

1. A special meeting of the New York State EMS Council (SEMSCO) was held on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011. With the September meetings canceled courtesy Hurricane Irene, the statutory duty of the Council to submit a budget to the Health Commissioner by December 1<sup>st</sup> was in jeopardy. That, and elections of officers for 2012, were the two agenda items. Many thanks to the 21 members who trekked all the way to scenic Troy, NY (home of Uncle Sam, in case you didn't know) for the short meeting.
2. The Finance Committee completed work on a 2012/2013 budget using data solicited from Regional Councils, Program Agencies and the Bureau. Their \$23.2 million budget proposal was approved (\$23,220,284 to be exact). To reiterate previously pontificated commentary, the actual budget appropriation has been \$18 million for many, many years. This request will no doubt get filed in the same trash bin as prior requests. D'oh.
3. Elections were held with an impromptu change in the previously proposed slate of candidates. For 2012, the SEMSCO Chair will be Rich Brandt (Hudson Mohawk REMSCO), 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Mark Zeek (Adirondack-Appalachian REMSCO) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Daniel Blum (Westchester REMSCO). The slate proposed last May had Mr. Zeek as Chair and Mr. Brandt as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice but a recently corrected clerical error shortened Brandt's term of office to end December 2012. To allow him opportunity to be Chair, Mark Zeek generously agreed to swap places in the line-up. As in many organizations, Executive Committee members succeed each other from year to year.
4. Thinking there would be no SEMSCO or SEMAC meetings until 2012, not realizing that regardless of how futile it may be, the statutory duty of SEMSCO to produce a budget is, well, the law...I had prepared some notes for distribution to this list in September. Incredibly, this baby gets around. And quite well apparently, evidenced by a deluge of emails and calls to the Bureau from BLS First Response agencies. BLS-FRs were concerned about a reported Bureau initiative to verify continued operation and associated paperwork to maintain their agency code in the NYS EMS database. Well, this deadline has been extended to 12/31/2011 and does indeed apply to every BLS-FR agency in the state. So if you haven't seen the packet, started working on it, or sent information back to DOH, you'd better get on it. Note that incomplete submissions are accepted, if not welcomed as they signal the Bureau that your BLS-FR service still has a pulse. Regional Councils and County EMS Coordinators should have additional information, as well as copies of the packet snail mailed by the Bureau to each BLS-FR agency. Don't look on the Bureau web site for the info; it's not there. Christmas is coming, and so is the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.
5. Vital Signs 2011 was held in Syracuse October 13 – 16 ([www.vitalsignsconference.com](http://www.vitalsignsconference.com)), attended by nearly 1,500 EMSers. The conference will return to Syracuse October 18 – 21, 2012.
6. If you missed Vital Signs, you missed Karen Meggenhofen, Associate Director of Education and Certification, announce her retirement at the end of December this year (2012). No word on a replacement or when her Training and Education colleagues plan to bid her farewell.
7. Speaking of exodus, Acting Bureau Director Lee Burns announced that Gary Tuthill and Shaun Bertok have both left Bureau Central Office for SEMO. With the earlier exit of Michael Tayler, there are now 3 vacancies in the Bureau, none of which are presently able to be filled without approval of (submitted) waivers. Of course, one has to wonder what greener pastures there are at SEMO? One of those things that make you go hmmmmmm...

8. A change in statute effective January 1, 2012 increases the size of SEMSCO from 29 to 31 members, including 23 physicians appointed by the Health Commissioner, one from each REMSCO. The law also adds a seat for a Chairphysician (if there is such a word) of the SEMAC, a position that Dr. Mark Henry has held for the past 17 years. With this new structure, the Health Commissioner appointed Dr. Tim Haydock (Westchester REMAC/REMSCO) as the new SEMAC Chairphysician. To honor his long, elegant, productive and brilliant tenure, a reception for Dr. Henry will be held the evening of the January 31, 2012 SEMAC meeting in Troy. Friends and colleagues are cordially invited.
9. If you're one of those people who keep tabs on open items, you're probably curious about what the heck happened to the Mutual Aid TAG report and the Safety Committee recommendations. EZ Boy, they will both pop up on the January SEMSCO agenda, having been sent back out to committees with commentary from the Bureau. Stay tuned...
10. Lastly, some supercalifragilisticexpialidocious news to bring you for the holidays: the Bureau intends to unveil a series of proposed Part 800 revisions at the January 2012 SEMSCO meetings! Developed in concert with DOH Counsel, these include enhanced certification eligibility criteria specific to criminal convictions, codification of the CEU recertification program, an actual scope of practice for each certification level (yippee for those anxiously awaiting roll out of the new national EMS Educational Standards), and more. Currently in DLA review (that's Division of Legal Affairs for you nonbureaucrats), the revisions, once vetted by SEMSCO, will require a 45 day public comment.
11. SEMAC and SEMSCO will meet again on January 31 and February 1, 2012 (not January 24-25 as incorrectly reported here previously) at the Hilton Garden Inn, 235 Hoosick Street in Troy, NY 12180. The usual sustenance of complimentary water and mints will be provided. Check the Bureau meeting web page beforehand for an agenda [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/meetings\\_and\\_events.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/meetings_and_events.htm) and plan to attend the reception Tuesday evening, January 31 honoring Dr. Mark Henry for his long tenure as Chair of SEMAC.

These notes respectfully prepared by Mike McEvoy who previously represented the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs on SEMSCO before (finally) being replaced by Mike Murphy. Contact Mike at [McEvoyMike@aol.com](mailto:McEvoyMike@aol.com) or visit [www.mikemcevoy.com](http://www.mikemcevoy.com). If you want a personal copy of these "unofficial" SEMSCO minutes delivered directly to your email account, surf to the Saratoga County EMS Council at [www.saratogaems.org](http://www.saratogaems.org) and click on the "NYS EMS News" tab (at the top of the page – or you can simply click here to be taken directly to the source: [www.saratogaems.org/NYS\\_EMS\\_Council.htm](http://www.saratogaems.org/NYS_EMS_Council.htm)). There, you'll find a list server dedicated exclusively to circulating these notes. Past copies of NYS EMS News are parked there as well.