
Looking for dino-medics

You call yourselves dino-medics – you know who you are. Those of you who've been around since dirt was born – or at least those who remember when funeral homes ran EMS in Texas. Last month's passing of ex-state EMS Director Jim Arnold got me thinking about all the stories he told me about the early days of EMS in Texas – some repeatable, many not. It also reminded me that beyond the magazine, we really don't have a good history of Texas EMS told by the people who were there. That's where you come in, dino-medics. Texas EMS Magazine is looking for people who have been in EMS or trauma systems more than 20 years – who will answer a few questions and share some photographs. We'll publish them in Texas EMS Magazine and then put them in a special place on our website we're reserving for just that purpose. If you're interested, please go to our website for more details.

I love this issue of the magazine in particular because we have two stories that focus on the human side of EMS. On page 20, we have an EMS Experience about the early days of EMS. On page 26, we have a story about Operation Sandy Claus, in which a group of EMS volunteers traveled to Galveston last Christmas to bring meals to the medics still making calls on the island, as well as toys for their kids. It reminded me of a big reason why I've stuck around here so long: EMS and trauma systems are a community. I like it that we look out for one another.

In the course of a few months, GETAC voted a new structure for itself and chose new committees. New GETAC committees met for the first time at the February meetings. The new GETAC structure meant two new committees were created: Cardiac Care and Disaster/Emergency Preparedness. The other big change was that most committees are now capped at 11 members, which made the choices chairs made that much more difficult. Turn to page 29 for a look at the new committees.

Hey, we know times are tough. So we're working hard this year to keep the price of Texas EMS Conference registration the same as last year. And we can do it – but it's going to mean shifting the schedule a bit so that we shave costs. In the end, we think you'll like the new schedule even better. In a nutshell, we're opening the exhibit hall much earlier on Sunday and staying open all day Sunday and all day Monday. At 3 on Monday, the exhibit hall closes and exhibitors move out. There will be no exhibit hall on Tuesday or Wednesday, but there will be classes as usual. The new hours actually give attendees many more hours in which classes do not conflict with the exhibit hall. It saves the conference money by cutting out exhibitor lunches and additional exhibit hall rental on Tuesday. And that lowers some of our costs – even as others rise. But the bottom line is that we can keep our registration price the same, and that's a good thing in this economy.



FROM THIS SIDE



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