

# FAREMS

## Rural Dispatch

Quarterly Newsletter

**Fall 2012**

The Florida Association of Rural EMS Providers' (FAREMS) mission is to provide a unified voice for EMS providers at a state and local level to expand and improve the delivery of pre-hospital emergency medical service in the rural areas of Florida.

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### Dates

January 23-25, 2013

## A Message from Tracy

by Tracy Burger  
FAREMS Program Coordinator

Welcome to the first *FAREMS Rural Dispatch* of 2012! With this re-start of the quarterly member newsletter, I hope you find more take-aways in the form of agency-to-agency sharing of programs, resources and events that you can use today!

I also want to mention that the *2012 Rural Florida EMS Agency Survey* report is completed and available for download on our website, [www.farems.org](http://www.farems.org). Key findings from this year's survey include:

- Very low staff turnover rate (2.9% overall)
- Use of outside billing service is up nearly 100% (69% of respondents);
- 84% of respondents indicate their community needs primary care resources/access.

Check out the full report today. Your responses help us better serve all rural Florida EMS agencies as we all attempt to provide better pre-hospital emergency care to those we serve.

Thank you for your support!  
**Tracy**

## Membership Renewal Time

It is that time of year again--2013 FAREMS Membership Forms will be mailed this week and there may be a surprise for you! The Board has re-worked the membership dues structure based on the number of permitted vehicles reported by the agency to the State. The new membership dues for 2013 are as follows:

- Agencies with between 0 and 5 permitted vehicles, dues are \$450
- Agencies with between 6 and 10 permitted vehicles, dues are \$550
- Agencies with between 11 and 15 permitted vehicles, dues are \$650
- Agencies with over 15 permitted vehicles, dues are \$750.

For the past few years, FAREMS Agency Member dues have been \$750, regardless of the size of the agency. In an effort to encourage new memberships, and to provide some relief for smaller agencies, the Board decided to re-scale the dues according to the size of the agency as it relates to the number of permitted vehicles (air, BLS, and ALS). So take advantage of the new rates and get those membership forms returned as early as possible!

## Save Your Agency \$\$\$ with Group Purchasing!

Did you know that as a paid Agency Member of FAREMS you are automatically eligible to participate in the North Central EMS Cooperative's group purchasing program? This cooperative of over 4,000 members works to obtain the best pricing for EMS agencies all over the country. Check out their website at [www.ncemsc.org](http://www.ncemsc.org). Here is what current users of the co-op are saying:

### Our Partners



*"...we have realized a significant savings with Bound Tree Medical since joining NCEMSC. Our savings in just ECG electrodes and O2 delivery devices alone will pay for our annual FAREMS membership! Being a member of FAREMS does have its advantages!"* Robert Clayton, II, Hardee County Fire Rescue

*"It is a 'seamless' program. Once it was set it up, each time we place an order, we get the discount and FAREMS gets the 1% back. Too easy, and it really helps FAREMS. The discount is real, so it is very competitive pricing."* Tommy Baker, Gadsden EMS

A percentage of your NCEMSC purchases are returned back to FAREMS to help support ongoing association activities. If you are not sure what your login information is, or want to sign up, please contact [Tracy](#).

## Contribute to Website Agency Resources

The FAREMS website has a new feature for members—Agency Resources. Currently we have fee schedules posted, but we would like to offer additional resources for member use. Are you looking for benchmark data or need a template for protocols? Let [Tracy](#) know and she will request examples from other member agencies and post them on [this page](#).

## Chad A. Reed Memorial Scholarships

The FAREMS Scholarship Committee will review another round of EMT and paramedic scholarship applications in early spring of 2013. Applications should be available by February 1<sup>st</sup> and will be accessible for download from our website [www.farems.org](http://www.farems.org).

## Firehouse Subs Grants

Did you know that Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation provides funding, life-saving equipment, disaster assistance and educational opportunities for first responders and public safety organizations? Average grant amount is between \$10,000 and \$20,000, and there is no match required! Go to their [scholarship page](#) for more information. Remember—FAREMS Agency Members can get grant writing assistance from FAREMS. If you need some help completing the application or just want someone to proofread it, contact [Tracy](#).

## Vial of Life Program

The Vial of Life program is a smart way to have patient medical information on hand in case of an emergency. People can order the Vial of Life kit (which includes a form and storage bag) fill out important medical, insurance, DNR and contact information, and store in easily accessible places in their home or car—on refrigerator, on front door, in glove compartment. This gives emergency personnel vital information needed to accurately diagnose and treat patients. As an EMS agency, you can partner with the Vial of Life program and get kits for free. For more information go to the [Vial of Life webpage](#).

## Next FAREMS Meeting

The next FAREMS General Meeting will be held in conjunction with the State EMS Advisory Council

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Visit our  
website:[www.farems.org](http://www.farems.org)

The next FAREMS General Meeting will be held in conjunction with the State EMS Advisory Council Meetings January 23-25, 2013, in Daytona Beach. This is immediately preceding the Fire East Convention at the Ocean Center. [Book your hotel](#) by January 1 to get the discount rate.

## Other opportunities:

### Contact Information:

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### State Matching Grant

State matching grant applications are expected to become available by December 14<sup>th</sup>. Go to the [state website](#) for more information on the process.

### NAEMT Scholarships

If you are an individual, active member of the National Association of EMTs (NAEMT) you may be eligible for a scholarship of up to \$2,500 to further your EMS career! Go to the [NAEMT Scholarships page](#) for more information.

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