

1. Lacking a quorum in January, 2017 Chair Steve Kroll opened the May meeting and called for elections. 2018 Officers, all running unopposed, were elected: Chair Patty Bashaw (Mountain Lakes REMSCO), 1st Vice Chair Mark Philippy (Monroe-Livingston REMSCO) and 2nd Vice Chair Stephen Cady (Susquehanna REMSCO). Congrats!
2. Mark Philippy was asked to chair a TAG on the lack of quorum issue that has several times flummoxed both SEMSCO and SEMAC, leaving business in a lurch.
3. Newly named State EMS Director Ryan Greenburg introduced himself. He's been traveling the state to meet with and listen to EMSers. In his journeys, he has asked stakeholders to provide him with their, "one wish" for EMS in NYS. For the newbies, his question is, "what would keep you in EMS for the next 10 years?" No doubt, he's getting an earful. Glad to have a Lee Burns replacement so quickly and Ryan seems to have brought a wealth of energy with him!
4. May 23rd, 2018 marked the EMS Memorial Dedication at the Empire State Plaza. Well attended by EMS colleagues, families, friends and dignitaries, the service honored the memories of Mario Bastidas (FDNY*EMS), Rose Scott (FDNY*EMS), Yadira Arroyo (FDNY*EMS), Mark Harris (FDNY*EMS), Edith Torres (FDNY*EMS), Cory E. Moore (R.B. Lawrence Ambulance), Gregg P. Williams (R.B. Lawrence Ambulance) and Roderick C. Cota (R.B. Lawrence Ambulance). This year, DOH officially recorded the service, saved at www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/emsmemorial.htm. Nice move!
5. Medical Standards and SEMSCO approved Mercy Flight protocols and a NYC stroke protocol. The stroke protocol, which directs transport, hospital destination and substitutes the Los Angeles Motor Scale for the DOH and EMS Educational Standards recommended Cincinnati Stroke Scale, passed without a lot of debate. The minimal debate was surprising; even NYC was probably taken aback, given the number of FDNY docs in attendance. The real meat of the meeting turned out to be the BLS protocol revisions. These spiraled Med Standards into a rapid deterioration as they performed a line-by-line dissection. Key issues of contention were whether protocols should educate or function as key points of care, a controversial prescribed medication assistance protocol that had so many, "what ifs" raised that emesis bags were passed around, and about 30 other issues that had the entire room either asleep or looking for a weapon after some 50 minutes of debate. The BLS package is on hold through July, citing a need for dedicated comments, NOT rewrites. It will come back to SEMSCO in September. In a continuation of a backwards momentum, Med Standards gnawed on proposed revisions to the Collaborative AEMT protocols. These have been dangling out there in limbo since the AEMT scope of practice was revised some, uhmmm, 8 years ago. With the increased number of AEMTs in NYS (finally) and long delay until another SEMSCO meeting, there was a push to update the Collaborative AEMT protocols. Proposed revisions would allow up to three doses of albuterol, then epi, for acute asthma; standing nitro for suspected ACS; physician option for nitro in pulmonary edema; and needle decompression for chest trauma in cardiopulmonary arrest when providers are trained and equipped. The last of these (needle decompression) generated the most discussion including whining that everyone in the Collaborative had not seen the changes and Nassau County arguing that needle decompression is not in the National EMS AEMT Educational Standards. Of course, Nassau is not in the Collaborative, so after some head scratching, the protocols were approved by Med Standards only to endure similar scrutiny at SEMAC where they were again approved with two separate votes (one segregating the needle decompression).

6. Ebola has returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Their health minister declared an outbreak on May 8, 2018. Thus far, it has been contained. Thus far. Check your PPE.
7. A new law in NYS requires sexual assault evidence kits be stored for a minimum of 20 years. The current minimum 30-day storage requirement does not give sexual assault survivors enough time to push for prosecution of their attackers.
8. SEMSCO is conducting an EMS Workforce Survey to gather information on shortages of both career and volunteer EMS providers. Agencies are asked to complete the survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/NYSEMSWorkforce. Questions on the survey can be directed to Steven Kroll at steven.kroll@delmarems.org.
9. NYS DMV and Wadsworth Labs have clarified that fees for blood glucose CLIA permits and the LENS notification program are only waived for wholly volunteer applicant organizations. If you have any paid personnel whatsoever in your organization, you have to pay the application fees.
10. OHIP (Office of Health Insurance Programs) recently confirmed its position that holders of municipal CONs must be enrolled as Medicaid providers and bill for EMS services under their own provider IDs. This includes municipalities that contract with a third party to provide ambulance service. On the same matter, any service (municipal or otherwise) contracting for third party staffing or ambulance services, must file a copy of their contract with the Bureau. If the contract is for EMS providers, appropriate DOH-2828 personnel rosters should be included. You may redact proprietary information (like costs and financial data) to protect contractors and contracted parties.
11. Training and Education heard results of a Computer Based Testing (CBT) survey. Of the 58 folks who participated, 16 responded to a survey (jeeppers, you'd think more would throw their two cents in), providing favorable responses. DOH will consider including CBT in the next testing RFP.
12. T&E learned that CME paperwork is demonstrating lack of oversight by some agencies. Incomplete paperwork is being submitted with signoffs suggesting no oversight. If you have a CME program, it would behoove you to assure that your agency is in good control of overseeing it and that the CIC responsible has his or her hands on the CME program. Otherwise, your program may go sayonara. News flash: the agency holds the bag on compliance for CME recert.
13. Note that CIU (Certified Instructor Update) courses are now 3 hours in length. It is still possible to run a 6 hours class but it requires two course applications. CLI and CIC recerts now require 3 hours of CIU plus 5 hours of educational methodology CE.
14. The number of CLIs continues to decline; currently NYS has 811 CICs but only 582 CLIs. A new instructor policy statement will be issued shortly to clean up discrepancies. In addition, the Regional Faculty (RF) program will be resurrected this summer/fall. Stay tuned...
15. A little ditty for course sponsors: there has been an increase in CICs expiring during approved courses (not dying, but having their CIC certs lapse). This results in an SOD (Statement of Deficiency) to the Sponsor and puts student completions in jeopardy. Course sponsors need to watch CIC expiration dates!
16. The January 2019 written exams are expected to reflect recent changes to the BLS curriculum, primarily related to the updated General Approach to Patient Care and protocol formatting.

17. Some staff changes at the Bureau: Jim Mihalko, a Buffalo field rep for 31 years has retired; Cathy Burns is the new Trauma Coordinator (no relationship to Lee Burns, for you inquiring minds) and, in a big win for the Bureau, Tom Behanna has returned as Deputy Director overseeing administration, contracts and purchasing.
18. The EMSC (EMS for Children) program contract was renewed by the feds for another 4 years. As a part of the new grant, EMSC will be surveying pediatric interfacility transports (see www.emscsurveys.org).
19. Two upcoming conferences you might want to consider: Pulse Check, the New York State Volunteer Ambulance Association in Albany from September 20-23 (www.nysvara.org) and Vital Signs, the Bureau of EMS Annual Conference in Syracuse from October 11-14 (www.vitalsignsconference.com). Both offer bountiful opportunities for CME!
20. The Bureau has begun rolling out NEMSIS version 3.4 with AMR as their first “test” service. They intend to have all vendors/services connected and running by the end of the year. In 2019, NYS will upgrade to NEMSIS version 3.5. Of note, for you tech geeks, NEMSIS 3 transfers PCR data in real time which means moments after you lock/transmit a PCR, it’s in there. The interface, then, for agencies, regions and even DOH itself offers new and expanded opportunities for data mining, including bio surveillance (monitoring for outbreaks, poisonings, overdose trends, etc.). Giddyap!
21. Renewal packets for operating certificates and controlled substance permits will be sent out 90 days prior to expiration to facilitate timely completion. The Bureau also announced that they are investigating improvements like on-line renewals of certifications and operating certificates, mapping enhancements to their web site and more. The in house computer system called EMS Prod, has processed cards, operating certs and Bureau data since the beginning of time. It may be due for an upgrade. Who woulda thunk it? I, for one, will certainly miss the dysfunctional fillable PDFs scattered across the Bureau web site. Yeah!
22. In the continuing saga of the Nassau REMAC suspension of ALS Services, Inc. appeal, return receipts from correspondence sent to the appellant have shockingly not come back to the Bureau. SEMSCO deemed correspondence from ALS Services legal firm as a continuation of the previously filed appeal and voted to send a letter to the service, copied to their attorney, suspending the service until they comply with submitting QA data to the Nassau REMSCO. The original letter summarized the decision of the appeals committee which read, “...in the matter of ALS Services, Inc. and Nassau REMAC suspension of advance life support services and that the suspension be lifted contingent upon compliance with the recommendations and its expectations and submission of quality improvement data by February 10, 2018.” That never happened, hence the second letter of suspension. To be continued, I’m sure...
23. The Safety Committee announced a planned release of revisions to Policy Statement 00-13 – Operation of EMS Vehicles, scheduled for September 2018.
24. #itswhyiserve is the hashtag for a Bureau public relations campaign to recruit EMS providers. Check out their videos on Facebook and at the Bureau home page www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/. They also plan to release a recruitment toolkit that will be available on the Bureau web site.
25. The lowering EMT eligibility to age 17 public 60-day comment period ended on March 26, 2018. Responses have been compiled and will be published soon. The legal eagles were unsure if there would be a second round of public comment (which would happen if

- comments resulted in substantive changes). Anyhow, <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/legal/Regulatory/pc/> is the site to keep an eye on.
26. Forms are complete for revisions to the CME program and the whole kit and caboodle should roll out over the summer. Changes will follow the National Registry's NCCP (www.nremt.org/rwd/public/document/nccp) and the National EMS Educational Standards. Don't keel over – required hours will be lower than currently needed.
 27. The first on-line bridge course for CCT to Paramedic (developed by Northwell Health) will run this fall. In the interim, DOH will begin discussions with local course sponsors across the state to facilitate psychomotor skills and testing.
 28. DOH plans to destroy remaining copies of the 2007 QI prehospital quality improvement manual developed jointly by the Bureau and SEMSCO/SEMAC after December 31, 2018. A PDF copy (which will not self-destruct or have disappearing ink) is available at www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/pdf/quality_improvement_for_prehospital_providers.pdf. If you want paper copies (for Halloween treats or stocking stuffers), drop an email to B0019W@health.ny.gov and tell them you would like publication EE12, provide the quantity you want, a physical mailing address (not a PO Box – packages come by UPS) and bask in the joy of knowing you saved many trees. Seriously, though – if you have not seen this publication or your Quality folks don't have it on their desk, I'd highly recommend it. It was a really well done project.
 29. For those Nationally Registered folks out there, the National Registry rolled out an awesome iOS app: www.nremt.org/rwd/mobile. B4 you get your panties in a bunch over the, “where's my Android version?” consider that nearly 90% of Nationally Registry users have iOS devices. They'll get a droid version out there eventually, but first things first...
 30. SEMSCO will meet again September 25-26, 2018 and January 15-16, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy.

These notes respectfully prepared by Mike McEvoy who has returned for another term on SEMSCO representing the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs. He replaces Mike Murphy who served tirelessly for 8 years. Contact Mike McEvoy at mmcevoy@saratogacountyny.gov or visit www.mikemcevoy.com. If you want a personal copy of these “unofficial” SEMSCO minutes delivered directly to your email account, go to <http://eepurl.com/iaXHY> to put yourself on the list (or adjust your delivery settings). Also, past copies of NYS EMS News are parked at the bottom of the EMS News page at www.saratogaems.org. Feel free to download any notes you missed. Tell your friends. The more, the merrier.