple of minutes. We attached the automated external defibrillator (AED), waited for it to analyze and started compressions again. The AED indicated we should shock the patient. We shocked at 360 joules and continued the CPR. We put oxygen on the patient via a non-rebreather mask and continued until the ambulance arrived.

The advanced life support (ALS) ambulance arrived within a few more minutes. The paramedic quickly started an IO infusion in the patient’s leg and administered Epinephrine. We continued with the CPR. The song “Stayin’ Alive” by the Bee Gees was running through my head (Thanks Trish). We analyzed with the AED again and got no shock advised. The paramedic again assessed the patient to find he had a pulse and was taking a few breaths on his own. We broke out the bag valve mask and started assisting his ventilations on high flow O2.

A fire department EMT looked at me and said “Wow, I guess this new CPR stuff really does work.”

While some may say that all the stars had aligned for this patient and that people were in the right place at the right time, I believe that it was a little bit more than that. I’ve been in EMS for 25 years. This cardiac arrest resuscitation went smoothly and efficiently. Everyone had just had the training for the new CPR protocols. We had just practiced it a week prior to the call. Everyone knew their job and did it well, and our patient benefitted from our skills.

I think we may be on the right track here. The state would like to see as many high functioning CPR crews as possible on the streets. Yes, there are some changes, but it’s about practicing our skills and an organized approach to a cardiac arrest that I believe make a difference. How many times do your crews practice CPR? Once a year when your department recertifies your members? Or every other year? Practicing your skills keeps you sharp and allows you and your service team members to work together for the best possible outcome for each of your patients. Your patients will benefit more than you might realize.
EMMCO West

6 pm - 10 pm
EMMCO West, Meadville, PA

Sept. 18  NREMT BLS Skills Review
Sept. 25  Airway Management and Lab
Oct. 2    Medical Emergencies
          Cardiac, Diabetic, Respiratory
Oct. 16   OB/Gyn & Infants and Children
Oct. 23   Trauma and Musculoskeletal
          Assessments and Lab
Oct. 30   Immobilization Lab

* All sessions awarded PA DOH Coned

Registration for Coned Wednesdays

- Registration online at www.emmco.org “Events”
- All sessions are tuition-free
- Coned awarded for each session. Attendance at all sessions is not required to participate in coned Wednesdays.
- Sessions are subject to cancellation. Notification of cancellation will be posted on the EMMCO West website under “Breaking News”.
- Attendance at these sessions can be used towards remediation requirements for candidates already in the certification testing process.
EMS Safety Conference—November 2, 2013

Location - Edinboro VFD
Edinboro, PA

Time - 8:00 am Registration
Continental Breakfast
8:30 am — 5:00 pm
(Breaks & Lunch Provided)

EMMCO West’s 2nd Annual EMS Safety Conference features national, state and regional guest speakers. EMS agencies and personnel are faced on a daily basis with minimizing on-the-job safety hazards.

The conference is open to any public safety agency and/or EMS providers.

Topics and Presenters include:

Dr. Brian Risavi, DO
EMMCO West Regional Medical Director
“CO Detectors - Protecting EMS Providers and Patients”

Peter Dworsky, MPH, EMTP
Corporate Director - Support Services MONOC, Neptune, NJ.
“Risk Management Concepts For EMS Agencies - Featuring a presentation on the Effectiveness of Lights and Sirens on EMS Vehicles”

Katrina Altenhofen, MPH, EMTP
State Director-IDPH Bureau of EMS EMSC Program, Washington, Iowa
“Kids In EMS Rigs” - How to safely transport pediatric patients in EMS vehicles

Daniel Patterson, PhD, NREMT-P
Assistant Professor, UPMC School of Medicine, Dept. Emergency Medicine
Pittsburgh, PA
“What the National EMS Culture of Safety Program Means to EMS Agencies”

Conference Registration Information

Conference Brochure for the EMS Safety Conference will be mailed September 2013. Online Credit Card Registrations are accepted at www.emmco.org “Events”.

Registrations for the Safety Conference will be taken until Monday, Oct. 28, 2013

Pa Department of Health Continuing Education Credits are being sought for this event.

Mark Your Calendar Now For Nov. 2, 2013
Effective July 1, 2013, updated ALS and BLS Statewide Protocols took effect. The protocols replace those from 2011. The revised protocols contained several significant revisions. These included:

- Protocol 180 and 181 Trauma Destination—Air Ambulance. Inclusion of Level IV Trauma Center Designation
- Protocol 331A and 3031A Cardiac Arrest
- Protocol 3080 Post Resuscitation Care
- Protocol 706 and 7006 Stroke

The most significant change was Protocols 331A and 3031A related to using high functioning CPR techniques. Cardiac arrest management “pit crew teams” are stressed within the protocols.

EMMCO West is providing each licensed or recognized EMS agency vehicle with a 5”x7” and pocket-sized copy of the protocols.

EMS providers can receive their protocol update online through the Learning Management System (LMS). “EMS Coned” High-Functioning CPR Team—Science Lecture Class #006372 or through local EMS agencies.

**Functional Needs Cards For EMS Agencies**

EMMCO West regional EMS agencies are receiving a functional needs card for each of their licensed or recognized EMS vehicles. The card is used to communicate with patients who have a disability or do not speak English. These cards can be used in circumstances when a patient is having problems expressing his or her ability to communicate with EMS professionals.

The patient can point to a picture or phrase that represents their situation or reflects their medical needs.

There is a section of the card for specific foreign language dialects to be identified.

The cards are waterproof and can be written on with dry image pens.

EMS providers are encouraged to use these cards in any situation in which there is a potential language/comprehension barrier that is encountered.
EmergyCare’s Camp EMS was a Huge Success

It’s called “Camp EMS” and it’s a first of its kind career camp for teens ages 14 – 17. The one-of-a-kind summer camp gave participants a unique firsthand look into the world of prehospital medicine over six days and five nights.

Throughout the high-paced, extremely interactive program, teens from across Pennsylvania and New York stayed in dorms at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa and learned what it takes to effectively function in emergency medical services.

During the Camp EMS experience, “cadets” were separated into “squads” to encourage team work and were taught about EMS through lectures, demonstrations, and performing hands-on treatment and assessment skills through the use of high fidelity simulations.

James Kifer, Director of Camp EMS reports, "The goal of the camp is to spark an interest in young people in the EMS profession, while at the same time having fun as they learn about this exciting occupation and profession."

Cadets participated in daily physical fitness training, learned about EMS legal and ethical responsibilities, practiced interpersonal and radio communications, obtained their certification in BLS Healthcare Provider CPR and attended demonstrations from EmergyCare’s tactical EMS (SWAT medic) team, and the Northwest PA Canine Search and Rescue Team.

Kifer reports that EmergyCare is already working on Camp EMS 2014 and that he and the rest of the Camp EMS Team are already very excited about next year’s camp.

For more information about Camp EMS contact EmergyCare at 814-870-1940, visit emergycare.org or by view the camp facebook page www.facebook.com/emergycare.campems

EMMCO West Acquires Utility Truck

EMMCO West recently accepted ownership of a 1984 utility truck from Crawford County LEPC and the Crawford County Commissioners. “We greatly appreciate the ability to receive this truck from the Crawford County LEPC”, stated EMMCO West’s Executive Director William McClincy.

Space on EMS strike team deployments is at a premium. Over the next several months, the truck will be refurbished and placed into service for preparedness operations both in and outside of the EMMCO West region.
The Evolving World of EMS Education

On Jan. 1, 2013, EMS education began to evolve, drastically changing things that have become stagnant over the years. As with any change, there has been some confusion. Hopefully, this article will clear up any misconceptions or concerns.

The first change began with implementing the National EMS Education Standards. This exciting change opened many doors for both course coordinators and students. Most new instructor textbooks have dynamic PowerPoints with actual video demonstration of skills, as well as special educational tips. There are even greater enhancements at the student level. Student textbooks include websites with practice exams, games and other educational tools to help students have a higher success rate throughout the course.

The second change is a result of the new national educational standards. All students are required to have proof of NIMS 100, 700 and HAZWOPER prior to being eligible to take any level certification exam. As you know, all active field practitioners are required to have NIMS 100 and 700. By adding this requirement into the educational course, students that complete the course are more marketable to potential employers. The same can be said for the HAZWOPER requirement. Lately, there seem to be more people enrolling in EMS certification programs who are not affiliated with an emergency agency. This new type of student does not have the emergency services experience to be aware of scene safety issues. By adding this new class requirement, students that complete the course are better prepared to face some of the common scene awareness challenges. As I am sure you can understand, the classroom hours had to be increased to allow for adequate time to cover the new materials.

The last change is probably the one that has caused the most discussion, the requirement of 10 patient contacts for any student testing at the EMT level. The preference is for these patient contacts to be performed in the hospital setting. The basis for this decision was to allow students the ability to perform patient assessments in a quiet and stable environment. Some students struggle with the transition from “assessing and treating” one of their fellow students during classroom practice sessions to assessing and treating real patients requiring real emergency treatment. The hospital setting allows the student to learn what it is like to verbally and physically assess a patient who is in need of medical care without the concerns of being in a loud and moving environment.

To summarize, in order for a student to complete the course, the student must meet all of the requirements set forth by the training institute regarding grades and attendance. The student must also complete all of the training institute’s requirements in order to gain access to the clinical facilities used to acquire the 10 patient contacts (EMT students only). Once the student has completed the course the training institute will provide the state office, EMMCO West, with the proof of the student’s successful completion of the course, NIMS 100, NIMS 700, 10 patient contacts (EMT students only) and HAZWOPER. After successful completion of these requirements, the student is eligible to take the practical exam.

The current EMR and EMT practical exams are based on the National Registry exam format. We have been encouraging students and course coordinators to begin using the National Registry skill sheets as early as the first day of the certification class. These skill sheets are available online at www.nremt.org. The EMR exam now consists of five stations, while the EMT exam is seven stations. For both of these exams, the candidate is graded individually. This means each candidate enters the skill station without a partner and is graded on his/her own performance. This has successfully put an end to the long standing argument that some candidates were “pulled” through the exam by having a partner who was strong at the practical exam.

We encourage anyone who may have questions about the changes to either call the EMMCO West office to speak with staff or email michelle@emmco.org.
Congratulations To Regional EMS Agencies

We extend congratulations to the agencies that have received their renewed license or recognition and a welcome and congratulations to the new agency.

Jan. 1, 2013, April 1, 2013 and July 1, 2013 renewal dates

Albion Volunteer Fire Department
Bloomfield Volunteer Fire Department
Brookside Volunteer Fire Company
Centerville Volunteer Fire Department
City of Erie Fire Department QRS
City of Franklin Fire Department QRS
City of Franklin Police Department QRS
City of Meadville Fire Department QRS
Cochranton Volunteer Fire Department
Cooperstown Volunteer Fire Department QRS
Complanter Volunteer Fire Department
Complanter Volunteer Fire Department QRS
Edinboro Volunteer Fire Department
Elgin-Beaverdam Volunteer Fire Department
Emlenton Volunteer Fire Department QRS
Glade Volunteer Fire Department QRS
Grand Valley Ambulance
Harborcreek Volunteer Fire Department
Hydetown Volunteer Fire Department QRS
Lake City Volunteer Fire Department
Meadville Area Ambulance Service LLC
Millcreek Township Volunteer Fire Department
Mill Village Volunteer Fire Company
North Shenango Volunteer Fire Department QRS
Perry Hi-Way Hose Company
Perry Hi-Way Hose Company - Rescue
Russell Volunteer Fire Department
Sheffield Volunteer Fire Department
Springfield Volunteer Fire Department
Townville Ambulance Service

Union City Ambulance Service
Utica Volunteer Fire Company
Wattsburg Hose Company

Clark Volunteer Fire Department QRS (new)

EMMCO West wishes to thank all the agencies for their cooperation during this licensure or recognition process.

It was a pleasure to work with all of you.
Thank you.

Jane I. Hamza, EMS System Specialist

Symposium 2014 - Save The Date

Planning is already underway for Symposium 2014! If you have ideas for topics or speakers, NOW is the time to submit them to EMMCO West!

Dates for Symposium 2014 are:

April 3—5, 2014

Ambassador Conference Center, Erie, PA (Peach St & I-90)

Send ideas for topics to Melissa Thompson, mthompson@emmco.org.
EMMCO West’s 30th Anniversary

EMMCO West, Inc. is celebrating its 30th year of incorporation. Acute care hospitals in northwest Pennsylvania created a proposal to divide the former EMS Council of northwest PA region into two separate regional councils. Two non-profit corporations, Emergency Medical Management Cooperative, i.e. EMMCO East and EMMCO West, were conceived. In July, 1983, the Pa Department of Health approved the proposal. EMMCO West’s geographic area included seven counties (Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, Warren) and EMMCO East’s area covered six counties (Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, Jefferson, McKean, and Potter).

Each regional council formed their own board of directors and corporate structure over the rest of 1983 and into 1984. EMMCO West looks forward to continuing to serve EMS system stakeholders in northwest Pa.

Symposium 2013 Happenings ...
How Low Can U Go?

According to studies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease is the leading cause of on-duty deaths among emergency responders. Because of the unique culture of EMS, much time is spent eating on the run. After long shifts, it is sometimes difficult to find the energy to work out and focus on “taking care of number one”, ourselves. It is sometimes easier to run through a drive-thru and head home to enjoy some quality time on the couch watching television. After all, if you aren’t actively tracking your weight, “out of sight out of mind”, takes effect.

This past year, 22 people took part in the How Low Can You Go contest. Collectively, they lost over 242 pounds, the equal of one whole person. Congratulations to our winners: Linda Blaede, top female; Joe Blaede, top male and Elgin Beaver Dam Green, the top team.

Participation is easy! Form a team and pick a team captain, done! The team captain is responsible for collecting everyone’s weigh-in and submitting it on Friday to Trish at EMMCO West. It is easier to loose weight when you are working together as a group, supporting each other and offering tips and advice.

EMMCO West will be sponsoring the third annual contest and it will begin in January 2014. All teams will need to be registered by Jan. 10, 2014 and the first weigh-in will be on Jan. 17. The contest will run for 12 weeks.

At the end, prizes will be awarded for top male percentage lost, top female percentage lost and top team percentage lost. Watch for more details in December!

EMS Appreciation Dinner

The 2nd Annual EMS Appreciation Dinner was held on May 15, 2013 at the Conneaut Lake VFD Station 2 banquet facility. The awards for Mentor of the Year, EMS Achievement and Volunteer EMS Practitioner of the Year were presented as part of the evening. The Charles P. Leach Insurance Agency sponsored this year’s awards.

Ms. Debra Burick, from EmergyCare, received the 2013 Mentor of the Year award. She has been employed with EmergyCare for almost 16 years and is a field training officer. She is known for the patience and compassion she has for her fellow employees. She goes above and beyond helping new employees, offering encouragement, training and making them feel welcome. Congratulations Debra!

Mr. Don Hansen, from EmergyCare, received the 2013 EMS Achievement Award for his outstanding dedication to the EMS community. Don has been involved in EMS for more than 24 years. He currently serves as a paramedic and a field training officer. Don is known for his compassion for those in need, his integrity and his eagerness to help mold and grow people who enter the EMS profession. Congratulations Don!

The Volunteer EMS Practitioner of the Year for 2013 was awarded to Mr. Don Bellinger, from Cornplanter Volunteer Fire Department. Don has been involved with the service for more than 50 years. He is quick to share his vast knowledge with those who are newer to the field. Don still thirsts for knowledge, he can be found at different continuing education classes expanding his horizons. Thank you Don for your continued dedication to the EMS profession.

Nominations for future awards are accepted every year beginning in late February. The awards are presented at the EMS Appreciation Dinner which is held in May. Next year the dinner will be on Thursday May 15; the location will be announced at closer to the event.
Funding for this newsletter possible through
PA Department of Health, Bureau of EMS

“The Bottom Line Is Patient Care”

Million Person Hands-Only CPR Challenge

Improving survival from cardiac arrest requires a collective community response, which begins with making sure everyone knows how to call 911 and do CPR. Please join us by teaching your own community these simple steps. Together, we can save more lives!

Hands-only CPR takes only a few minutes to demonstrate, so it is easily incorporated into breaks in sporting events, such as half-time intermissions, commercial time-outs or opening ceremonies. Riding on the success of the initial hands-only CPR challenge this past year, the bar is even higher with a goal of 1,000,000 people trained by the end of National Heart Month, February 28, 2014.

“We’ve done programs at Groundhog Day, Thurston Balloon Classic, Erie SeaWolves, Erie BayHawks, plus school assemblies and other public events”, stated Trish Parker.

Research has shown that when CPR is administered immediately after a sudden cardiac arrest, the survival rate can increase by 50 percent.

Contact Trish Parker, EMMCO West EMS System Outreach Specialist, to assist in setting up a Hands-Only CPR event!