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**PAAW**  
Professional Ambulance  
Association of Wisconsin



Fifth Annual  
Professional Ambulance Association of  
Wisconsin

**Stars of Life  
Recognition Program**

September 22, 2010

*On behalf of the Professional Ambulance Association of Wisconsin, we honor and recognize the outstanding contribution you have made to the emergency field and the Wisconsin communities you serve.*

*Patrick Ryan, PAAW President*



**Karen Dallman, Paramedic  
Valders, Wisconsin  
Gold Cross Ambulance**

*Karen Dallman is being honored with this award not only for supporting the mission of Gold Cross of being dedicated, compassionate and professional, but for upholding the vision of “being the **BEST** in EMS”.*

*If there is one word to describe Karen, it is compassion.*

*Karen’s career began in EMS thirteen years ago in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. Currently she is working as a full-time paramedic with Gold Cross Ambulance Service, Inc. and as a lab instructor for Lake Shore Technical College.*

*Karen enjoys helping people and strives to treat every patient with compassion and respect. She goes above and beyond to help anyone in need and is respected by her peers.*

*Karen is an avid sports fan and has a true passion for Wisconsin Badger Football. When Karen is not busy saving lives, she is busy with her two dogs Bo and Max.*

*Karen has been chosen to be a “Star of Life” because of her commitment to doing what is right for her patients. Karen strives toward being the best clinician she can be and always puts her patient’s well-being first.*



**Heidi Traxler, EMT-Intermediate  
Baraboo, Wisconsin  
Baraboo District Ambulance Service**

*Heidi’s dedication to Baraboo District Ambulance Service goes beyond a job - she dedicates her own time to the betterment of the employees, the service, and the community in which she lives.*

*Heidi has volunteered and has taken on the enormous challenge of planning the annual Employee Appreciation Banquet, not missing a detail in four years. She volunteers to manage the checkbook and monitors the community kitchen supplies, fulfilling odd requests constantly. Heidi heads up the Adopt-A-Highway project for Baraboo Ambulance, again volunteering her time. She has motivated many employees to exercise and she makes time for those who want to work out or go for a hike. She is Rope Rescue Tech 3 trained and has committed countless hours to saving lives at Devil’s Lake State Park, and she was honored as Employee of the Year for 2009. Heidi is a friend, a great EMT, and an employee Baraboo Ambulance is more than proud to have.*

*Heidi is a wife and the mother of two very athletic teenage boys, and together they enjoy Milwaukee Brewers Baseball as a family.*



**Steve Zank, Critical Care Paramedic  
Lake Mills, Wisconsin  
Ryan Brothers Ambulance**

*Steve has been an employee of Ryan Brothers Ambulance for 8 years. Steve started in EMS in the early 1970’s and then left the field for many years until deciding to make EMS his career in 2002. During his time with the company, he has continually furthered his education becoming a Paramedic and then a Critical Care Paramedic. In addition, he is part of the Management Team and is the ALS/QA Coordinator and oversees company training.*

*Steve always exemplifies a “can do” attitude. He is able to effectively lead all types of individuals and has a very positive outlook that flows through to his fellow staff members. As Ryan Brothers has grown, Steve has grown with it. He continually looks for ways to better himself, his co-workers and the services that Ryan Brothers provides.*



**Mark A Sinotte, EMT-Paramedic**  
**Appleton, Wisconsin**  
**New London Family Medical Center**  
**Ambulance**

*Mark A. Sinotte is being honored for thirty consecutive years of dedicated service to the Emergency Medical Services Profession in both the civilian and military sectors.*

*In addition to delivering quality field care, Mark has served the profession as an ACLS instructor, college instructor-coordinator, Wisconsin EMS Honor Guard member, emergency preparedness coordinator and as a hospital corpsman in the US Navy.*

*Outside of EMS, Mark enjoys classical music, graphic art and spending time with his family.*



**Bill Tierney, EMT-Paramedic**  
**Portage, Wisconsin**  
**Divine Savior EMS**

*Bill has been a member of Divine Savior Healthcare EMS since 2002. Most recently, Bill retired from his career with the postal service and returned to school to complete his paramedic education. Bill is passionate about EMS and providing the best care to anyone he encounters. Bill is employed with Divine Savior Healthcare EMS part-time and is always available to assist his peers in any operation.*

*Bill brings with him the passion, caring, and dedication it takes to deliver the highest quality care to everyone who needs him. Bill has the bedside manner of a seasoned professional. He has the ability to make his patients feel at ease during the worst situation. Bill is the genuine thing!*

*EMS runs in Bill's family. His sister-in-law is also a Divine Savior Healthcare EMS crew member and Bill's son, Adam is an EMT with a neighboring service. The passion for EMS is truly in his blood!*



**Nick Eastman, EMT-Paramedic**  
**Onalaska, Wisconsin**  
**Tri-State Ambulance Service**

*Nick is being honored because he has shown extreme dedication and commitment to his fellow employees and organization. Nick has the drive to be the best at what he does. His optimistic view has positively influenced his fellow paramedics and EMTs. In addition to being a paramedic, he also holds the titles of FTO, IT Coordinator and Inventory and Supply Coordinator.*

*Nick has championed and completed over 30 projects in the five years he has been with Tri-State Ambulance. As IT Coordinator, Nick was challenged by management to find a way for the organization to go completely paperless. He met the challenge by creating a process in which employees can easily scan face sheets and PCS forms into the network where they then are attached to the PCR. This project has greatly increased efficiency and has made our organization completely paperless.*

*As of late, Nick has been enjoying moving into his new home, which he chose based on the dimensions of a future home theater.*



**Ronald Flegal, EMT-Paramedic**  
**Neenah, Wisconsin**  
**Gold Cross Ambulance Service**

*Ron became interested in EMS when he was a cub scout and boy scout completing first aid classes. Ron started on United Area Rescue Squad - Wabeno in April 1973. He has been at Gold Cross Ambulance since February 1976 and is currently working as a paramedic. Ron has run the EMS service at Wisconsin International Raceway in Kaukauna and has headed the EMS crews at Crandon International Speedway for Gold Cross.*

*Just recently, Ron requested to become a team member with N.E.W. Paramedic Rescue, a single paramedic service in the Pulaski area that is managed by Gold Cross.*

*Ron's years of dedication show that he excels in providing the highest quality patient care and compassion to every patient he comes in contact with. Ron enjoys relaxing and spending quiet time away from work with his love, Dawn. He enjoys traveling up north to his cabin and down to his place in Florida. Getting away on his Harley has been his passion and he has a revived interest in restoring his Corvette.*



**Kate Gallagher, EMT-Paramedic  
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin  
Baraboo District Ambulance Service**

*Kate has a tireless work ethic. Averaging 16 hours on every shift, her demeanor and skill level remain superior. Kate is a confident critical care paramedic and leader. Her calm personality eases others on chaotic scenes and during those sleepless nights.*

*Known as “Mama Kate” to most employees, her welcoming personality invites others to feel at ease, her medical knowledge is reassuring on the most challenging calls, and her endurance to keep going straight through the night sets the standard for others. Kate was Employee of the Year for Baraboo Ambulance in 2009.*

*Kate is a mother of 4 teenage girls with whom she spends her time away from work. Kate also volunteers at local nursing homes.*



**David Gross, EMT-Intermediate  
Jefferson, Wisconsin  
Ryan Brothers Ambulance Service**

*David has been with Ryan Brothers since 2006. In addition to being an EMT-Intermediate and Crew Chief at Ryan Brothers, he also volunteers with Jefferson EMS. David has been very innovative in his approach to being the Inventory Coordinator at Ryan Brothers. He has automated much of the process and continually looks for ways to improve the system and significantly contributes to the company’s efforts to maintain economic efficiencies.*

*David willingly takes on additional duties and works additional hours as needs arise. In addition to working “more than full time” as a volunteer, he is currently enrolled in a Paramedic course and he operates Little River Services, LLC. His company is a full service firm that specializes in bookkeeping and income tax preparation.*



**Ben Schoenborn, EMT-Paramedic  
Chilton, Wisconsin  
Calumet Medical Center Ambulance**

*Professionalism is the one word that describes Ben Schoenborn.*

*Ben’s EMS Career began in 1989 when he became an EMT, joined Calumet Medical Center, and continued on to paramedic training. Ben continues to work part-time as a Calumet paramedic while working full-time at Oshkosh Fire. Ben is a leader, mentor, and has a sense of calmness to him that gives him the ability to control hectic and chaotic situation with ease.*

*When off duty from his full-time job Ben unselfishly makes time to care for people in need in his home town of Chilton. Ben has made such a difference in the lives of his patients and his commitment and dedication towards his community in itself is deserving of the distinguished honor of Wisconsin 2010 Star of Life.*



**Rick Sherman, Critical Care Paramedic  
Baraboo, Wisconsin  
Baraboo District Ambulance Service**

*Rick is one of the original Baraboo paramedics, and is a critical care paramedic who just can’t get enough calls. His contagious enthusiasm is a great reminder for those more seasoned and a positive start for new employees.*

*Rick has come in for back up calls more than any other employee two years in a row. He enjoys mentoring new employees and studying with students, always hoping to make an impact on their careers.*

*Rick is one of Baraboo Ambulance’s strongest paramedics, no call or skill is too challenging. He strives to stay proficient, even staying to assist at the hospitals when they need the help, or being extra hands on a call “just for fun”. Rick is a member of the Sauk County Emergency Response Team as a paramedic, and he is rope rescue trained to the Tech 3 level. Rick is an asset to Baraboo Ambulance as a paramedic, a mentor and a friend to all.*

*Rick is a husband and an avid outdoorsman. He and his wife, Ella, hunt, fish and exercise hand in hand, and they are active members of their church and community.*



**Teri L Nitka, EMT/Operations Director  
Caledonia, Wisconsin  
Paratech Ambulance**

*Teri joined the Paratech family in 1987. For many dedicated years Teri has worked tirelessly in EMS and has worn many hats including the last 15 years in an Administrative position as Director of Ambulance Operations. Teri completed the Ambulance Service Management Institute in 1997,*

*Some of Teri's numerous contributions include writing handbooks, orchestrating the Advanced Life Support Program and Interfacility Transport, securing many contracts, and most recently by obtaining Illinois licensure for interfacility transports.*

*Teri enjoys decorating, boating, THE LAKE, shopping, antiques, her dogs, her new home, her husband – Chris, her family and grandchildren.*



**Jay Norgel, EMT-Paramedic  
Sheboygan, Wisconsin  
Plymouth Ambulance Service**

*Jay is being honored by Plymouth Ambulance for his dedication, professionalism, and patient care advocacy.*

*Jay is an EMS professional and demands professionalism from his co-workers. While serving as a paid-on-call or full-time paramedic Jay has been instrumental in training, guiding, and befriending all who come through the Plymouth Ambulance doors.*

*Jay has been instrumental in strengthening the fleet maintenance program and is currently exploring options to create an in-house fleet service program.*

*When Jay is not working he enjoys the company of his wife Jill and his two children. Jay is also an avid camper and motorcycle enthusiast.*

*Jay is a true Star of Life for all of his dedication and professionalism as well as hours of helping out other EMS Professionals and his friends.*



**Ron & Linda Hieronimczak,  
EMT-Intermediate  
Oneida, Wisconsin  
County Rescue Services**

*Linda began her public service career in 1986 as a First Responder and became an EMT in 1987 with what was then Tri-County Rescue. Ron joined her in 1988 as a First Responder and went on to become an EMT in 1990. During their time with Tri-County Rescue, they served in many positions, Linda as Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President and Ron as Board of Directors, Driver Trainer and Equipment committee. Their dedication to EMS carried over to County Rescue Services (CRS) in 2002 when they came to work as EMT-I's and Volunteer Certified First Responders for the Hobart area. Ron and Linda are both known as valuable assets to both the company and the community in which they serve.*

*In their free time, Ron and Linda enjoy raising miniature horses, managing their miniature petting zoo and playing golf. They will be married 36 years in September and have three children, Trisha (Hieronimczak) Follen, Kurt and Tara, as well as two grandchildren.*



**Scott Hirsch, EMT-Paramedic  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Meda-Care Ambulance**

*Scott is a tireless worker. Whether working a 24 or an 8 hour shift, he literally doesn't sit down. He constantly finds something to clean, straighten up or someone to train.*

*Scott exemplifies the word "professional". He conducts himself with pride for himself and pride for the company he works for. Having 15 years at Meda-Care, he has seen and been involved in every kind of situation possible. Not only is he employed at Meda-Care but he works a second stressful job as a Security Supervisor for MPS.*

*Scott never grumbles, keeps a constant sense of humor, and bolsters his fellow workers when they are low. Every EMS service would be lucky to have Scott to work for them. He is being recognized for his dedication, loyalty, personal integrity and years of service.*



**Steve Krantz, EMT-Paramedic  
Appleton, Wisconsin  
Gold Cross Ambulance Service**

*Steve is being honored for his commitment to EMS for the past 36 years. If there is a word to describe Steve, it is energetic.*

*Employed by Gold Cross Ambulance for the past 17 years, Steve has been in various roles to include, paramedic, a crew chief, Training and Education Coordinator, and currently as the CIRC Coordinator for ZOLL.*

*Steve's energy is contagious and everyone around him can feel the outward energy he puts into his work and passion. His "can do" attitude is a testament to his love for EMS.*

*Steve enjoys camping and spending time with his wife Cindy and their four grown children and their Labrador retrievers, Cooper and Casey.*



**Robert & Mary Remiker,  
Driver and EMT-Intermediate  
Denmark, Wisconsin  
Viking Community Rescue  
Squad**

*Bob joined Viking as a driver in 1989. Knowing that Viking was in need of assistance, Bob took evening and weekend shifts to work around his full time position at Hamilton Industries. Bob volunteered as the Director of Viking in 1994, was a member of the Board of Directors for many years and was also on the committee to find a new location for Viking Rescue.*

*Mary joined Viking in 1991 after attending a ride-along with her husband Bob. Mary became an EMT and later an EMT-I. Mary was the secretary of Viking for 8 years, Director in 2002, and a member of Brown County EMS Council for many years. She accomplished this all while also working full time first at M&I Bank and then at St Vincent Hospital.*

*As a couple, the Remiker's are known as prolific schedulers and supporters of Viking Community Rescue Squad. Their consistent, long term devotion and commitment to Viking and their community qualifies them as Stars of Life.*



**Michael Peterson, EMT-Paramedic  
Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin  
Tri-State Ambulance Service**

*Mike is being honored because he has shown true dedication and commitment to his fellow employees and to Tri-State. Mike understands EMS and because of his many years of experiences, has been able to improve the quality of our organization.*

*Mike has more than 20 years' experience in the fire service and EMS in both staff and leadership roles.*

*A recent example of Mike's commitment was his championing of a complete inventory reduction project on 13 of our ambulances. Through analyzing inventory levels and usage trends, Mike was able to identify the minimal levels of inventory required while maintaining compliance with government and system requirements. He was able to form a small team of dedicated individuals who together completed this project in less than three months. This complex project was executed timely and efficiently and resulted in cost savings, reduction of waste and increased crew satisfaction.*

*Mike's personal interests will revolve around his newly born son, Ashton.*

