

PEMSA-NJ

Professional Emergency Medical Services Association of New Jersey

International Association of Fire Fighters Local # 4610

P.O. Box 8 ~ Toms River, NJ 08754

www.pemsanj.com

www.pemsanj.org

EMS WEEK 2015: EMS STRONG

A CALL TO ARMS

May, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As another EMS week approaches, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the job you do. The professionalism, caring and effort you put into providing prehospital care to anyone who needs it, at any time, in any condition is nothing short of inspiring. You give up so much, and you do it silently, without any expectation of reward or adulation.

This year, the theme chosen by the American College of Emergency Physicians *is* **“EMS Strong”**. We are strong. But we need to get stronger!

As EMS providers, whether you're a tele communicators, emts, paramedics, flight paramedics, flight registered nurses, and/or sct registered nurses every time we go to work we save lives. We diminish suffering. We make order out of chaos and give our patients the best possible chance to quickly return to their lives and independence. Our job is important, and it is time we ensure that we earn respect of our colleagues, our employers, and our communities. Our watchword needs to be pride in the service we perform.

PEMSA-NJ, your EMS Local, is now on the vanguard of EMS, in the State of NJ. Your Union is actively working on the legislative front to create new legislation, amend existing legislation and object to proposed legislation, all of which will benefit our profession. We are constantly on the lookout for legislation that might negatively affect you. PEMSANJ has for the first time, testified against legislation that could degrade our profession and negatively impact the care our patients receive. There is legislation pending which we would like to stop and this year we might need your help in reaching out to your legislative representatives and to help rally the support of your friends and relatives to do the same!

You as the army of one, can help to enhance our standing in the community. This EMS Week, please make it your goal to educate at least one person about the important role you play in healthcare and public safety. Ask them to picture what would happen if there were NO EMS providers to help them or their loved ones when they needed it most. Ask your fellow healthcare providers about how much harder their jobs would be without EMS providers. Be proud of your role and what you contribute. Become involved in the advancement of YOUR chosen profession!

This year, 2015, finds us at an important crossroad. This is the time for EMS providers to step up and receive what is rightly theirs in salary, benefits and working conditions. We

need better education, better salaries and benefits, including mental health, and recognition of the importance of this profession! We need to command a higher level of respect from our fellow public servants and other healthcare providers. We will earn that by our strengths and professionalism!

As we near the end of our second collective bargaining agreement and are in active negotiations, we, your leadership and negotiation committee, are preparing to make a Call to Arms! To be "EMS Strong"! To help us achieve a fair contract that ensures we have the health care benefits we deserve! To achieve improved salaries! We all might be called upon to stand together in solidarity and put the good of all your Brothers and Sisters ahead of your personal interests.

Together, this can be the year when we start to finally take what we deserve. I hope you will join me.

Thank you again for your hard work and dedication.

Fraternally,

Mary Daley, RN, CEN, NREMT-P
President PEMSA-NJ
IAFF Local 4610
AFL-CIO

