

# Year in Review

## 2020-21



Celebrating 46 Years of  
EMS Collaboration and Cooperation

**1975 - 2021**

# FOREWORD

During 2020-21, the Covid-19 pandemic continued its relentless path of causing widespread illness and death. The byproducts of the virus, including social distancing, quarantines, and supply chain shortages, impacted all our lives and interactions.

As Covid-19 surged, so did the problems facing the Central Arizona EMS system and its professionals. Overwhelming patient counts led to full emergency rooms with limited or no beds. Hospital transfers, diverting of ambulance transports, and long ER wait times were commonplace. Staffing shortages, risk of exposure, and colleagues who became ill or died, only compounded the stress of being a healthcare professional. In February of 2021, a glimmer of hope and progress emerged with the vaccination rollout. While not a panacea, the vaccines have proven to reduce the risk of contracting or becoming serious ill from Covid-19.

As an organization, AEMS operations continued to be disrupted by and beholden to the spread of Covid-19. We elected to continue to restrict our in-person activities since the Arizona's declared Public Health State of Emergency remains in effect. Moreover, we remain concerned for the safety and care of our EMS professionals and community.

Despite the challenges and adversity caused by the pandemic, AEMS continues to play an important role in bringing together the EMS community to address challenges and enhance patient care. Our monthly virtual meetings continued to promote advocacy, collaboration, and cooperation on the pertinent issues impacting the EMS system. While our education events, including presentations during Functional Group meetings, the EMS CE Fall Forum, and the EMS Odyssey, continued to promote EMS learning, training, and awareness of topical healthcare subjects by esteemed experts.

# DEDICATION

**"I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks; and ever thanks."**

*William Shakespeare*

The global pandemic has placed an unprecedented strain on our EMS system. Moreover, it has caused and an overwhelming burden on our healthcare professionals. We recognize the daily sacrifices, stresses, and risks you endure to care for those who are suffering and dying from Covid-19 and your patients who have other medical conditions. Despite this heavy toll, it is YOU, the first responders and healthcare professionals, who the community relies on as the pillars of strength and hope to help mitigate and abate this crisis.

**THANK YOU** for your unwavering and dedicated compassion, care, and empathy. You deserve our deepest gratitude and admiration - not just in this time of crisis, but always.

# IN MEMORIAM

In honor and remembrance of those who have died from Covid-19 and its related causes.

**22,947+ Arizonans**

**817,482+ US Residents**

**5,316,115+ Global Residents**

*Death statistics are as of December 11, 2021 and represent the total since February 2020.*

*Statistics taken from: <https://www.worldometers.info>*



**“Definiteness of purpose is the starting point of all achievement”**

*W. Clement Stone*

## **ABOUT AEMS**

Arizona Emergency Medical Systems, Inc. (AEMS), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is a community-based volunteer organization dedicated to enhancing emergency medical services (EMS) and trauma care for the Central Arizona Region (which includes Maricopa, Gila, and Pinal counties). AEMS is enabled by and enabled by A.R.S 36-2210 to serve as the Regional Emergency Medical Services Coordinating System for the Central Arizona Region

Since 1975, AEMS has facilitated the collaboration of physicians, nurses, EMTs, paramedics, and hospital administrators to ensure that emergency medical care is delivered in a coordinated manner, and moreover, that it is meeting the needs of the public.

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## **MISSION**

AEMS shall facilitate continuous improvement of the diverse components of Emergency Medical Services for the Central Arizona Region, through an inclusive, collaborative, patient focused, and comprehensive approach, to meet the changing needs of the System and the community

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## **SUPPORTING SERVICES**

**Management** As a non-profit organization, AEMS is managed by an active, volunteer Board of Governors and Executive Committee. The AEMS Board is unique because it is composed of representatives from all levels of EMS and pre-hospital. Additionally, most individuals who serve on the Board are professionally impacted by AEMS’ mission. The Executive Director is the only paid staff person who works in conjunction with the Board and Executive Committee to manage, coordinate, and implement the overall operations of the organization. To ensure organizational accountability, the AEMS Board of Governors, Executive Committee, and Executive Director frequently meet and communicate. During 2020-21, six Board meetings and six Executive Committee meetings were held.

**Financial Accountability** The AEMS Board of Governors is charged with ensuring that the financial resources of AEMS are properly and efficiently safeguarded, maintained, and used. The Board is also responsible for adopting management practices that foster and support the long-term sustainability of the organization.

To uphold the organization’s financial health and integrity, a contracted bookkeeper conducts a monthly review and reconciliation of AEMS’ finances. Additionally, an independent certified public accountant firm is annually retained to conduct a Financial Review or Audit.

Although the pandemic continued to impact AEMS’ activities, the Board determined that it was in the best interest of financial stewardship, to conduct a Financial Review of the 2020-21 finances. Eckelberg and Wienshienk, PC, an independent certified public accounting firm, was hired to conduct the Financial Review.



## PASSAGES

*Sometimes people come into your life for a moment, a day, or a lifetime.  
It matters not the time they spent with you, but how they impacted your life in that time.  
Anonymous*

**During 2020-21, AEMS experienced numerous changes to the Board of Governors.**

**Transitions** Several Board members relinquished their positions this year.

Special thanks to the following for the support and service provided AEMS during their tenure:

**Chris Barden**

**Dan Didier**

**Martin Murphy**

**James Cunningham**

**Kathleen Moore, RN**

**Ginny Orcutt, RN**

**Kim Brooks, RN**, although never a Board member, was a dedicated volunteer who assisted AEMS for five years in coordinating the EMS Odyssey Conference, including distribution of the CEs.

**Newly Elected** We welcomed the involvement and support of new Board members including:

**Suzanne Buchanan, RN** - Representative of a Nurse, Active in Emergency Medical Services, Recommended by a Professional Association of Emergency Nurses

**Chris DeChant** - Representative of an Arizona Fire District Association

**Jordan Jacobs, MD** - Physician, Active in the Practice of Trauma Surgery, Recommended by a Professional Association of Trauma Surgeons

**Rhonda Mason, RN, MSN** - Representative of the Administrations of Hospitals, Non-Trauma Center Hospital

**Kristin Niehoff, RN** - Representative of the Administrations of Hospitals, Trauma Center Hospital

**Re-Elected** We congratulated the following members who were re-elected to their Board positions including:

**Marcia Barry, RN** - Secretary

**Sheila Bryant, RN** - Representative, Acting as a Pre-Hospital Care Manager for their Hospital Employer, Representing a Non-Trauma Center Hospital

**Bobbi Doss** - Emergency Medical Care Technician-Paramedic (EMCT-P), Serving their Employers in a Predominantly Non-Administrative Capacity.

**Chris Riddle** - Representative from Public Employer of EMCTs (from a Political Subdivision of Population less than 50,000)

**Roy Ryals** - Treasurer

**Barbara Schaffer, RN** - Representatives, Acting as a Pre-Hospital Care Manager for Their Hospital Employer, Representing a Non-Trauma Center Hospital

**Ryan Southworth, DO** - Physician, Active in the Practice of Emergency Medicine and/or Pre-Hospital Administrative Medical Direction, Practicing at a Non-Trauma Center Emergency Department

# 2020-21 AEMS BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## **Michelle Angle**

*Representative Recommended by a Statewide Ambulance Association, Representing a Private-Sector Employer of EMCTs*

## **Peggy Baker**

*AEMS Executive Director*

## **Marcia Barry, RN**

*Secretary, AEMS Board of Governors*

## **Sheila Bryant, RN**

*Nurse, Acting as a Pre-hospital Care Manager for Their Hospital Employer, Representing a Non-Trauma Center Hospital*

## **Franco Castro-Marin, MD, FACEP, FAEMS**

*Emergency Physician, Trauma Center Hospital*

## **Tom Cole**

*Representative from a Public Employer of EMCTs from Distinct Political Subdivision with a Population of Between 50,000 - 500,000*

## **James Cunningham**

*Citizen of the AEMS Region*

## **Christopher DeChant**

*Representative Recommended by an Arizona Association of Fire Districts*

## **Bobbi Doss**

*EMCT-Paramedic, Serving Their Employers in a Predominately Non-Administrative Capacity*

## **Mike Duran, III**

*Representative from Public Employers of EMCTs from Distinct Political Subdivision with a Population Greater than 500,000*

## **Garth Gemar, MD**

*Chair, AEMS Board of Governors*

## **Michael Grant**

*Representative from a Rural EMS Provider Agency*

## **Ryan Herold, RN**

*Vice Chair, AEMS Board of Governors  
Representative from a Public Employer of EMCTs from Distinct Political Subdivision with a Population of Between 50,000 and 500,000*

## **Jordan Jacobs, MD**

*Representative Recommended by a Professional Association of Trauma Surgeons*

## **Andrew Johnston**

*Representative from an EMCT Training Program*

## **Robert Londeree, MD**

*Past Chair, AEMS Board of Governors*

## **Steven Maher, MD, FACEP, FAEMS**

*Physician, Active in the Practice of Emergency Medicine and/or Pre-Hospital Administrative Direction – Administrative Medical Director for Pre-Hospital*

## **Rhonda Mason, RN**

*Representative of the Administrations of Hospitals, Non-Trauma Center Hospital*

## **Tracey Moroney, RN**

*Representative, Acting as a Prehospital Care Manager for their Hospital Employer, Representing a Trauma Center Hospital*

## **Martin Murphy**

*Representative, Acting as a Prehospital Care Manager for their Hospital Employer, Representing a Trauma Center Hospital*

## **Mike Naehrbass**

*EMCT, Serving Their Employers in a Predominately Non-Administrative Capacity*

## **Kristin Niehoff, RN**

*Representative of the Administrations of Hospitals, Trauma Center Hospital*

## **Sandy Nygaard**

*Chair, Planning & Outreach Functional Group*

## **Ginny Orcutt, RN**

*Representative, Active in Emergency Medical Services, Recommended by a Professional Association of Emergency Nurses*

## **Chris Riddle**

*Representative from Public Employer of EMCTs from a Distinct Political Subdivision of Population less than 50,000*

## **Roy Ryals**

*Treasurer, AEMS Board of Governors*

## **Barb Schaffer, RN**

*Nurse, Acting as a Pre-Hospital Care Manager for their Hospital Employer, Representing a Non-Trauma Center Hospital*

## **Casey Solem, MD**

*Physician, Active in the Practice of Emergency Medicine and/or Pre-Hospital Administrative Medical Direction, Recommended by a Professional Association of Emergency Physicians*

## **Ryan Southworth, DO**

*Chair, Patient Management Functional Group  
Physician, Active in the Practice of Emergency Medicine and/or Pre-Hospital Administrative Medical Direction, Practicing at a Non-Trauma Center Emergency Department.*

# COMMITTEE RECOGNITION

<div>Executive Committee</div> <div>Garth Gemar - Chair</div> <div>Ryan Herold - Vice Chair</div> <div>Marcia Barry - Secretary</div> <div>Roy Ryals - Treasurer</div> <div>Robert Londeree, MD - Past Chair</div> <div>Sandy Nygaard - Planning and Outreach Chair</div> <div>Ryan Southworth, DO - Patient Management Chair</div> <div>Peggy Baker - Executive Director</div>	<div>AEMS Appointed Representatives on State Committees</div> <div>Education (EDU)</div> <div>Orlando Alcordo</div> <div>Ryan Herold, RN</div> <div>Sandy Nygaard</div> <div>EMS Council (EMSC)</div> <div>Roy Ryals</div> <div>Franco Castro-Marin, MD</div> <div>Medical Direction Commission (MDC)</div> <div>Franco Castro-Marin, MD</div> <div>Protocols, Medications, and Devices (PMD)</div> <div>Garth Gemar, MD</div> <div>Pediatric Advisory Council for Emergency Services (PACES)</div> <div>Mickey Kovach, RN</div> <div>State Trauma Advisory Board (STAB)</div> <div>Sandy Nygaard</div> <div>Trauma and EMS Performance Improvement (TEPI)</div> <div>James Cunningham</div> <div>Alyson Welch</div>
<div>Functional Group</div> <div>Ryan Herold, RN - Meeting Facilitator</div> <div>Sandy Nygaard - Planning and Outreach Chair</div> <div>Planning Voting Members:</div> <div>Michelle Angle; Geoffrey Ballentine, RN; Shari Brand, MD; Sheila Bryant, RN; Kendal Dold, RN; Joyce Dominski, RN; Gabe Gabriel, RN; Garth Gemar, MD; Ryan Herold, RN; Mickey Kovach, RN; Martin Murphy; Sandy Nygaard; Scarlett Pegram, RN; Roy Ryals; Tomi St. Mars, RN; and Alyson Welch</div> <div>Mickey, Kovach, RN - Secretary</div> <div>Ryan Southworth, DO - Patient Management Chair</div> <div>Patient Management Voting Members:</div> <div>Michelle Angle; Geoffrey Ballentine, RN; Franco Castro-Marin, MD; James Cunningham; Kendal Dold, RN; Gabe Gabriel, RN; Garth Gemar, MD; Ryan Herold, RN; Dan Jarrett; Mickey Kovach, RN; Sandy Nygaard; Roy Ryals; Ryan Southworth, DO; and Alyson Welch</div>	
<div>Categorization Committee</div> <div>Tomi St. Mars, RN - Chair</div> <div>Shari Brand, MD</div> <div>Sheila Bryant, RN</div> <div>Dan Didier</div> <div>Gabe Gabriel, RN</div> <div>Garth Gemar, MD</div> <div>Phil Johnson</div> <div>Robert Londeree, MD</div> <div>Mickey Kovach, RN</div> <div>Tracy Moroney, RN</div> <div>Martin Murphy</div> <div>Sandy Nygaard</div> <div>Barb Schaffer, RN;</div> <div>Ryan Southworth, DO</div>	<div>RED Book Committee</div> <div>Garth Gemar, MD - Chair</div> <div>Robert Londeree, MD</div> <div>Sandy Nygaard</div> <div>Barb Schaffer, RN</div> <div>Ryan Southworth, DO</div> <div>Peggy Baker</div>
<div>EMS Odyssey and EMS CE Fall Forum Planning Committee</div> <div>Sandy Nygaard - Chair</div> <div>Michelle Angle</div> <div>Peggy Baker</div> <div>Dan Bramble</div> <div>Tracy Brooks, RN</div> <div>Suzanne Buchanan, RN</div> <div>Kayla Cole</div> <div>Nicola Crim</div> <div>Kendal Dold, RN</div> <div>Joe Gibson</div> <div>Ryan Herold, RN</div> <div>Scarlett Pegram, RN</div> <div>Laurie Ray, RN</div> <div>Roy Ryals</div> <div>Tomi St. Mars, RN</div> <div>Barb Schaffer, RN</div> <div>Ryan Southworth, DO</div> <div>Janet Tully, RN</div> <div>Grace Watson</div>	

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

## Statement of Financial Position – June 30, 2021

### ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$431,655
Accounts Receivables	29,125
Prepaid Expenses	5,965
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b><u>466,745</u></b>
Property and Equipment, Net	<u>1,155</u>

**TOTAL ASSETS** **\$467,900**

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 1,986
Accrued Expenses	21,846
Prepaid Membership Dues	<u>5,255</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b><u>29,087</u></b>

### NET ASSETS

Net Assets (without donor restrictions)	<u>438,813</u>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b><u>438,813</u></b>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS** **\$467,900**

## Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2021

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

#### Revenues

State Contract	\$110,500
Conference Fees	15,245
Membership Dues	60,344
In-Kind Donations	<u>550</u>
<b>Total Program Revenues</b>	<b><u>186,639</u></b>

#### Expenses

Program Expenses	
Education, Prevention, and Training	58,041
Planning	26,627
Community Outreach and Resources	9,819
Advocacy	<u>6,658</u>
<b>Total Program Services Without Donor Restriction</b>	<b><u>101,145</u></b>

Management and General 30,324

**Total Expenses Without Donor Restrictions** **131,469**

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions Before Other Income or (Loss) **55,170**

Other Income or (Loss)

Interest Income	47
Other Income	<u>282</u>
<b>Total Other Income or (Loss) Without Donor Restrictions</b>	<b><u>329</u></b>

**Increase in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions** **55,499**

**Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions at July 1, 2020** **383,314**

**Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions at June 30, 2021** **438,813**

Financial information reprinted from Independent Financial Compilations Report, June 30, 2021  
Prepared for AEMS by Eckelberg and Wienshienk, PC, Certified Public Accountants

## COMMUNITY INTERACTION



In early 2020, after the pandemic emerged and the State Public Health Emergency was declared, it was necessary for AEMS to identify an online format so that we could continue to conduct meetings and interact with our members, volunteers, and other constituents. AEMS successfully transitioned the Board, Executive Committee, and Functional Group meetings to the ZOOM online platform. Additionally, we held our first education event, the EMS CE Fall Forum on December 3, 2020, on Zoom with enormous success. In fact, we regarded the EMS CE Fall Forum virtual experience as our test pilot for the EMS Odyssey, which was held on June 9, 2021, via Zoom. We continue to find AEMS' online presence as a functional and efficient way to maintain our community meeting structure and interaction, while increasing our participation, particularly from our rural providers.

## COMMUNICATION

AEMS values its connections with our members, volunteers, and constituents. It is essential that AEMS develops and maintains a current database of all representatives from EMS and trauma service providers in Central Arizona.

The network we have developed and maintain is essential to AEMS purpose and success as a collaborative, community organization. We connect with our constituents through various mediums including email, newsletters (AEMS News & Notes), website, social media, and meetings.

We continue to build and maintain the AEMS website - <https://aems.org> Special thanks to Grant Preston, AEMS webmaster, for help us keep the website updated and secure.

AEMS is also on social media. Special thanks to AEMS volunteer, Kayla Cole, for her significant contributions in developing and maintaining our social media accounts.

## PROGRAM AREAS OF FOCUS

### EDUCATION

Education is a cornerstone of the organization. AEMS is a leader in producing and implementing quality education programs for EMS professionals that are knowledge, training, and prevention based and presented by esteemed experts in the field. This year we were fortunate to have collaborated with the Arizona State Fire School to coordinate the EMS CE Fall Forum. We also continued our collaboration with the Arizona Emergency Nurses Association in our coordination of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual EMS Odyssey Conference. As part of our Functional Group meetings, we reserved time for various educational presentations. AEMS is grateful for the generous support we receive from healthcare professionals around the Central Region and statewide whom share their time and expertise to help us expand the knowledge of our EMS professionals.

### PLANNING, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, RESOURCE COORDINATION, AND ADVOCACY

Planning is an intrinsic part of AEMS' mission. It is a necessary tool to implement all of AEMS' activities from the Functional Group process to the Board level. Community Outreach & Resource Coordination, as the result of our collaboration and cooperation with the Central Arizona Region EMS and trauma care professionals, are a natural focus and outcome of AEMS' activities. Advocacy is crucial to the AEMS' mission as well as for its service to the State of Arizona. AEMS is charged with working together and advocating for the best practices of EMS and trauma care for the Central Arizona Region and statewide.

# ACTIVITIES

## 1st Annual EMS CE Fall Forum

December 3, 2020 - Zoom



In collaboration with the Arizona State Fire School, AEMS coordinated and implemented the EMS CE Fall Forum on December 3, 2020, via the Zoom platform.

This all-day educational event was held via Zoom and featured presentations including:

- Psychological First Aid
- Medical Legal Considerations
- Pediatric Seizures and Prehospital Management
- Arizona First Responders Initiative Update
- Covid 19 Lessons Learned
- Bites and Stings in Arizona

This event was a momentous success with over 200 registered participants. 5.5 CE's were awarded to participants who attended all the sessions. A total of 194 CE Certificates were issued.

## 21st Annual EMS Odyssey Conference

June 9, 2021 - Zoom



AEMS continued its successful partnership with Arizona Emergency Nurses Association to collaborate and coordinate this year's Odyssey.

Special thanks to the EMS Odyssey Conference Committee members and the Arizona Emergency Nurses Association for their time and assistance in planning this outstanding conference.

Due to the pandemic and its continued surges, it was necessary to host the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual EMS Odyssey Conference as a virtual event using the Zoom platform.

Presentations included:

- Resilience During Madness
- Initial Assessment and Management of the Burn Patient
- Covid-19 The Moving Bullet
- Trauma FUNDamentals
- They're Back: Infectious Disease Revival

Additionally, we experimented with offering two Rapid Fire sessions, involving two presentations, same subject, different issues. The focus of the sessions were the pediatric patient and pregnant patient.

A total of 240 participants registered. Of the registered participants, a total of 156 CE Certificates were issued (99/EMCTs and 57/RNs).



## Functional Group Meetings

During 2020-21, AEMS coordinated six Functional Group meetings which averaged approximately 50 participants. The Functional Group meetings promoted education and resource sharing through presentations of Topical Focus (discussion of current issues), Agency/Hospital and Program Profiles (Central Arizona Region information sharing), and Lunch N Learn (knowledge-based learning).

### Topical Focus Presentations

- **Arizona Provider Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (AZPOLST)**  
Sandy Severson BSN, MBA, CPHQ, CENP, FACHE  
Arizona Hospital & Healthcare Association
- **Central AZ EMS Region Narcan Distribution and Training Report**  
Joyce Hospodar, MBA, MPA with Bryna Koch  
Center for Rural Health - University of Arizona
- **Central Arizona Regional EMS Guidelines Primer**  
Joshua Sanchez, EMCT-P, Training Program Manager  
Ryan Southworth, DO  
Gila River EMS
- **Arizona Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (AZPOLST)**  
Sandy Severson, BSN, MBA, CPHQ, CPPS, CENP, FACHE  
Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association
- **Covid-19 Vaccination Roll Out for Central Arizona**  
Nick Staab, MD, Medical Epidemiologist  
Maricopa County Department of Public Health  
  
Kore Redden, MPH, EMCT-P Bio-Defense  
Preparedness and Response Administrator  
Incident  
Pinal County Department of Public Health  
Services District  
  
Todd Whitney  
Incident Commander / Logistics Section  
Chief for Covid-19  
Gila County

### Central Arizona Region Agency / Hospital Profiles

- **Dignity Health Arizona General & Free-Standing ER's**
- **Coolidge Fire Department**
- **Angel MedFlight**
- **Abrazo Heart Hospital**
- **Native Air - Patient Advocacy Program**

### Lunch N Learn Presentations

- **Covid-19 Roundtable Discussion**  
Facilitated by Garth Gemar, MD
- **Stroke and Advancements in Their Care**  
Mohamed Teleb, MD  
Ahmed El-Gengaihy, MD-MSc  
Lisa Ziomek, MSN/HHA, RN, CEN
- **Covid – A Personal Experience**  
Lynn Browne Wagner, MSN, RN

# Regional Emergency Medical Services Coordinating System Central Regional EMS Council for the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)

On behalf of the State of Arizona, AEMS serves as the Regional Emergency Medical Services Coordinating System for the Central Arizona Region. AEMS continues to have a productive and successful partnership with ADHS. AEMS maintains active representation on various state committees concerned with EMS, trauma, medical direction, disaster preparedness, stroke, education, pediatric, community paramedicine, and other pertinent issues.

## RED Book (Regional EMS Directory)

The RED Book remains a valuable resource tool for field EMS and trauma personnel. As a “living document,” the RED Book requires frequent updates and changes. The RED Book Committee, which is composed AEMS constituents and incorporates the activities of the Valley Medical Directors, meets regularly to discuss current evidence-based science, and re-evaluate current protocols for practicality, effectiveness, and scientific recommendations.

During 2020-21, the Red Book Committee began the time and labor-intensive task of making the Red Book a more contemporary, adaptable, concise, and relevant document. Several chapters were deleted, modified, and renumbered. The constant theme the Committee followed was: “What can AEMS do, as codified by the Red Book, that no other entity can accomplish.” To make this happen, we believed the Red Book needed to be extremely easy to use on-line, easily changed in response to System needs, and be heavy on resources and useful information. The Red Book should augment our website presence.

<b>Deleted Chapters Include:</b> Triage: General Medical Emergencies Triage Guidelines - Formerly, Chapter 4  Triage: Pediatric Emergencies Triage Guidelines - Formerly Chapter 5  Patient Transfer Facility Prehospital - Formerly, Chapter 6  Quality Assurance - Formerly, Chapter 9  Field Termination - Formerly, Chapter 10	<b>Chapters In the Process of Being Modified Include:</b>  Framework for Medical Oversight - Formerly, Chapter 2  Categorization - Formerly, Chapter 7  Transfer of Care - Formerly, Chapter 8  Air Medical - Formerly, Chapter 11
<b>New Chapters Include:</b>  Introduction  Revised Table of Contents  Appendix / Resources	<b>Chapters Left Intact Include:</b>  Central AZ Regional Guidelines - Formerly and Remaining, Chapter 3

Moving forward, the AEMS Executive Committee will look to the Board of Governors and other volunteers during the coming year for assistance in finalizing the amendments in progress and continually re-evaluating the product. It is anticipated that this will be an easier process moving forward since the result of all the work will be a much more streamlined document.

## Categorization

Categorization is a voluntary process of assessing and categorizing the relative preparedness and capabilities of hospitals (or other healthcare facilities, such as satellite emergency centers), their emergency departments and their medical staffs, to provide emergency medical care and associated healthcare services to patients with several types of medical and surgical emergencies.

During 2020-21, the Categorization Committee's work was constant. The COVID-19 pandemic has done nothing but increase the Committee's work. In addition, a trend toward "micro-hospitals" and Free Standing EDs (FSEDs), also known as Satellite Emergency Centers, has caused the Committee to add new sections under which facilities may Categorize.

The Committee is in the process of developing a new Categorization Matrix. The early terminology for the available categories under which a facility can apply to receive 911 generated EMS ambulance traffic are:

1. General full-service hospitals (further triage determined by specialty care needs of patient).
2. "Micro-hospitals" (generally 20 beds or less, limited if any ICU or specialty service line care options).
3. FSEDs. Generally, no inpatient capabilities, therefore patients that in the estimation of EMS may need to be admitted should (likely) be triaged to other facilities via local guidelines.
4. Critical Access Hospitals are in existence in the AEMS region. Therefore, a section, in development, will be dedicated to them.

During the previous Fiscal Year, to prepare for the impact of the Covid-19 crisis and anticipated influx of patients, the AEMS Board of Governors approved the following emergency, temporary and provisional Categorization related measures which continue to remain active:

- Emergency temporary categorization of Free-Standing emergency departments as presented.
- Emergency provisional categorization of the Phoenix VA Healthcare System as presented.
- Emergency temporary suspension of the categorization process as presented.

The Dignity Arizona General network of FSEDs received "Emergency Temporary Categorization" in early 2020, after the gubernatorial proclaimed COVID-19 state of emergency declaration went into effect, and that order has not been rescinded. Hence, they remain Categorized.

### **Facilities Categorized during 2020-21, include:**

1. Banner Ocotillo
2. HonorHealth Sonoran Crossing (taking the place of HonorHealth Sonoran FSED)
3. Abrazo Cave Creek (micro-hospital)
4. Abrazo Surprise (micro-hospital)
5. HonorHealth Scottsdale Thompson Peak Medical Center - Primary Stroke Center

### **Facilities with Categorization questionnaires pending and still under review by June 30, 2021, include:**

1. Exceptional Healthcare Community Hospital, Maricopa (under FSED criteria).  
*It should be noted that at the time of this document's publication (December 2021), the Exceptional Healthcare Community Hospital, Maricopa was officially categorized.*

### **The Categorizations provided during 2021 that correlate with the noted hospital changes for the year, include:**

- HonorHealth Sonoran Crossing Medical Center opened in September 2020.
- Abrazo Surprise Hospital opened in October 2020
- Banner Ocotillo opened in November 2020
- HonorHealth Scottsdale Thompson Peak Medical Center became a Primary Stroke Center March 2021

## Covid-19 Provider Funding Distribution

In May 2020, AEMS and the other Regions were recipients of \$120,000 from the Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems. The purpose of this funding was to provide Covid-19 equipment and training support for Central Region fire departments/districts and other EMS provider agencies in need. Each Region was able to retain 10% to support administrative costs associated with the distribution of these funds.

AEMS received and successfully distributed \$108,000 in special Covid-19 Pandemic funds to EMS providers throughout our region. The first round of funding (\$93,095.71) was distributed in June 2020. The remaining funding (\$14,905) was distributed in August 2021.

To identify the funding recipients, AEMS created an equitable process where the most applicants possible would share benefit from these funds. AEMS required all applicants to complete a mini need assessment followed by a funding application process. Applicants were then invited to a Priority Distribution meeting held via Zoom where all participants vetted their requests. The list below provides the second round of funding - \$14,905.00 - distributed in August 2021.

<b>Arizona City Fire District</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>Buckeye Valley Fire District</b>	<b>\$1,739.00</b>
<b>Casa Grande Fire Department</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>Daisy Mountain Fire District</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>Florence Fire Department</b>	<b>\$688.00</b>
<b>Glendale Fire Department</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>Harquahala Valley Fire District</b>	<b>\$1,739.00</b>
<b>Hellsgate Fire Department</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>Pinal Rural Fire and Medical District</b>	<b>\$1,739.00</b>
<b>Surprise Fire-Medical Department</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL DISTRIBUTED JUNE 30 2020</b>	<b>\$14,905.00</b>

# SUPPORT

*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*

*Helen Keller*

## 2021 Membership Campaign

AEMS depends on organization (agency/hospital) membership dues as one of our primary sources of revenue for its continued operation. Membership dues contribute to over half of AEMS' administrative and program budgets. AEMS achieved its 2021 membership goal of \$45,000 by raising **\$60,319**.

Thanks to all those who assisted with securing the financial support of their agency/hospital - AEMS appreciates your help in our attempts to reach our goal. Special thanks to all the hospitals and agencies listed below - your continued support is appreciated. We are also grateful for all the individuals who contributed to this year's campaign.

## Member Organizations

Abrazo Arrowhead Campus	Coolidge Fire Department	Phoenix Children's Hospital
Abrazo Buckeye Emergency Center	Daisy Mountain Fire and Medical	Phoenix Fire Department
Abrazo Central Campus	Dignity Health - Chandler Regional Medical Center	Phoenix Police Department
Abrazo Peoria Emergency Center	Dignity Health - St. Joseph's Hospital & Medical Center	Queen Creek Fire and Medical Department
Abrazo Mesa Hospital	Florence Fire Department	Scottsdale Fire Department
Abrazo Scottsdale Campus	Gila River EMS	Steward Health Care - Florence Hospital
Abrazo West Campus	Gilbert Fire and Rescue Department	Steward Health Care - Mountain Vista Medical Center
Air Evac Services	Glendale Fire Department	Steward Health Care - Tempe St. Luke's Hospital
Angel MedFlight	Goodyear Fire Department	Sun City Fire and Medical Department
Arizona City Fire District	Hellsgate Fire District	Superstition Fire & Medical District
Arizona Fire & Medical Authority - Sun City West	Honor Health Deer Valley Medical Center	Surprise Fire-Medical Department
Arizona Fire & Medical Authority - Sun Lakes	Honor Health John C. Lincoln Medical Center	Tempe Fire Medical Rescue
Banner Boswell Medical Center	Honor Health Scottsdale Osborn Medical Center	Valleywise Health Medical Center
Banner Casa Grande Medical Center	Honor Health Scottsdale Shea Medical Center	
Banner Del Webb Medical Center	Honor Health Thompson Peak Medical Center	<b>Individual Contributors</b>
Banner Desert Medical Center	Maricopa Ambulance	Bruce Barnhart, RN
Banner Estrella Medical Center	Mayo Clinic Hospital	Marcia Barry, RN
Banner Gateway Medical Center	Mesa Fire and Medical Department	Travis Cates
Banner Goldfield Medical Center	Native Air Ambulance	Garth Gemar, MD
Banner Ironwood Medical Center	Payson Fire Department	Joe Gibson
Banner Thunderbird Medical Center		Robert Londeree, MD
Buckeye Fire-Medical Rescue Department		Marjorie Shepherd
Buckeye Valley Fire District		Roy Ryals
Casa Grande Fire Department		
Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center		

## Additional Resource Support

AEMS is an organization with limited funding. AEMS is grateful to all those individuals and organizations that have volunteers, donated in-kind, provided exemplary professional services, and other resource support.

## Volunteer Hours

Through planning, coordinating, implementing, and participating in various AEMS activities, volunteers contributed a conservatively estimated **2514.50 hours** during 2020-21.

### Estimated hours donated per committee:

- Board = 637.5
- Functional Group = 552
- Executive Committee = 335
- RED Book = 120
- Categorization = 240
- Conference Planning = 561
- Education/Training Presenters = 69

## Miscellaneous Donations

During the EMS Odyssey Conference, one of the niceties that we provide our participants is a chance to win raffle prizes. This year, because we were confined to a virtual event, it was more convenient to offer gift cards for the prizes. We solicited both cash and other in-kind donations to help offset the cost of the raffle prizes. Special thank you to all those who stepped-up to support this event and our wonderful participants.

### Cash Donations

Michelle Angle - \$100	Roy & Romina Ryals \$50
Marcia Barry, RN - \$100	Barb Schaffer, RN - \$50
Lynn Browne Wagner, RN - \$100	Peggy Baker - \$25
Tom Cole - \$100	Bobbi Doss - \$25
Christopher DeChant - 100	Mike Grant \$25
Joe Gibson - \$100	Robert Londeree, MD - \$25
Jordan Jacobs, MD - \$75	Sandy Nygaard - \$25

### In Kind

Air Evac Gift Basket	Community Responders Gift Basket
Garth Gemar, MD Premier Diamondback Tickets to Three Games, Including Parking Passes	Nicola Crim Gift Basket
Air Methods Gift Basket \$50	Barb Schaffer, RN Gift Basket
	Ryan Southworth, DO Gift Basket

## Professional Services

AEMS would like to thank the professionals who provided us with assorted services that supported our nonprofit management and program needs during 2020-21. These professionals include:

Grant Preston WebTread	Marji Shepherd Bookkeeper	Duane Eckelberg and Lois Wienshienk Eckelberg & Wienshienk, PC, CPA
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*Special thanks to all our dues members, volunteers, supporters, and friends.*

# Central Arizona Region EMS Provider Agencies and Hospitals

ABC Ambulance  
Abrazo Arrowhead Campus  
Abrazo Buckeye Emergency Center  
Abrazo Cave Creek Hospital  
Abrazo Central Campus  
Abrazo Mesa Hospital  
Abrazo Peoria Emergency Center  
Abrazo Scottsdale Campus  
Abrazo Surprise Hospital  
Abrazo West Campus  
Aguila Fire District  
Air Evac Services  
Ak-Chin Fire Department  
American Medical Response (AMR)  
Arizona Academy of Emergency Services  
Arizona Ambulance Association  
Arizona American College of Emergency Physicians  
Arizona City Fire District  
Arizona Emergency Medicine Research Center  
Arizona Emergency Nurses Association  
Arizona Fire & Medical Authority - Sun City West  
Arizona Fire & Medical Authority - Sun Lakes  
Arizona Fire & Medical Authority - Tonopah  
Arizona Fire & Medical Authority - Wittman  
Arizona General Hospital - Laveen  
Arizona General Hospital - Mesa  
Arizona Hospital & Healthcare Association  
Avondale Fire-Rescue  
Banner Baywood Medical Center  
Banner Boswell Medical Center  
Banner Cardon Children's Medical Center  
Banner Casa Grande Medical Center  
Banner Del E. Webb Medical Center  
Banner Desert Medical Center  
Banner Estrella Medical Center  
Banner Gateway Medical Center  
Banner Goldfield Medical Center  
Banner Ironwood Medical Center  
Banner Ocotillo Medical Center  
Banner Thunderbird Medical Center  
Banner-University Medical Center Phoenix  
Black Canyon Fire District  
Buckeye Fire Medical-Rescue  
Buckeye Valley Fire District  
Canyon Fire District  
Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center  
Casa Grande Fire Department

Central Arizona Mountain Rescue  
Chandler Fire Department  
Christopher Kohls Fire District  
Circle City - Morristown Fire District  
Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center  
Coolidge Fire Department Daisy Mountain Fire District  
Dignity Health Arizona General Hospitals  
Dignity Health Chandler Regional Medical Center  
Dignity Health Mercy Gilbert Medical Center  
Dignity Health St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center  
Dignity Health St. Joseph's Westgate Medical Center  
El Mirage Fire Department  
Eloy Fire District  
Exceptional Health Care, Maricopa  
Florence Fire Department  
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation Fire Department  
Fountain Hills Rural/Metro Fire Department  
Gila Bend Fire Department  
Gila River Casinos EMS  
Gila River EMS  
Gila River Fire Department  
Gilbert Fire and Rescue  
Gisela Valley Fire District  
Glendale Fire Department  
Globe Fire Department  
Goodyear Fire Department  
Guadalupe Fire Department  
Harquahala Valley Fire District  
Hellsgate Fire Department  
HonorHealth Deer Valley Medical Center  
HonorHealth John C. Lincoln Medical Center  
HonorHealth Scottsdale Osborn Medical Center  
HonorHealth Scottsdale Shea Medical Center  
HonorHealth Scottsdale Thompson Peak Medical Center  
HonorHealth Sonoran Crossing Medical Center  
Hu Hu Kam Memorial Hospital  
Life Line Ambulance Service, Inc.  
Life Net Arizona  
Lifestar EMS  
Maricopa Ambulance  
Maricopa Fire Department

Mayo Clinic Hospital  
MCSO Medical Rescue Posse  
Mesa Fire and Medical Department  
Native Air Ambulance  
Payson Fire Department  
PCSO Search and Rescue Posse  
Peoria Fire and Medical Department  
Phoenix Children's Hospital  
Phoenix Fire Department  
Pima Medical Institute  
Pinal Rural Fire Rescue  
Pleasant Valley Fire District PMT Ambulance  
Queen Creek Fire & Medical  
Queen Valley Fire District  
Regional Fire and Rescue Department  
Salt River Fire Department  
San Carlos Apache EMS  
San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation  
San Carlos Fire Department  
Scottsdale Fire Department  
Southwest Ambulance  
Stanfield Fire District  
Steward Health Care - Florence Hospital  
Steward Health Care - Mountain Vista Medical Center  
Steward Health Care - Tempe St. Luke's Hospital  
Sun City Fire-Medical Department  
Superior Fire Department  
Superstition Fire & Medical District  
Surprise Fire-Medical Department  
Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department  
Tempe St. Luke's Hospital  
Thunderbird Fire District  
Tolleson Fire Department  
Tonto Basin Fire District  
Tri-City Fire District  
Valleywise Emergency - Maryvale  
Valleywise Health Medical Center  
Waterwheel Fire & Medical District  
Western Fire Department  
Whispering Pines Fire District  
Wickenburg Community Hospital  
Wickenburg Fire Department  
Wilderness Medics

*This list, updated December 2021, is intended to be inclusive. If your organization was omitted or if there were name errors, we regret this unintentional oversight.*