
Legislature has tough road ahead

One of my favorite quotes is by Albert Einstein: “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” I have this on my mind now as we enter the 2011 Texas Legislature on January 11. State agencies were asked last week to cut another 2.5 percent, on top of the five percent already trimmed. For those of you really interested in the way the state agencies operate, you can find all the details of the budget on the HHSC website: www.hhsc.state.tx.us/news/meetings/past/2011/council/120810-4f.pdf. As for us, we will continue to focus on our mission to improve health in Texas, especially as it relates to EMS and trauma systems. Things move so quickly in the Legislature, I’m not sure how much we will be able to keep updated on our website. But you can always find information about a particular bill at www.capitol.state.tx.us. Also, Texas EMS, Trauma and Acute Care Foundation keeps up with what’s happening at the Capitol (www.tetaf.org). By the way, the first day to file bills was November 8, and a little over a month later, there are hundreds of bills already queued up.

Indra Hernandez, longtime admin assistant for Jane Guerrero, has gotten a well-deserved promotion. That’s great news for Indra – and we still get to work closely with her. However, we are in a hiring freeze, so we are in the process of dividing up her duties among the other staff, and that includes GETAC duties. So please be patient with us as we work out how things are going to work. Speaking of GETAC, get your reservations now at the Hilton Airport for the February, May and August meetings. Go to www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/2011GETACHotelInfo.shtm for how to book a hotel room. And remember, rooms go fast and we could only get a limited number at the \$99 rate. The next meetings are February 23-25.

In other GETAC news, committee chairs recently chose new committee members to replace those who had expired. New committee members are listed on page 7; for a complete listing of each committee, go to our website. And finally, Marti Van Ravenswaay, a longtime GETAC member, recently resigned. As a county commissioner, she had been representing county government on the council, but was not re-elected to her post this year. We thank Ms. Van Ravenswaay for many years of dedicated service.

And finally, we should be rolling out a new system for keeping track of the certifiants and licensees in the Regulatory Division, so some of your bookmarks may change. The IT people are pledging to make the conversion as seamless as possible, but let us know if you have problems using the certification or licensure link.

From all of us here at Texas EMS Magazine and Texas EMS Conference, we hope you have a bright and prosperous year.

FROM THIS SIDE



Kelly Harrell
Editor

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly".