



VAGEMSA Meeting Friday, February 8, 2019 Embassy Suites by Hilton, Richmond, VA

President Jeff Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:36 am at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Richmond, VA. President Meyer welcomed everyone to the meeting, lead the group in a moment of silence for fallen firefighters and EMS providers and the Pledge of Allegiance. The prior minutes were approved as presented after a motion to accept was made and seconded.

Officer Reports:

- President's Report – President Meyer briefed the membership on discussions being had at the Executive Committee level regarding VAGEMSA becoming a more engaged, proactive membership as it pertains to legislative planning and other activities. He offered an opportunity for the members to discuss their ideas on how we should shape VAGEMSA for the future. He will be reaching out to other stakeholder groups to collaborate on system improvement to be sure we are not contradicting or competing with one another. He is hoping to have a meeting scheduled with stakeholder groups prior to our next meeting. Since our last meeting he attended a presentation on statewide disaster medical teams and hurricane response. It was discussed that the Health Commissioner is developing a workgroup for a disaster preparedness report.
- Treasure's report – Ray was not able to attend; however, advised there are a few members that still need to pay dues. We are working on getting another member of the Executive Committee the ability to collect dues so they can be paid at any of the meetings, regardless of who is in attendance.
- Office of EMS Report – Tim Perkins advised the Standards of Excellence/EMS officer classes will have a few offerings in the Spring. This year is the year for the EMS Council re-designation process, aiming to have these done in March and April so they can be wrapped up by mid-May. Chad Blosser advised the EMS Scholarship program is up and running. Educators should advise their students and there will be automatic notification through a registered email address.
- Lobbyist Report – Ed Rhodes provided a handout for an update for a number of bills and the following synopsis. He advised he has been working with the Executive Committee and the President to be sure he is aware of the position of VAGEMSA as it relates to each bill. The cancer bills are pretty close to on their way to the Governor's Office for signature, the new "move over" code section and license plate bills are in the Senate, concealed weapons on ambulances and fire equipment is in committee in the House. A community paramedic bill was passed by indefinitely and sent to the current workgroup. Two bills to add red and white flashing lights and sirens to VDOT safety vehicles failed to get out of committee. As of this date, there are a few weeks to go in the "short", or 46-day session, with the last day for committees scheduled for February 17th and adjournment on February 23rd.

- VAGEMSA Committee Reports
 - Executive Committee – President Meyer discussed the need for a By-Laws review. If interested in assisting, please let a member of the Executive Committee know.
 - Administrative Committee – 1st Vice President, Robert Lee, is looking for assistance with projects associated with internal audits and enhancements to the website to possibly include an online store for purchasing VAGEMSA gear.
 - Membership Committee – 2nd Vice President, Brian Hricik, is working with Gary Brown to determine if the Office of EMS is able to run a report on EMS agencies with the Commonwealth that are governmental agencies. The goal would be to reach out to those agencies not already involved in VAGEMSA and provide information about VAGEMSA.
 - Special Project Committee – Past President, Gary Critzer, is looking at the feasibility of a conference or seminars, 1-day leadership seminar, to offer to membership. We would be looking at no-cost or low-cost hosting locations as well as sponsors to help with funding for instructors and meals. Ideally this would be a “hot topics” in EMS leadership. Aiming to have this planned by the end of the calendar year. If you are interested in assisting or feel this is outside of the scope of VAGEMSA, reach out to Gary directly.

Old Business:

There was no old business discussed.

New Business:

No new business was brought forth.

GAB Committee Reports: (More detailed reports can be found in the EMS Quarterly Report booklet found on line the VA OEMS web site)

- Communications:
- Provider Health & Safety: Lori Knowles advised there is a gap in exposure testing as it relates to cadaver blood testing. A sample would have to be sent to the Mayo Clinic due to specialized equipment, which would be outside of the 48-hour rule for verified testing. The committee will be reaching out to hospitals interesting in verification testing. A vendor has been selected for the PTSD project. Posters will be developed and sent to each of the stations identified by the agencies. These poster can be “branded” with any department logo or patch.
- Emergency Management:
- FARC:
- LAP: Jeff Meyer advised they are looking at revising the state EMS plan, working to develop avenues to get ideas from committees. Also looking at how it fits with the EMS Agenda for the Future.
- T&C:
- Medevac:
- MDC: Eddie Ferguson and Dr. Yee discussed RSI as continuing within the scope of practice; however, no longer able to only use Versed as the only induction agent.

- Rules & Regs: Local LEOs can still be used for fingerprinting when they agree; however, third party companies can be used if they are preregistered contract agency.
- Transportation:
- Workforce Development: They have completed the last Officer I BETA class.

The next meeting will be held May 3, 2019, 1000 hours at regular GAB meeting site in Richmond. With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Brian Hricik