

**SD Ambulance  
Association**  
PO Box 543  
Spearfish, SD 57783



# Directors' Times

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2016

## SD EMS Directors' News

As a newly formed organization we, as EMS leaders, have come together to form a voice and promote our services and the industry as a whole throughout South Dakota.

The SD Ambulance Association is a professional association of EMS leaders dedicated to the discovery, development, and promotion of excellence in leadership and management in EMS systems, regardless of EMS system model, organizational structure or agency affiliation.

### HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS

We will research, discover, develop, and promote best and most promising practices in EMS leadership, management, and administration through example, education, and advocacy.

### WHAT IS OUR NICHE?

We are an inclusive organization of EMS leaders and managers. We welcome all, regardless of organizational size, corporate structure, ownership, or philosophy.

We believe in and act upon evidence-based best practices.

We understand that individuals responsible for EMS delivery must be both effective leaders and capable managers, with the necessary knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes to perform in both roles. EMS Directors/Managers are the busiest people within every organization. They must maintain their medical skills and develop management abilities to effectively enhance their systems of care.

Currently, SD EMS agencies encompass a wide variety of structures and governing boards. This leads to a difficult state of analysis and shared problem solving solutions. What may work in one EMS agency may **not** work with a similar system in a 'like' community.



## SD Legislative Up-Date

*From* Maynard Konechne, SDAA Senior VP

Thank you to all of you who braved the weather to attend EMS Day on Monday January 25 in Pierre. 14 EMS providers met the Legislative representatives and pled our case on EMS changes needed. The following list of bills are on this year's docket.

**HB 1020:** An act to revise certain provisions concerning fire prevention and compacts related to the prevention and control of forest fires.

**HB 1025:** An act to place certain substances on the controlled substances schedule and to declare an emergency.

**HB 1029:** An act to make an appropriation to the Department of Health to fund the rural residency program and to declare an emergency.

**HB 1073:** An act to require persons operating bicycles under certain conditions to stop and allow faster vehicles to pass.

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## Membership—What Is In It For You

Many have asked the WIIFM question when it come to membership. What's In It For Me is a question of where do you want to see EMS in the next few years and beyond? As everyone knows, EMS has seen some big changes in the past couple years and there is more to come. Unfortunately there are always rumors and guessing on what is changing and what is yet to come. The truth lies somewhere in the middle. So WHO is making the changes and what is at stake?

So WHY belong? The SD Ambulance Association can offer the answers.

- ⇒ SDAA maintains an up-to-date connection with the Department of Health/Rural Health EMS Program.
- ⇒ SDAA is a leading voice of EMS direction in issues and education concerning Directors/Managers.
- ⇒ SDAA provides EMS Directors a connection to other administrators throughout South Dakota.
- ⇒ SDAA offers a combined voice to legislators and state departments when changes or concerns. The more voices, the more change we can influence.
- ⇒ As a member, you and your crew members receive a discounted rate on leadership education.

Become a member today and join us at the 2nd Annual SDAA Conference February 13th & 14th in Chamberlain.

## SD Ambulance Association Conference 2016

We are three weeks away from the 2nd Annual Conference and We have been able to pull in Steve Wirth, Esq. from the law firm of Page, Wolfberg & Wirth. Steve Wirth is a founding partner of Page, Wolfberg & Wirth, LLC, and is one of the best known EMS attorneys and consultants in the United States. Widely regarded as the nation's leading EMS law firm, PWW represents private, public and non-profit EMS organizations, as well as billing companies, software manufacturers and others that serve the nation's ambulance industry.



Steve will be offering several classes:

*Clinical Documentation Improvement, Dealing With EMS Personnel Issues — Leading Legally, Dealing With Request for Patient Information Under HIPPA, Getting and Keeping Good People, Legal Pitfalls for EMS Supervisors, Building EMS Leaders From the "Inside Out," Motivating the New Generation EMS Providers, Medicare Reimbursement, and Compliance Update.*

This year's conference offers **11 hours** of education.

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## ***From the Office of Rural Health / EMS Program***

Ambulance Association Newsletter—January 27th, 2016

Welcome to the first edition of the Ambulance Association Newsletter. Kudos to Brian and the leadership team who has work tirelessly over the past few years to build an Association specific to the needs of an ambulance service. EMS represents the front lines in the healthcare industry and its essential access to such services is available to every South Dakotan.

Much has been accomplished since the EMS Program moved back to the Department of Health in April of 2015. One of the most significant milestones was the creation of an EMS Stakeholders Group which

was charged with “providing recommendations to the Department of Health on EMS sustainability and ensuring access to quality EMS in South Dakota, particularly in rural South Dakota, by identifying key issues and suggesting strategies.” This group met over the summer and came up with four main focus areas.

The group’s final recommendations were categorized as: Workforce, Quality, Sustainability, and Infrastructure. This entire document can be found at [EMS.sd.gov](http://EMS.sd.gov) and is updated regularly.

As a result of the recommendations, SB27 was introduced as legislation to revise certain personnel requirements for ambulance services and to repeal the hardship exemption. SB27 would ultimately

realign minimal standards for crew makeup from two EMTs to one EMT and a driver with specialized training. As of this writing, the bill has passed out of the Senate and has been referred to the House Health and Human Services Committee. EMS in South Dakota is evolving at a rapid rate. Please visit our website, the Ambulance Associations’ website and communication channels often for the latest news.

Thank you again for your dedication and service to the citizens of South Dakota.

Best Wishes,

Office of Rural Health

## **Who Can You Talk To?**

### ***PRESIDENT***

Brian Hambek  
Work: 642-8810 Cell: 641-1876  
[SDAmbulanceAssn@gmail.com](mailto:SDAmbulanceAssn@gmail.com)

### ***Senior Vice President***

Maynard Konechne  
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[mjkemtkc@hotmail.com](mailto:mjkemtkc@hotmail.com)

### ***Secretary***

Shawn Fischer  
Work: 347-5801 Cell: 863-2267  
[shawnf@sturgisgov.com](mailto:shawnf@sturgisgov.com)

### ***Treasurer***

Ashlea Pruss  
Work: 369-2309  
[springfieldsd@gwtc.net](mailto:springfieldsd@gwtc.net)

Here is a list of our current officers and contact information. Feel free to get in touch with any of the officers for more information about the association and how you can help.

|                     |   |                                |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>District I</b>   | <i>Tyler McElhany</i><br>tmcelhany@watertownsd.us       | 882-5030                       |
| <b>District II</b>  | <i>Justin Pfeifer</i><br>garretsonambulance@outlook.com | 595-2533                       |
| <b>District III</b> | <i>Nicole Neugebauer</i><br>nicole62172@gmail.com       | 661-2246 Cell<br>724-2845 Home |
| <b>District IV</b>  | <i>Mike Sanger</i><br>ambulance.cmh@midconetwork.com    | 472-1110                       |
| <b>District V</b>   | <i>Tammy VanDam</i><br>tammy.van-dam@k12.sd.us          | 669-2918                       |
| <b>District VI</b>  | <i>Jason Culberson</i><br>jason.culberson@rcgov.org     | 394-4180 Work                  |
| <b>District VII</b> | <i>Chuck Hanson</i><br>chanson35@abe.midco.net          | 848-1382                       |

**SD Legislative Up-Date** Cont. from page 1

**HB 1077:** An act to grant limited immunity from arrest and prosecution for certain offenses to persons who assist certain persons in need of emergency assistance or who are themselves in need of emergency assistance.

**HB 1078:** An act to grant limited immunity from arrest and prosecution for certain alcohol related offenses to persons who assist a person in need of emergency assistance or who are themselves in need of emergency assistance.

**HB 1143:** An act to accommodate legislation on medical services

**HB 1170:** An act to make an appropriation to reimburse certain eligible health care professionals who have complied with the requirements of the rural health facility recruitment assistance program.

**SB 19:** An act to revise certain mandatory reporting requirements for elder and disabled adult abuse and neglect.

**SB 22:** An act to add emergency medical responders to the list of mandatory reporters, and to update cross references in the section.

**SB 27:** An act to revise certain personnel requirements for ambulance services and to repeal the hardship exemption.

This would state that the minimum personnel required on each ambulance would be one emergency medical technician or advanced life support personnel and one driver who meets the requirements established by the Department of Health. **It would do away with the hardship exemption. This would eliminate the two EMT requirement in the ambulance.**

**SB 99:** An act to accommodate legislation on Medicaid and medical services

The Joint Council has agreed to represent the SD Ambulance Assn. with the other 7 entities. The cost would be split between all 8 organizations and come to around \$680/year. Steve Willard is the lobbyist that represents the Joint Council. He works hard every year to track issues dealing with EMS and Fire and promoting our causes. We will be bringing a vote to the SDAA membership on Sunday, Feb 14th as to joining the Joint Council.

If you know of any legislation that is not in my report let me know or if you have questions contact me (Maynard Konechne) at: (605)-730-0462 or Lobbyist Steve Willard at: (605)-280-8643. **Let me know your feelings on supporting these bills or not.**

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Website:  
<https://sites.google.com/site/sdemsladership/>

## MEET OUR SPONSORS

