

FAREMS

Rural Dispatch

Quarterly Newsletter

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. Spring 2009

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The Rural Emergency Medical Services “Stimulus Package” is Here!

It's that time of year again! The legislative session is over and agencies across the state are preparing for the “fall out” that normally results in massive cuts to emergency response agency budgets. The fact is that all of us have already cut our budgets to below acceptable levels to operate. EMS agencies statewide have continued to face unprecedented cuts in funding and the revenue estimating conference once again gives a bleak outlook for the next budget year. Just when we thought that it couldn't get much worse, a seemingly endless spiral of revenue loss continues.

We have all heard about the federal “stimulus package,” but few of us have actually seen the benefit of this package to our agency budgets. In some cases, the “stimulus package” has actually been used to supplant budget funds leaving us wondering what happens when the “stimulus money” is gone. It is during these times that I am reminded what Chief Patterson once wrote in a newsletter. Chief Patterson emphasized that the EMS community must band together and utilize all of our resources to accomplish the mission of quality pre-hospital emergency medical response.

The fact is that we are no longer asked to do more with less, but now many of us are asked to less with less. That's right, less with less. I am specifically referring to vital areas of pre-hospital emergency response agencies that continue to be discontinued in order to survive. Training programs,

personnel retention programs, public education programs, and technology line items are experiencing the axe of cuts routinely across many agencies.

Since the beginning, FAREMS has been there for just that purpose. To facilitate ALL of Florida's rural EMS agencies to band their resources together and to create a co-op that assists one another during tough times. FAREMS has continued to address the needs of rural agencies through low cost training programs, best practices training, retention and recruitment practices, supervisory training, travel reimbursement, educating our new personnel through scholarship opportunities, providing a voice within the advisory council and providing a voice within our legislative body.

Yep, that's right. We all need to recognize that FAREMS is our own “Stimulus Package.” I challenge each of you that before you take the proverbial axe and cut programs such as training, retention, education, technology, and travel, use your “Stimulus Package.”

If we don't take advantage of the opportunities that FAREMS has to offer, we will surely continue to stall in our efforts.

Allen Parrish

Director

Bradford and Union County EMS



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Dates

June 3, 2009
2009 Rural Florida EMS
Agency Survey due date

June 16, 2009
Summer 2009 Paramedic
and EMT Scholarship
Application Deadline

June 29, 2009
General Meeting
Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando

Our Partners



Leadership Conference Awards

FAREMS is dedicated to supporting rural Florida EMS agencies in their efforts to improve recruitment and retention of quality personnel. It is recognized that sound leadership is key, and in August 2009, three directors of rural Florida EMS agencies will attend the Pinnacle 2009 EMS Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida (www.pinnacle-ems.com/home) paid by FAREMS. The recipients of these awards are: David Richardson, Director of Baker County EMS;

Shane McGuffin, Director of Gulf County EMS; and Michael Patterson, Chief of Putnam County EMS. These individuals were chosen to attend this conference based on leadership experience, need for improved recruitment and retention of quality EMS personnel in their county, commitment to rural EMS, previous leadership training, and desire to attend the conference. Congratulations to the awardees! Funding for these awards was provided through the Florida Office of Rural Health.

Training Opportunities

FAREMS has secured a contract with the Florida Department of Health to provide Advanced Stroke Life Support (ASLS) classes to EMS providers in rural Florida. These classes will be taught by newly trained instructors mentored and monitored by staff at the Neuroscience Institute at Shands Jacksonville. Textbooks and educational

licensing materials will be available for new instructors to continue the program.

FAREMS is also coordinating citizen CPR training with local EMS agencies through Florida Bureau of EMS funding.

If your agency would like to host one of these classes, contact Tracy at 352-256-5503.

Summer 2009 Scholarship Applications

Summer 2009 EMT and paramedic scholarship applications are now available. Visit our website, www.farems.org, to download applications. Since spring 2007, FAREMS has awarded 36 paramedic

scholarships and 14 EMT scholarships to individuals committed to living and working in one of Florida's rural counties. The application deadline is June 16, 2009.



Visit our website:
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