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Seventh Annual  
Professional Ambulance Association of  
Wisconsin

Stars of Life  
Recognition Program  
September 19, 2012

Stars of Life Program Printing Services Provided By:



*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*



**Lisa Antoniewicz, Deputy Chief/Lieutenant  
Madison, Wisconsin  
Deer-Grove EMS & Oregon Area Fire & EMS  
District**

*Lisa is being honored by two services that she currently works for, Deer-Grove EMS and Oregon Area Fire & EMS District.*

*Lisa is the type of person who lives EMS, not just works in the field. She dedicates herself to productively supporting growth and positive changes for our organization. Lisa is the Deputy Chief for Deer-Grove EMS. In nearly a decade of service, she had held almost every position the organization has to offer, including having briefly been Chief to keep the organization running. Lisa excels in her involvement in both billing and training aspects of our organization, which means that she is the central strength to our “backbone”.*

*Lisa is dedicated to the Oregon Fire & EMS District providing quality monthly EMS training, tutoring of EMS students and continuous quality assurance of all EMS operations. Her most distinguishing trait is her dedication and her desire to deliver the highest quality of care possible through training, tutoring and mentoring of EMS personnel.*

*Through her high level of commitment to the Oregon Area Fire & EMS District’s EMS program, Lisa has made a profound difference in the members knowledge and skills that they provide during emergency incidents.*

*An example of that care is a recent case when a pregnant female arrived by private car at the station door. The skilled EMTs and IV techs taught and assisted by Lt. Antoniewicz had a successful birth in the ambulance before they could leave the station for the hospital.*

*It is very reassuring to have Lt. Antoniewicz, who is such a dedicated and knowledgeable person, providing the training and quality assurance to the members of our District. Lt. Antoniewicz had single handedly raised the EMS abilities and care within our service.*



**Terri Winske, EMT-P/Customer Relations  
Green Bay, Wisconsin  
County Rescue Services / Eagle III**

*Terri Winske’s career at County Rescue Services began as Office Manager in 1988. In 1989 she entered EMT school to get a better understanding of field operations and subsequently apply this training to her role in insurance billing. She received her EMT-P license in 1992 and then her Critical Care certification in 1997. She has earned the Certified Ambulance Coder certificate and Certified Flight Communicator certificate. Terri is also a CPR instructor, conducting many classes each year and assisting in County Rescue’s recertification needs. She participates as an instructor with County Rescue’s Medical Responder corps and is a Training Assistant at NWTC for Medical Responder and EMT courses.*

*Terri also has the natural ability to put others at ease, whether it is a patient needing reassurance after a car accident or a family member needing a friendly voice when calling to set up a transfer for a loved one.*

*In her free time, Terri enjoys camping, being outdoors and spending time with her significant other, Craig.*



*2012  
Stars  
of Life*



**Robin Taylor – CTC Coordinator  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Paratech Ambulance Service**

*Paratech Ambulance is honoring Robin for her selfless commitment to EMS Education and her humanitarian characteristics that reach far beyond what is professionally expected. Robin began her career in EMS 16 years ago. During her career in EMS, Robin has sought to increase her knowledge and skills, and has held positions of Field Trainer, Crew Chief and training coordinator through the American Heart Association.*

*Robin has taught countless CPR, GEMS (Geriatric Education for EMS) and other educational classes. Recently a student called to express her appreciation for Robin's teaching skills and explained two days after completing the CPR training, the student had the ability and knowledge to provide the necessary life-saving measures to save this person's life. In addition to her many strengths, Robin also has the ability to balance career and family. She is a grandmother to five grandchildren and in her spare time, she enjoys crocheting, guitar playing, cross country skiing and bowling.*



**Mark Westfall, D.O., Medical Director  
Neenah, Wisconsin  
Gold Cross Ambulance Service – Fox Valley**

*Dr. Westfall is being honored for his commitment to our staff in improving patient care in the Fox Valley. Dr. Westfall has been a very active medical director, spending countless hours with the staff over the last 15 years, whether it is in the ER, at continuing education sessions, or in riding along in the ambulance.*

*Prior to becoming a physician Dr. Westfall was a paramedic in Chicago area. He went into the military and was attached to a Special Forces Unit in the U.S. Army and was a flight surgeon. Dr. Westfall is a true leader in our industry and we are glad he chose Wisconsin as his home.*

*Mark and his wife Jean enjoy traveling in their leisure time. They have recently experienced grandparenthood and will make excellent grandparents insuring they will truly spoil their grandchildren.*



**Tawnya Baxter, EMT/Dispatcher  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Meda-Care Ambulance**

*Tawnya Baxter has been an EMT/Dispatcher for Meda-Care Ambulance since 2005. She is being honored for her excellence in both capacities, but specifically because of the way she handled an incident on the afternoon of July 14, 2012.*

*One of our "regular" families called to ask for our assistance. The more questions Tawnya asked, the more she realized how serious this situation had become. As it turned out, the patient was pulseless and Tawnya talked a family member through performing CPR, while she then was patched through to West Allis Fire Department, having them respond.*

*She handled this situation with a calm, professional demeanor. As dispatchers for private ambulance companies, this is a very rare situation. Tawnya handled herself as if she does this every day. We at Meda-Care Ambulance are very proud of Tawnya. She has received an internal award for the actions, but she also deserves to receive the 2012 PAAW Star of Life award as well.*



**Steve Beno – Paramedic Lieutenant  
Walworth, Wisconsin  
Delavan Rescue Squad**

*Steve has been with the Delavan Rescue Squad for just over two years and during this time has become a paramedic and taken on the responsibilities of shift lieutenant. Steve was recommended as a Star by the staff he works with. Steve is fair in his leadership and works with the others to enhance their knowledge and skills. Steve has taken the responsibility for such programs as our Individual Response Team and working with the local schools athletic programs.*

*Beside his leadership, Steve always arrives early for shifts. He also covers hours or sick calls without ever complaining. He covers not only his calls, but also assists the other crews whenever he can. He is truly one of our "Stars".*



**Bruce Bowen – Dispatcher  
Wind Lake, Wisconsin  
Meda-Care Ambulance**

*Bruce's career at Meda-Care Ambulance began in the late 1980s. As an EMT-Basic, he worked 24-hour rotating shifts. He left the company for a few years, but his heart did not. He returned in 1999 to become a full-time dispatcher. He started out in the third shift position, and when the opportunity arose, applied and received the daytime position. Day in and day out, Bruce answers the phone with a smile. He is the first connection to our patients and he makes it a positive one.*

*The reason Bruce is being honored with the 2012 PAAW Star of Life award is twofold. First of all, it is for his longevity with our service and his excellent attendance record. The second reason is more of because of who he is. Bruce's personality is larger than life. He makes new employees feel welcome. His sense of humor is contagious and much needed in this serious business. Bruce puts his heart into his job and we at Meda-Care Ambulance are better for it. Thank you Bruce!*



**Sarah Chesky – EMT Supervisor  
Delavan, Wisconsin  
Bell Ambulance**

*As a reliable, hardworking, and kind-hearted EMT, Sarah Chesky has been an influential figure amongst her fellow EMTs and Paramedics. As a shift supervisor, Sarah takes a path of camaraderie over command, is a leader by example, and provides excellent training and supervision. Sarah's distinguishing personal trait is her ability to handle any situation while remaining calm and never losing her temper. She is an effective motivator, able to adapt to any personality.*

*Sarah has injected the fundamentals of customer service and professionalism into patient care. Sarah is emulated by those new to the field and respected by the most experienced. A two-time recipient of Bell's Employee of the Year and numerous commendations prove that Sarah is a true Star within this EMS community.*



**Travis Orzel, Deputy Chief  
Elkhorn, Wisconsin  
Delavan Rescue Squad, Inc.**

*Travis has been the Deputy Chief of the Delavan Rescue Squad, Inc for the past three years and has guided the service through very stressful times. He has been the rock that has anchored our staff during these times. He is the first in the office in the morning and the last to leave. His work ethic is such that he is also the first to volunteer to work extra hours and cover open shifts.*

*Travis is a valuable employee and a valuable co-worker. He forms the important bridge between the administration and the staff and his commitment to providing quality EMS care to our city helps lead the staff in the same direction.*



**Pat Ryan – Founder  
Madison, Wisconsin  
Ryan Brothers Ambulance Service**

*At the age of 21, Pat and his brother Paul founded Ryan Brothers Ambulance in July 1962. He is truly one of the pioneers of EMS in Wisconsin. His EMT number is 341. Over the past 16 years he has been very supportive of the next generation and continues to provide valuable guidance after 50 years of service. At the station, he is affectionately known as the "CEO". Pat now devotes his spare time to his "second career" as a semi-professional slot machine player.*

*There are many significant milestones in Pat's career including delivering a baby in an ambulance at the age of 16 (before he even knew where they came from) and spending 20+ years on the sidelines of Camp Randall providing EMS to the UW football team on game Saturdays. But, most of all, he and his brother Paul, dreamed of starting an ambulance service and through hard work, commitment and old school business sense, they laid the foundation for what is now the oldest single family owned ambulance service in the State of Wisconsin.*



**Caleb Johnson – EMT-P, Lieutenant  
North Freedom, Wisconsin  
Baraboo District Ambulance Service**

*Caleb Johnson is the youngest, yet easily the most motivated individual on our department. He started as a part time EMT-Basic right out of high school four years ago and has since become a Paramedic and a Lieutenant. Caleb has educated himself in both pre-hospital medicine and leadership.*

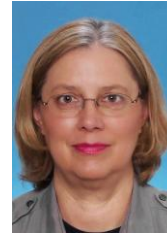
*Caleb was awarded the position of Lieutenant from a challenging group of applicants, many of which had much more experience. Taking charge of his crew, Caleb earned their trust and loyalty. He continues to impress by taking on major responsibilities such as communication updates and compliance and he is now responsible for hiring new employees. Caleb is an exemplary employee whose values and dedication are paramount. Outside of work, Caleb enjoys hunting and fishing with his twin brother and working on the home he recently purchased for his family.*



**Amanda Nogee – EMT Intermediate Tech  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin  
Ryan Brothers Ambulance – Ft. Atkinson**

*Amanda has been an EMT- Intermediate Technician since March 2009. She was named Employee of the Year for 2011 and also has held the positions of Crew Chief and Field Preceptor. She graduated from UW-Eau Claire in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and is currently working toward becoming a Physician’s Assistant.*

*Amanda has always shown a great attention to detail and is very successful at empowering her fellow employees to achieve high goals and consistently deliver the highest quality patient care. Both the company and peers recognize her frequently for going above and beyond. In 2011, Amanda volunteered on a medical mission to Bogota, Columbia and put both her EMS and Spanish skills to work.*



**Lucy Cordes – EMT-Paramedic  
Winona, Wisconsin  
Tri-State Ambulance**

*Lucy is being honored as a 2012 PAAW Star of Life because she has demonstrated her commitment to EMS and Tri-State Ambulance for over 23 years. Lucy has always shown an extra amount of compassion to the patients she cares for and in roles including preceptor and Field Training Officer.*

*Lucy has been an exemplary paramedic for the past 23 years. Her compassion toward her patients has touched countless lives in their time of need. In addition to Lucy being a skilled and caring paramedic, she has also demonstrated her ability to go above and beyond by taking on such extra duties as mapping and book writing. In 2010, Lucy created an entire Tri-State Ambulance history book, which contains photos and media stories of the last 40 years of Tri-State Ambulance. Lucy is also an excellent photographer.*



**Michael D. Curtis, M.D. – Medical Director  
Mosinee, Wisconsin  
Amherst Fire District – Portage County EMS**

*Dr. Curtis is being honored for his outstanding commitment to the Amherst Fire District and Portage County EMS. Dr. Curtis has been very involved as our Medical Director and was instrumental in the development of the Amherst Fire District Ambulance. Dr. Curtis has been our Medical Director for the past ten years and an emergency room physician for over 20 years.*

*While Dr. Curtis has many outside interests, his focus and vision is always on the future of EMS in Portage County and the State of Wisconsin. Dr. Curtis implemented the Portage County EMS quality improvement program, which is more than just chart reviews, and has evolved to be a multi-faceted project that truly encourages quality. Dr. Curtis led the building of an after action review for large incidents, a customer satisfaction survey, a quality assurance review to follow up on calls where a concern was reported and an RSI case review. The largest piece is a statistical analysis of care provided by the services in selected medical and trauma cases. The program uses nationally recognized quality indicators and focuses on process improvement rather than individual performance.*



**Mike Huber – EMT - Paramedic  
Sparta, Wisconsin  
Tri-State Ambulance**

*Mike is being honored as a Star of Life because he continuously demonstrates commitment to Tri-State Ambulance by willingly seeking out and accepting extra duties. Mike is willing and able to accept any task that is asked of him. Although Mike has only been with Tri-State Ambulance for less than two years, his dedication and commitment show.*

*Mike comes from a farming background where his work ethic has carried over to EMS. In early 2012, Tri-State Ambulance purchased a new operations and administrative building. Mike volunteered to spend numerous days helping with the move. Mike organized the new facility in such a way that the transition was efficient and relatively painless. In addition to the move, Mike took the lead role in completely reconfiguring eight ambulances acquired through an acquisition.*



**Shane Hughes – Paramedic Supervisor  
Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin  
Gold Cross Ambulance Service – Fox Valley**

*Shane is being honored because he has the ambition to become a great leader in EMS. He was promoted to supervisor in 2010 and currently manages Calumet Medical Center's Ambulance Service in Chilton Wisconsin. In addition, Shane is a critical care paramedic and on occasion flies with a local helicopter service out of Fond du Lac during his off time.*

*Shane's talents are many and are most impressed with his ability to get into extreme situations and make perfect sense out of them. Patients are in good hands with Shane and his professionalism and compassion to help people in their worst times are extraordinary.*

*Outside of EMS, Shane enjoys fishing, hunting, and motorcycling. He loves spending time with Amy and taking trips to the Florida Keys. In-fact you may have even purchased an anchor from him!*



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