

Happy New Year from your SMEMSIC Board of Directors! I want to update you on some of the things your board worked on in 2017 that will impact our organization in 2018.

First, the board participated in a strategic planning session in June of 2017. During the session, as a team, we identified what we believe to be our organization's vision: to serve as the preeminent professional development organization for Emergency Medical Services in Michigan. Our vision will guide our organization's mission: to advance Emergency Medical Services through advocacy, education and professional development. Our success will be built on a foundation of communication, advocacy, and the professional development of and with our membership. A large part of our engagement with you, our members, is through our bi-annual conferences. Our conferences afford us an opportunity to learn, advocate, and network with peers from across the state and beyond.

Second, the board evaluated the role of our executive director. After 15 years of executive leadership from Tom Knapp we were faced with the challenging task of finding his replacement. The board published a request for proposals for the Society's executive director position, we are grateful for all the applicants. The board is pleased to introduce our new Executive Director, Linda Stone. Linda has more than 15 years of consulting and management services experience for emergency services oriented non-profit organizations. Linda brings conference planning and membership management practice from county, state, and national organizations. We are pleased that Linda is onboard for our spring conference in Traverse City. Thank you to Dena for her support during this transition.

Last, the board spent a great deal of time discussing the future of EMS and the role we all play as educators. We set goals to:

- Develop more engaging communication with membership.
- Engage young EMS professionals to develop leadership skills and identify future instructor/coordinators.
- Retain high-quality EMS Instructor/Coordinators.
- Demonstrate and encourage professionalism among instructor coordinators.
- Maintain our relationship with the MDHHS/BETP.

Our organization will need all of us to make our goals a reality.

Your Board of Directors are grateful for your support and welcome your participation. With nominations open for positions on the board, now is the time to engage. Spring conference registration will be open soon and we hope you are able to attend. On behalf of all the board members I wish you a safe and healthy 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Flynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gregory" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Flynn".

Gregory Flynn, President