
Texas EMS Magazine names new editorial board

Meet the new faces of the Texas EMS Magazine editorial board. These 23 individuals are volunteering their time and energy to make the magazine the best EMS magazine in the nation. They are a diverse group, with almost 400 years of EMS experience between them. We will rely on them in the coming two years to be the voice of different facets of EMS and trauma systems, and to make sure we're addressing the needs of our readers. The board meets twice each year, during the February and August GETAC meeting weeks. – *Kelly Harrell*

Henry Cortez, LP
United Medical Services
Pharr, Texas

Years in EMS: 15
Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I have been involved in EMS since 1993 and have worked for various agencies in this South Texas. I have been an EMS instructor for the past 11 years and have helped develop different certification-level programs and implement curriculum and develop new criteria. I am dedicated to the educational advancement of all prehospital care providers, and I feel that my role on the editorial board can help influence the educational goals of all EMS providers in the state of Texas.

Mike DeLoach, NREMT-P, LP
South Plains College
Littlefield, Texas
Years in EMS: 24

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I enjoy the magazine and would really like to help keep this project a vital part of EMS in Texas. I think the magazine is the primary way the rural and frontier services have contact with what is going on in EMS in Texas. I started in EMS in 1984 as an ECA at a volunteer fire department in Amherst, Texas. I then became a charter member of Littlefield EMS and became a paramedic in 1990. In 2000, at the age of 40, I received a bachelor's degree. In 2001, I started teaching full time at Texas Tech University Health Science Center in Lubbock. In 2003, I became the program director of EMS training

at South Plains College. I have also been active in the development of the RAC and have held the offices of secretary, vice chair and chair. I currently serve as chair of South Plains EMS and serve on GETAC's Education Committee.

Bill Drees, EdD, NREMT-P
Lone Star College—North Harris
Houston, Texas
Years in EMS: 19

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I want to provide a new, fresh perspective for the magazine. As our link to the changes and happenings of EMS in Texas, the magazine should serve the needs of the citizens, certified personnel and EMS providers of Texas. My professional and academic experiences should serve the board. My tenure in EMS has included holding all five levels of certification and licensure as well as all EMS instructional certificates, including advanced EMS course coordinator. As a paramedic, I have worked in 9-1-1 services in both urban and rural environments, in an emergency room and intensive care unit, and served as an administrator and on the board of directors for an EMS service north of San Antonio. As an educator, I have taught thousands of students over the last 12 years and obtained a doctorate in educational leadership. I am dedicated to the profession of EMS and look forward to serving our state.

Bryan F. Ericson, NREMT-P, RN, MEd
Associate Professor EMS – Tarrant

County College
Eules, Texas
Years in EMS: 20

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I have dedicated my career to the education and enhancement of EMS in my community and throughout the state of Texas. Serving on the editorial board is an opportunity to volunteer my time to help give back and to help support and grow the EMS profession in Texas. My background as a registered nurse and paramedic, combined with my years of experience as an EMS educator, provides me with unique insight and abilities. Grounded in the power of education, I hope to help enhance and advance the practice of EMS in Texas.

Robert Folden, EdD, EMT-B
Texas A&M University Commerce
Greenville, Texas
Years in EMS: 13

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I wanted to support the continued development of a quality publication serving the EMS and trauma system in Texas. I would like to see that magazine offer peer-reviewed articles that provide our state certificate/license holders with quality information that will help them continue development as quality providers of prehospital and emergency care.

Eric Frost, EMT-I, RN, CEN
St. Joseph Medical Center
Houston, Texas
Years in EMS: 11

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

Wow... a chance to integrate three major interests of mine: writing, education and emergency medical services. I feel like this is truly a golden opportunity to represent a group that is very dear to me: EMS providers in the great state of Texas. I've "taken the scenic route" through my educational pursuits and career decisions, but I hope that this will eventually translate to being more well-rounded. I graduated from Excelsior College in January 2006 with an AS in Nursing. While pursuing a nursing degree, I volunteered for several years with a suburban 9-1-1 EMS agency. I now work full-time weekends as a neonatal intensive care nurse. During the week I attend Texas A&M University in College Station, and I will finish a BA in Psychology in May 2008. For several years, I've enjoyed reading *Texas EMS Magazine*, and I am excited about assisting in the efforts to maintain and enhance it.

Tony Garcia, LP
Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)
College Station, Texas

Years in EMS: 26

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I am seeking an opportunity to share my 26 years of public safety experience (EMS, fire, law enforcement) with my fellow providers in Texas. I can also provide insight into specialized fields, homeland security and disaster response because of my active involvement in those areas. I began my career as a volunteer firefighter and completed basic EMT training while attending high school. I went on to become a career firefighter and paramedic working and volunteering for various agencies in the Houston area. At TEEX, I was one of the

principal developers of the *EMS Operations and Planning for WMD* and the *Basic EMS Concepts for WMD* courses. I have taught throughout the United States and have even taught courses in Spanish. I am a subject-matter expert and content reviewer for Brady Publishing, Jones and Bartlett Publishing, and the International Fire Service Training Association.

Donald J. Gordon, PhD, MD
University of Texas Health Science Center

San Antonio, Texas

Years in EMS: 29

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

As a professor who has actively taught paramedics, EMTs, and other medical health professionals, I have accumulated vast academic and educational experience. I wish to contribute that knowledge and understanding to the betterment of our EMS community. I have admired the work of the *Texas EMS Magazine* and believe that I may offer a fresh, practical, and up-to-date viewpoint to its readers. As a full-time EMS medical director for rural first responders, a small metropolitan service, a private ambulance service, and the City of San Antonio Fire Department, I think that I can provide a unique insight, influenced by my role as chair on the DSHS Preparedness Coordinating Council, my membership on GETAC's Medical Directors Committee, and my national work in preparedness with the American Red Cross. I want to contribute my time and expertise to the *Texas EMS Magazine* and its informational and educational goals and vision.

Russell Griffin, FF, NR/CC-P, FP-C
McKinney Fire Department
McKinney, Texas

Years in EMS: 15

Why did you want to be on the

Editorial Board?

EMS in Texas continues to grow and develop, with many changes and innovations. I have a true passion for education that includes primary and continuing education; however, more importantly I have a passion for effective communication. *Texas EMS Magazine* is an essential medium to share ideas, information and recognition. It allows individuals to remain involved throughout this broad and diverse state. I will enjoy the opportunity to communicate with the EMS community while ensuring the continuing quality of the editorial.

Charles G. Jaquith, LP
Waco Police Department
Hewitt, Texas

Years in EMS: 11

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

Being on the editorial board will give me the opportunity to contribute to not only my community but also the entire state in the emergency medical field. My experience as a police officer and licensed paramedic gives me a different outlook on EMS, and allows me the opportunity to assist in leading the *Texas EMS Magazine* in this ever-changing field.

Gary Kesling, PhD, FAAETS, FAAMA
University of Texas Medical Branch

League City, Texas

Years in EMS: Since the days of high top Cadillac ambulances

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

Texas EMS Magazine is a well-established and widely accessible publication for those individuals in EMS in the state. I want to actively participate and contribute to the evolving process so that Texas EMS

will become a key resource in the future of EMS in our state.

**Chastity LeBlanc, NREMT-P
Grapeland VFD/EMS
Grapeland, Texas
Years in EMS: 11**

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

Currently, I serve as the EMS Chief for the Grapeland VFD/EMS and also have a full-time job at East Texas Medical Center-Crockett as an ER nurse. I have been in the EMS profession for over 10 years with the last six-and-a-half years as a paramedic. I have always loved to read, write essays and do research. In fact, most of my spare time is spent reading EMS articles and books. I will enjoy providing feedback about the magazine content/articles. EMS is a growing and highly respected profession and I am ready to step forward in my EMS career.

**Jessica G. Mar, EMT-I
Pro-Medic EMS
Edcouch, Texas
Years in EMS: 16**

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

As an EMS specialist for several EMS providers and an active member in RAC V, I want to demonstrate to others that there is a difference between being a follower and being a leader. All too often I hear those around me complain instead of making an attempt to understand the issue or to provide input for possible change. I am an educator and an EMT-I, and I know *Texas EMS Magazine* is a valuable source of information for EMS personnel. I know first-hand the endless hours of dedication put into the production and publication of the magazine. It will be a pleasure and an honor to provide feedback about the magazine and offer advice on upcoming articles. I also would like to serve as the voice of the Rio Grande

Valley EMS personnel, who all too often feel lost in the crowd.

**Louis N. Molino Sr., NREMT-B,
EMSI/FSI
Industrial Fire World Magazine
College Station, Texas
Years in EMS: 27**

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I want to help to promote quality EMS in Texas. Since I came to Texas in 2002 for an EMS-related position with the Texas A&M University System, Texas became my new home. I feel that *Texas EMS Magazine* is a great avenue to promote Texas EMS both inside Texas and to the world. I think I can help to make a good magazine even better. I currently serve as a technical editor for *Industrial Fire World Magazine*, and in the past served as a regular columnist and technical editor for *Homeland First Responder Magazine*. I have been published in several national EMS and fire service magazines and contributed to several EMS and fire service books, as well as having recently published a textbook on incident management systems. I feel that with my 27+ years in EMS in diverse operational and administrative positions, coupled with my experience as a writer, will serve the editorial board well.

**Wren Nealy, EMT-P
Cypress Creek EMS
Houston, Texas
Years in EMS: 14**

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I am a certified paramedic and licensed peace officer and serve as director of special operations for Cypress Creek EMS (CCEMS) and as a reserve corporal in the Hempstead Police Department. I also am commissioned as a special agent of the Louisiana State

Police. I have 14 years experience as a 9-1-1 paramedic; 12 years in law enforcement; and nine years of experience in SWAT operations. I am an instructor in EMS, law enforcement and have worked in field, supervision, and administrative positions in both disciplines. I am senior team leader of the Cypress Creek Advanced Tactical Team (CCATT) and the Bike Medic Response Team of CCEMS. CCATT provides tactical operational medical support to various local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. I also am program director for the CCEMS Tactical Operational Medical Support training program. I would like to offer my assistance in giving this sub-specialty of EMS (Special Operations) a voice in the *Texas EMS Magazine*.

**Karen Pickard, RN, LP
University of Texas Southwestern
Dallas, Texas
Years in EMS: 34 years**

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

In my position as a faculty member and research coordinator here at UT Southwestern, I am interested in providing our EMS personnel in Texas the best information available. It is important that information be cutting edge, and reflect the latest concepts available to practitioners so they can translate those concepts to excellence in patient care. I am committed to quality patient care, and to the safety and well-being of our providers. The magazine has the potential to reach many providers, and it is critical that we provide the best information possible. I want to help with that process in any way that I can.

**Warren Porter, MS, BA, LP
Garland Fire Department
Garland, Texas
Years in EMS: 30**

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I bring extensive experience in EMS as a field provider, educator and administrator. My experience not only spans occupational titles, but also includes involvement in community and EMS issues as a whole. I am an active member of boards and committees because I feel that I need to make the best of the opportunity given to me by various agencies/entities. Being on the editorial board for *Texas EMS Magazine* affords me with an opportunity to serve as an advocate for excellence, in all facets, for all EMS providers in Texas. I cannot claim to be a native Texan, but I can claim to be someone who is genuinely interested in bettering the quality of life for all Texans through EMS.

Keven Roles, NREMT-P
San Marcos/Hays County EMS
San Marcos, Texas

Years in EMS: 18

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I wanted to serve on the editorial review board to shape the future of the *Texas EMS Magazine*. I have an extensive background in EMS education and management and feel this experience will be of assistance to the board.

Curtis Smith, LP
Prosper Fire Rescue
Saint Jo, Texas

Years in EMS: 12

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I want to assist in any way I can to make EMS in Texas better. I feel we have a great system in Texas, but we need a louder voice to not only help our cause, but to guide us into the future. *Texas EMS Magazine* is a way to do this. I feel that my experiences working in Richardson, and now in Prosper, help me understand the many sides of EMS. Richardson is a large city that makes a lot of runs. Prosper

is a rural town that is challenged with tough calls and long response times. The insight from both of these systems help me immensely in this role.

Anthony Viscon, LP
El Paso Community College
El Paso, Texas

Years in EMS: 22

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

Throughout my career, I have experienced many facets of EMS. I have worked as a field paramedic in a large city, served as a field supervisor and operations manager, worked as a regulator for DSHS assisting EMTs and EMS organizations in the urban, rural and frontier areas of Texas. I have presented a workshop at Texas EMS Conference and now serve as an associate professor teaching EMT courses at the fastest growing community college in the nation. I bring to the board a varied background and experience that allows me to effectively contribute in keeping EMS practitioners knowledgeable and informed through the *Texas EMS Magazine*.

Dudley Wait, EMT-P
City of Schertz EMS
Schertz, Texas

Years in EMS: 22

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

Texas EMS Magazine is the sole source of communication between the state regulatory authority and the prehospital providers. As such, it needs to reflect and present the latest in information, news and clinical guidance that is available. As an EMS leader, I work to maintain my level of expertise and to share this information in new and creative formats so that others are enticed to learn. It is my desire to see this approach taken on a statewide basis. We face challenging times ahead and leaders who have a track record of driven determination,

pursuit of excellence and a desire to see appropriate change need to be involved in sharing information in the widest of formats.

Stephanie Waters, FP-C, EMT-P
PHI Air Medical Texas
Round Rock, Texas

Years in EMS: 9

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I want to use my experience as a flight paramedic and in rural EMS to assist the magazine as it impacts prospective and current EMTs and paramedics and their choices for employment and practice. I began my EMS career working for Marble Falls Area EMS and eventually landed my dream job as a flight paramedic. I have been a part of many different aspects of EMS from instructing/training to public relations. I have enjoyed reading the *Texas EMS Magazine* for many years and I want an opportunity to serve on the editorial board of a magazine that focuses on Texas EMS. My husband and mother are paramedics as well, so Texas EMS is a huge part of my life!

Kelly Weller MA, LP, EMS-C
Lone Star College
Spring, Texas

Years in EMS: 14

Why did you want to be on the Editorial Board?

I wear many hats. I am a practicing paramedic, an instructor, a clinical coordinator, a degreed psychologist, and a doctoral student. I am also a mom, a native Texan and a consumer of healthcare. I feel that my experience in these areas is reflective of many contemporary paramedics and will be a valuable addition to the editorial team. *Texas EMS Magazine* is an example of excellence in EMS, and I see this as an opportunity to be a part of the growth of EMS in Texas.