

Eastern Shore EMS Council Update  
Kevin T. Holloway

*New Year, New Faces*

The Eastern Shore EMS Council rang in the New Year with the installation of officers and executive committee members. The following were each elected to two-year terms; President-Jennifer Barnes (Shore Memorial Hospital), Vice-President-Kevin Holloway (Chincoteague VFC), Secretary-Treasurer: Maryann Fitchett-(Northampton County Dept. of EMS). Elected to one-year terms on the Executive Committee were Jody Bagwell (Bloxom VFC) and Troy Justis (Melfa F&R). Immediate Past President Danny Green also serves as an Executive Committee Member.

*Meet the President*

Jennifer Barnes begins the year as the Council's 4<sup>th</sup> President, following Past-Presidents Scott Chandler, Maryann Fitchett, and Danny Green. Jennifer began her EMS career with Oak Hall Rescue, where she recently achieved Life Member status following a lengthy tenure as the Company's Rescue Chief. In addition to being a Nationally Registered Paramedic and EMS Instructor, Jennifer is a Registered Nurse having worked as an ED and ICU nurse before assuming her current role as a nurse for, Shore Healthcare at Home, a division of Shore Health Services. As the Council's new President, her immediate goals are to work to improve the quality of patient care through a council-wide QA/QI program, improving patient care through programs implementing CPAP and 12-lead ECG's and further strengthening our many EMS training programs. Barnes, a native of New Church, lives in Bloxom with husband J.D. and daughter Macey. Congratulations to Jennifer on becoming the Council's 4<sup>th</sup> President!

*Crossing the Border*

Agencies in northern Accomack County are working closely with neighboring Worcester County, Maryland on a new dispatch protocol which would dispatch Accomack County EMS agencies to calls in Worcester County, Maryland, if by GIS data, the Virginia station is deemed to be closer to the call than the Maryland company. At present, this process is utilized for "second calls" in which the Worcester County agency already has one unit assigned to another call. Accomack County agencies such as Oak Hall Rescue (Accomack Station 20) and Greenbackville VFD (Accomack Station 2) will frequently be called upon to assist Pocomoke City EMS (Worcester Station 100) or Snow Hill (Worcester Station 400). Both Pocomoke and Snow Hill serve largely populated areas in southern Worcester County. Representatives from the Eastern Shore EMS Council are working closely with their counterparts in Worcester County to finalize the details which will include a revised Mutual Aid agreement involving all parties.

### *New ED opens at Peninsula Regional Medical Center*

At 0300 hours on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, Maryland opened the doors to its new, state of the art emergency department as part of a massive capital improvement project which will also bring a new ICU unit as well as additional medical-surgical rooms. The new ED is located on the first floor of the Layfield Tower, named in honor of Virginia Layfield, a long-time hospital volunteer. The facility showcases state-of-the art diagnostic and monitoring capabilities and the larger size will allow the facility to see up to 90,000 patients annually. The new EMS Documentation Room includes six desktop computers, coffee maker, vending machines and a TV. Congratulations to PRMC on the opening of their new facility!

### *Training Update*

Eastern Shore instructors have been busy having just ended two successful EMT-B programs held in Chincoteague (Bryan Rush) and Wachapreague (Dick Surran). Currently, an EMT-B program is ongoing in Parksley (Jimmy Rowley/Tom Schwartz) with plans for a fall program in Chincoteague (Kevin Holloway), and possibly Melfa (Tom Schwartz).

Eleven providers recently completed the American Heart Association BLS Instructor Program taught by TCLS Training Center Faculty Kevin Holloway and Kim Caison. Pending successful monitoring, these new instructors will greatly enhance our ability to deliver CPR, First Aid, and AED training locally. New Instructor Candidates include: Jeremie Buyea, Christina Justice, Jennifer Burland, T.J. Castiglia, Mark Spillane, Crystal Bagwell, Ray Miles, Tina Hughes, Terri Bochman, Randi Merritt, and Sara Greer.

In addition to our on-going ALS and BLS continuing education programs, the Council looks to enhance training opportunities in the areas of stroke education and alternative airway devices. The Town of Chincoteague EMS staff have also added to our training offerings by hosting monthly BLS and ALS CE sessions. These local CE programs, along with the offering available through TRAINVirginia should provide ample opportunity for providers to find the classes they need.