



The Professional Ambulance Association of Wisconsin, commonly referred to as PAAW, is a member association dedicated to healthy, sustainable ambulance and emergency medical services delivery in Wisconsin. The website is www.PAAW.us.

PAAW has proudly produced the Wisconsin Stars of Life event since 2006, which is modeled after the American Ambulance Association's National Stars of Life program.

Past Wisconsin award recipients can be viewed at www.PAAW.us/stars-of-life.

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September 24, 2015
*Tundra Lodge and Conference Center
Green Bay, Wisconsin*

Welcome to Stars of Life 2015

Individuals recognized this evening were nominated by their respective department or organization for achievement and dedication above and beyond the call of duty in their respective work or volunteer activities—many of whom have given selflessly of their time and talent to make a difference.

Stars of Life honorees represent the best of the best in Wisconsin's emergency medical services as nominated by their organization. The honor of Wisconsin Star of Life recipient will be bestowed on each of them this evening.

In addition, 2015 Stars will be invited to a one-day event this fall at the State Capitol in Madison. Plans include being introduced before the Senate and Assembly. They will also have the opportunity to meet their local legislative representatives as they speak on behalf of emergency medical services.

One person from the Stars of Life 2015 honorees will be announced this evening and advance to represent Wisconsin at the National Stars of Life celebration in Washington, D.C., in April 2016.

Stars of Life 2015 Committee Members

Joe Covelli
Larry Knuth
Linda Wiedmann

Wisconsin Stars of Life program booklet printed as a courtesy by Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Emergency Services.

National Star of Life Selection Committee Members

Linda Wiedmann, Committee Chair
Meda-Care Ambulance (Retired)
Milwaukee, WI

Cody Doucette
Operations Supervisor
Divine Savior EMS
Portage, WI

Karla Eppler
Director
Winona Ambulance
Winona, MN

Don Knutson
Director
Colfax Rescue
Colfax, WI

Ted Ryan
System Director
Ministry Spirit Medical Transportation
Weston, WI

Russ Schafer
Director
Lodi EMS
Lodi, WI

Jim Singer
System Director
Flight For Life
Waukesha, WI

Rick Stenson
Director of Business Development
Meda-Care Ambulance
Milwaukee, WI

Presentation of

National Star of Life Award

One person from the group of 2015 Stars of Life honorees will advance to represent Wisconsin at the National Stars of Life ceremony in Washington, D.C., in April 2016.

This individual will receive a \$750 travel voucher from the Professional Ambulance Association of Wisconsin, and a grant toward complimentary hotel accommodations and event registration for the Star, Star's guest and Star's host (employer) at the National Stars of Life ceremony, courtesy of the American Ambulance Association Foundation.



National Stars of Life - Washington, D.C.

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Keynote Address



Buck McAlpin

This evening's keynote address is provided by Buck McAlpin, a 2015 Community Star of Life recipient.

Buck is Vice President of Government Relations for North Memorial Medical Center, Robbinsdale, Minnesota, and for a number of years has been the legislative lobbyist for the Minnesota Ambulance Association.

He is a nationally recognized leader in healthcare and community paramedicine delivery methods that fill gaps in coverage with EMTs and Paramedics. The State of Minnesota is one of a handful of states leading the way in this new area of healthcare delivery that many are looking at closely.

Buck began his career as a Paramedic, taking a later interest in bridging healthcare, EMS and government.

Presentation of 2015 National Star of Life Award



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Stars Days at the State Capitol



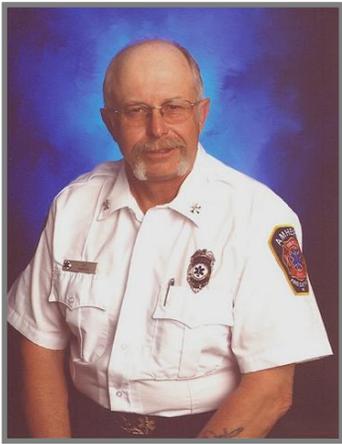
The 2015 Stars of Life honorees will be invited to a one-day event this fall at the State Capitol in Madison. Plans include being introduced before the Senate and Assembly. They will also have the opportunity to meet with their local legislative representatives as they speak on behalf of emergency medical services in their area.



Presentation of 2015 Stars of Life Honorees

Bio's and Information





David C. Allen
EMT - Paramedic
Amherst, WI

Nominated By
Amherst Fire/Portage Co. EMS

David has given 25 years of service to the Amherst Fire District and the people of Portage County before retiring in 2014.

He is a well-known and revered citizen of Amherst and highly respected by his fellow EMS professionals.

As an EMS provider and leader, David's example set the bar for excellence for all who worked with him.

David's storied career in EMS was nothing short of legendary. Undoubtedly, the crowning jewel was the establishment of the Amherst ambulance service in 2008. Now providing Intermediate services, it greatly reduced ALS response times to the eastern flank of Portage County. David worked tirelessly to ensure the delivery of high-quality care and to integrate it into the existing countywide system.

Thanks to David's remarkable leadership and unwavering dedication to excellence, the Amherst Fire District's ambulance service is a proud and vital component of the Portage County EMS System, and he, thereby, has earned the enduring gratitude of everyone it serves.



Walt Zehr
Critical Care Paramedic
Manchester, IA

Nominated By
Gundersen Tri-State Regional Ambulance

Walt continuously demonstrates integrity and professionalism.

Walt's calm and fair demeanor make him well-liked and respected in his role as a supervisor.

He is a full time supervisor and critical care paramedic. He has leadership experience with our organization and others.

Walt has played a pivotal role in our organization's partnership with a local hospital. Through effective communication on Walt's part, a partnership where our staff works in the emergency department has been established and has become a very successful venture.

The duties and responsibilities performed by Walt contribute to the quality of life for citizens and visitors to Wisconsin through delivery of emergency medical care and treatment to the sick and injured.



Amy Zehr
Critical Care Paramedic
Manchester, IA

Nominated By

Gundersen Tri-State Regional Ambulance

Amy is a shift leader and critical care paramedic. She has demonstrated her dedication to her roles and the team.

She is approachable and positive and these traits contribute to make her a respected and well liked shift leader.

Amy has been with our organization for nearly three years. In addition to her role as a paramedic, Amy is also training to become a community paramedic for our organization.

Amy is the type of person who always wants to take on more. This is demonstrated with her recently becoming trained as a critical care paramedic. Amy is now expanding her role even more to become trained as a community paramedic.

The duties and responsibilities performed by Amy contribute to the quality of life for citizens and visitors to Wisconsin through delivery of emergency medical care and treatment to the sick and injured.



**Susan L.
Armstrong– Schlegel**
EMT - Advanced
Saukville, WI

Nominated By

Saukville Fire Department

Susan is being honored for her ongoing dedication and commitment, and most recently her promotion to EMS Lieutenant.

Her distinguishing trait is her ability to help others. She always finds the time to put others before herself.

Susan's work experience includes AEMT, EMS Lieutenant, AEMT Preceptor, BLS Instructor and prior Fire Safety Coordinator.

On May 19, 2014, an explosion occurred at the foundry in Saukville. Susan and her partner were dispatched for a gentleman who sustained burns from molten brass. Flight was dispatched. His clothes and boots were melted to his skin. He said he instinctively put his hands to his face. His hands were burned, but this might have saved his life, as he was breathing on his own. Susan and her partner began IV's and slowly cut off his clothes, pouring water over his skin, and monitored his vitals. Flight arrived and took over care. Susan was humbled by this gentleman in the short, but serious time she took care of him. Susan will never forget when amidst his pain he said "Thank You". Susan will never forget him.



Charles E. Cady, MD
Medical Director
Menomonee Falls, WI

Nominated By

Professional Ambulance Association of WI

Dr. Charles "Chuck" Cady recently concluded his tenure at both the State of Wisconsin as EMS and Trauma Care System Medical Director, which he began in 2008, and his faculty appointment as Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

His emergency medicine interests date back to 1990 when he received his Wisconsin EMT-Basic license, a license he maintained until 1998.

In 1997, Dr. Cady earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Dr. Cady is an accomplished and respected medical professional, someone who truly seeks out opportunities to make a difference and offer his dedication and guidance to emergency medicine.

In 2010, Dr. Cady founded the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of EMS Physicians, which he just concluded his term as president.

Dr. Cady is currently the medical director at Kenosha Fire Department and emergency department physician at Waukesha Memorial Hospital.

On behalf of EMS personnel throughout Wisconsin, PAAW is pleased to extend its appreciation and name Dr. Cady a 2015 Star of Life.



Christoph Walters
Critical Care Paramedic
Watertown, WI

Nominated By

Paratech Ambulance

Christoph is being recognized for his exemplary career along with his passion for improving the EMS profession in the State of Wisconsin.

He has also been instrumental in cross credentialing responders from other volunteer departments to respond along with his local department responses.

Christoph's most distinguishing trait is his passion for the job and his dedication and love for the EMS profession.

Christoph has been employed with Paratech Ambulance for over 11 years and now serves as one of our Ambulance Operations Managers.

When Christoph isn't at Paratech, he volunteers for Lebanon Fire Department as a Service Director and volunteer fire fighter. Chris is involved with several EMS committees, SERTAC, the WI EMS Board Data sub-committee, STAC PI committee, and SCRTAC as a chair person.

Christoph is being recognized for his numerous contributions to EMS, his local volunteer department and to Paratech Ambulance. His continuing dedication and commitment to excellence in EMS is truly amazing. He is a true leader and a bright new Star for the EMS profession.



Rebecca Versey
Critical Care Paramedic
Sheboygan, WI

Nominated By
Orange Cross Ambulance

Rebecca is a true leader in EMS with over 20 years in EMS and also is an educator.

She is caring and professional and always looking to help and deliver the best care possible.

Rebecca took the lead in developing OCA pediatric program. This program allows the local MD's to help us QA and develop/guide our medics to provide exceptional care.

The duties and responsibilities performed by Rebecca contribute to the quality of life for citizens and visitors to Wisconsin through delivery of emergency medical care and treatment to the sick and injured.



Tyler Christifulli
Critical Care Paramedic
West Bend, WI

Nominated By
Lifestar EMS

Tyler has a commitment to the best patient care and the advancement of EMS education.

He is passionate about education and full heartedly commits himself to it.

Tyler started in EMS in 2006 and is now a Critical Care Paramedic.

Tyler began at Lifestar EMS in 2009.

In 2014, Tyler became the Assistant Training and Education Center Coordinator at Lifestar EMS.

Through Tyler's action, guidance and leadership he has helped set a new standard for care at Lifestar EMS.

Tyler works with all levels of EMS and other healthcare providers to help them step out of their comfort zone and expand the possibilities for patient care.



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Steve Stroman, MD
Medical Director
De Pere, WI

Nominated By De Pere Fire Rescue

Dr. Stroman provides outstanding leadership and guidance to De Pere Fire Rescue and the EMS system in Brown County.

He is a leading edge practitioner that works tirelessly to improve the skills, knowledge and abilities of Advanced Life Support providers resulting in the best evidence-based medicine achievable.

Dr. Stroman is an Emergency Department Physician; practicing Paramedic; Medical Director for De Pere Fire Rescue; Eagle III Flight; Oconto Falls Fire Department & Oshkosh Fire Department; National EMS Educator.

Dr. Stroman is a valuable member of the incident command team at De Pere Fire Rescue. The events that have distinguished him as a "Star of Life" honoree includes: automobile accidents, many advanced life support calls (i.e., pulseless non-breather); apartment and building fires. Dr. Stroman has selflessly provided tremendous command presence at each of these events without compensation.

Based on the facts of the matter, Assistant Fire Chief Steven Stroman, MD is hereby respectfully nominated for this prestigious award.



Amy Smith
EMT - Basic
La Crosse, WI

Nominated By

Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance

Amy is a tremendous asset to our organization and always is willing to help with any project or duty.

She is ambitious and eager to help. She works quietly but productively on many projects.

Amy has been with our organization for over 5 years as a highly qualified EMT and is now a full-time staff member on a dedicated critical care ambulance. In addition to EMS, Amy is a part-time firefighter with Onalaska Fire Department.

Amy's role on a La Crosse based critical care ambulance keeps her often at our main facility. Instead of watching television or surfing the web while waiting for the next call, Amy chooses to seek out extra work and odds and ends jobs that need completing. She is a tremendous organizer and makes the jobs of her co-workers easier.

The duties and responsibilities performed by Amy contribute to the quality of life for citizens and visitors to Wisconsin through delivery of emergency medical care and treatment to the sick and injured.



Julie Dehne
Critical Care Paramedic
Newton, WI

Nominated By

Valders Ambulance

Julie has an unending dedication to the department, patients, and the people of the communities that we serve.

She is a great leader and sets an example for the rest of the employees to look up to and follow.

Julie is a Critical Care paramedic and has been with Valders Ambulance treating patients for 13 years.

After 13 years in the EMS service it is an impossible task to pick one of the many lives that Julie has made a difference in. Not only has she resuscitated PNB's, diagnosed field stemi's and stabilized multi-system traumas until she could deliver them to a level II trauma center, but she has shown the same dedication for the 2am call for a lonely grandma that needed help getting to the living room chair.

Julie spends her free time volunteering in the community and stopping by patients' homes after they return from the hospital to check on them and make sure that all their needs are covered.

Julie is a true leader and role model for our ambulance service and the entire EMS community.



Dan Diestler
Medical First Responder
Green Bay, WI

Nominated By
County Rescue Services

Dan has been a Volunteer First Responder for County Rescue Services since 1998. Over those 17 years he has developed into an exemplary team member.

Dan was a volunteer firefighter for Little Suamico from 1993-1997 and the Town of Oneida Fire Department from 1997-2000.

In addition to his duties as a First Responder, he holds a full time position as a Process Control Designer for Baisch Engineering in Kaukauna.

Dan's dedication and commitment to his community, his coworkers, and to County Rescue has been demonstrated by his willingness to function as a leader and a liaison for the Oneida First Responders, helping with everything from problem resolution to recruitment and equipment.

It is this type of attitude and dedication that has been beneficial to County Rescue and makes Dan a true STAR in the organization.



Nick Romenesko
EMT - Paramedic
Little Chute, WI

Nominated By
Gold Cross Ambulance—Fox Valley

Nick is being nominated as this year's "Star of Life" recipient for his dedication to EMS. Nick always strives to do his best.

He joined Gold Cross Ambulance in 2012 as a paramedic. He wears many hats and is the chair of our safety committee, dispatcher, and field training officer.

Day in and day out, Nick exemplifies what a paramedic is all about.....he uses teamwork, good communication and problem-solving skills in each and every event.

Nick leads by example and as a field training officer, uses his experience and calm demeanor to help out new paramedics. He is always striving to improve his own skills as well, and approaches the job with a positive outlook, incorporating teamwork in his everyday work.

The duties and responsibilities performed by Nick contribute to quality of life for citizens and visitors to Wisconsin through delivery of emergency medical care and treatment to the sick and injured.

Gold Cross Ambulance is very proud to have Nick represent Gold Cross Ambulance as this year's Wisconsin "Star of Life" recipient.

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*Congratulations to the 2015
Wisconsin Stars of Life honorees!*

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Marlene Dirkes
EMT - Paramedic
Rice Lake, WI

Nominated By
Gold Cross Ambulance/Mayo Clinic Medical Transport

Gold Cross Ambulance, a service of Mayo Clinic, is proud to be represented by Marlene Dirkes, Paramedic/Team Captain, as a 2015 Star of Life.

Marlene began her career in health care at Barron (Wisc.) Hospital in 1988. When the hospital experienced a shortage of EMTs Marlene put her name in, thinking that it might be a stepping stone to nursing and test whether it might be a good fit. Emergency Medical Services indeed turned out to be a fit for Marlene. "I fell in love with EMS and have been involved in many aspects of it since," she says.

Marlene enrolled at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (Rice Lake, Wisc.) to earn her Paramedic license and later began preparing new Paramedics through teaching at the same college.

She is currently a Paramedic/Team Captain with Gold Cross and says she enjoys the challenges and rewards of leadership. "By far the best and biggest challenge of my career has been being in a leadership role and transitioning through many obstacles in my path," Marlene adds. She sums up her career this way: "I enjoy doing what I do not only because of the EMS aspects and caring for and helping people; but also for the staff that I work with. We have become a family and I genuinely care about them and really enjoy watching them excel in their careers and personal life."

Marlene says that when she first learned that she was selected as a Star of Life, "I initially giggled and thought that it wasn't real, and then thought what an honor it was; as I have always just thought I was doing my job as was expected."

**Congratulations,
Wisconsin Stars of
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Clayton Emons
EMT - Paramedic
Oshkosh, WI

Nominated By
Gold Cross Ambulance—Fox Valley

Clayton is being nominated as this year's "Star of Life" recipient for his dedication to EMS. He always strives to do his best.

Clayton joined Gold Cross Ambulance in 2012 as a paramedic and is currently a field training officer helping new paramedics enter the profession.

He is involved in Gold Cross' active shooter initiative helping design a system that will protect our paramedics and first responders when responding to dangerous situations.

Clayton is the type of person you would want coming to your house taking care of you or your loved one in the time of need. He is professional, caring, compassionate, and does so without expecting gratitude.

There are many calls that Clayton has made a difference in someone's life, but none more apparent than two recent shooting victims which both survived against all odds. While Clayton would acknowledge a team effort in saving both victims... he played an instrumental role in their survival.

All of these qualities spell an exceptional employee and well deserving for the nomination of Star of Life.

We are very proud and honored to have Clayton representing Gold Cross Ambulance as one of this year's Wisconsin "Star of Life" recipients.



David Robbins
IT Coordinator
Madison, WI

Nominated By
Ryan Brothers Ambulance

David is innovative, forward thinking and an extremely hard worker. He brings a fresh perspective to Ryan Brothers and our IT needs for now and into the future.

He is extremely diligent. He thoroughly researches all possible solutions to an issue or need and always has the organization's best interest at the top of his list.

David has handled Ryan Brothers Ambulance's IT needs since coming on staff to a newly created position in February 2011.

In EMS, often times support roles are overlooked as we focus on the technical skills of our industry. In many ways, David is the "unsung hero" at Ryan Brothers Ambulance.

David's technology expertise and dedication are vital to providing our staff with the ability to perform several aspects of their jobs.

David takes a significant part in helping all of our employees provide excellent patient care and customer service.

Ryan Brothers Ambulance recently went through a strategic change in our operating platform. David was instrumental in the execution of this plan.

Optimizing Ryan Brothers Ambulance technology effectiveness, David also leads many process improvement initiatives that realize increased effectiveness with technology.

David was our first full time employee dedicated to this role. While possessing a true commitment to the service we deliver, he has demonstrated continual growth both personally and for Ryan Brothers Ambulance.



James T. Poltrock
EMT - Paramedic
Kenosha, WI

Nominated By
Kenosha Fire Department

Chief Poltrock, as EMS Division Chief, has taken Kenosha Fire Department's EMS system from adequate to nothing short of excellent. He is tenacious in his pursuit for excellence.

Chief Poltrock has been with Kenosha Fire Department since 1994, being promoted to the head of EMS in 2009.

There are two events, while appearing very simple, really sum up Chief Poltrock's dedication to EMS and public service.

Dr. Cady remembers his first meeting with Chief Poltrock, a lieutenant at the time, where his only question was "what are you going to do to make Kenosha Fire Department EMS better?".

The second event, a few months ago, personnel were at a local store attending to a patient. The rigs were blocking vehicles in the parking lot. Chief Poltrock, confident in the ability of his providers to care for the patient without his direct involvement, went to each person in their cars, apologized for the delay and thanked them for waiting while the patient was cared for.

Chief Poltrock recognized not only the duty to the patient, but the duty to all of the citizens. Talking to them demonstrated that Chief Poltrock recognized their presence and showed that Kenosha Fire Department cares about the public as a whole. Instead of being angry that they were being delayed, these citizens blocked in the parking lot had an opportunity to be proud of their City's EMS system.

Everything Chief Poltrock does from patient care to public interaction is in keeping with this philosophy of public service excellence.



Deonne Eske
EMT - Basic
Ashippun, WI

Nominated By
Ashippun Fire Department

Deonne provides exemplary commitment to supporting local EMS and Ambulance services and community members; working collaboratively with our four transporting ambulance services.

In 2014, Deonne attended 100% of fire and EMS meetings and over 90% of fire and rescue calls as a volunteer.

Deonne has thirty-two years as a volunteer EMT/Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain and currently Chief. Forty years as a certified surgical technologist.

Ashippun has an elderly housing complex with 12 units. During a power outage, Deonne checked on all the residents. She set up a patient that was using an oxygen concentrator on a tank and returned every four hours around the clock to change the tank and check on everyone. She bought them all dinner at her own expense.

Deonne presents a fire safety program to the elderly yearly including how to call 911 and how to prepare for the ambulance arriving. She also provides follow ups on these patients after a transport, even cleaning up and changing sheets before they come back home.

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Beth Morando
Critical Care Paramedic
Verona, WI

Nominated By
Ryan Brothers Ambulance

Beth brings a very fresh perspective to the Management Team at Ryan Brothers. She is fun, energetic and a great motivator.

She looks at things a little differently than many of our employees (In a good way!). She is great at looking for any opportunity to better connect with our customers and partners.

Beth has worked as a Paramedic in many varied settings across the country, and also has a strong retail sales background.

Beth's natural personality traits lead to a fun, yet professional, work environment and help focus everyone on what is most important - patient care and customer service. She is a great "coach" to her fellow employees, as well as a great communicator with our customers.

She is also not afraid to ask "Why do we do it this way"? She is committed to bringing new and innovative ideas to the table that she develops or gets from employees. Many of these concepts have led to better efficiencies and improved work flow.

Beth brings a certain "flair" to our customer relations, which has strengthened our relationship with both old and new partners.



**Brennan “Buck”
McAlpin**
EMT - Paramedic
St. Paul, MN

Nominated By

Professional Ambulance Association of WI

Buck is a true EMS innovator when it comes to bringing government, ambulance services, healthcare providers, and the public closer together.

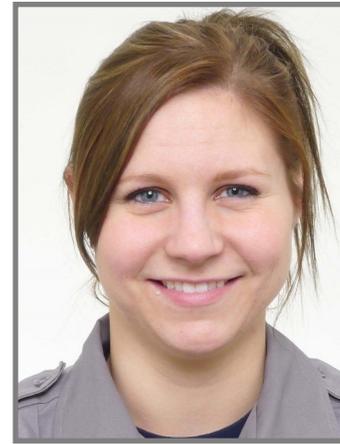
He has been instrumental in PAAW's legislative work since 2006 and offering the association recommendations and guidance. One of his suggestions some years ago was to pursue TRIP (Tax Refund Interception Program) to keep ambulance services financially stable through billing and collections. Governor Scott Walker signed TRIP into law on August 6, 2015.

Buck is currently assisting Wisconsin ambulance services, healthcare administrators, and providers implement community paramedicine concepts.

Through these and many other examples, Buck's work has and continues to touch many lives in Wisconsin. Wisconsin has benefited from his work and the relationship with PAAW.

The duties and responsibilities performed by Buck contribute to quality of life for citizens and visitors to Wisconsin through delivery of emergency medical care and treatment to the sick and injured.

For these and many other reasons, PAAW is proud to recognize Mr. Brennan "Buck" McAlpin as a Wisconsin Star of Life.



Kelsey Esser
Critical Care Paramedic
La Crosse, WI

Nominated By

Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance

Kelsey is ambitious and hard working and always keeps a positive attitude. She has the respect of her peers and always goes the extra mile.

She is in her 5th year as a paramedic and had recently become a critical care paramedic.

Kelsey took over our Bike Medic program, we were struggling with retaining enough members. Since her ownership of the program, our recruitment has grown and even requires an application and interview process. People are eager to be part of the bike team and Kelsey has since had the opportunity to do a number of news interviews which she has also excelled at.

The duties and responsibilities performed by Kelsey contribute to the quality of life for citizens and visitors to Wisconsin through delivery of emergency medical care and treatment of the sick and injured.



Kevin W. King
EMT - Intermediate
Shawano, WI

Nominated By
Shawano Ambulance Service

Kevin has been active in EMS for nearly 30 years, and an asset to the Service that entire time.

He will help anyone in need, in any way he can, without hesitation... at work, or on personal time.

Kevin is a Longtime Electronics and Manufacturing Hall Technician at NWTC, 29 year veteran at Shawano Ambulance, CPR/First Aid/ EMT instructor, and Deputy Coroner for Shawano County.

Kevin is widely respected and duly regarded as a Good Samaritan in all areas he is involved in. He never hesitates to offer assistance to anyone he comes across who might be in need. As he travels from Shawano to Green Bay daily, he is often heard on the radio requesting help for motorists in need or when he comes across an accident.

He takes pride in recruiting students into his Electronics and Manufacturing program at NWTC, and has likewise provided guidance and encouragement to prospective EMS students.

At Shawano Ambulance, Kevin always conducts himself with the best interest of the patient first, needs and objectives of the Service second, and himself somewhere else down the line. Over the years he has helped countless individuals through his involvement in the American Red Cross and as a Shawano County Deputy Coroner.



Jonathan R. Masi
Critical Care Paramedic
Union Grove, WI

Nominated By
Paratech Ambulance

Jonathan is being honored for his exemplary EMS leadership skills. His peers respect and admire him for his leadership abilities. His dedication to mentor and inspire individuals and make a difference in the lives of everyone he meets.

His most distinguishing trait is his honesty and ability to inspire others and his forward thinking leadership style.

After working in the printing industry for nearly 13 years, Jonathan decided to begin his EMS career. In 1998, he started as an EMT Basic and joined the Pleasant Prairie Fire Department and went on to obtain his Paramedic licensure the following year. In 2000, he began working in the private ambulance industry.

For the last 13 years, Jonathan has been employed with Paratech Ambulance and has been instrumental in the institution of our Critical Care Paramedic program.

Jonathan works at inspiring others as an Ambulance Operations Manager.

Jonathan is being recognized for his exemplary EMS leadership skills. His knowledge, enthusiasm, professionalism, and dedication is something that all EMS professionals could only hope to attain. He is a true leader and a Star in the EMS industry.



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Matthew Koeppe
Critical Care Paramedic
Baraboo, WI

Nominated By
Baraboo District Ambulance

From the first day that Matthew started working at Baraboo EMS, he has shown great dedication to the service. His supervisors always feel confident assigning any task to him, knowing it will be completed quickly and efficiently.

Matthew brings a great level of professionalism and a wealth of experience to the department--and his co-workers look up to his leadership abilities, as he has set a high standard as an Acting Lieutenant. He is always willing to help wherever and whenever needed, and his skills as a Critical Care Paramedic are exceptional.

He was chosen to be the recipient of the Chief's Award this past year.

Matthew has a friendly and positive personality, and is always calm and steady-- whether working on projects at the station, or treating a patient in the field.

Matthew has been an EMT since 1996, a Paramedic since 2005, and a Critical Care Paramedic since 2011.

Matthew is an excellent mentor--helping new medics hone their skills and become valuable assets to our Service. Matthew uses his down time on shift to help other coworkers that are in need—including staying up late at night to review reports, and going over medications and procedures to ensure that the staff are comfortable in their roles.

In addition to the above mentioned items, Matthew is responsible for maintaining the readiness of the ambulance fleet, including performing minor repairs, as well as scheduling the rigs for continuing maintenance items.

For all the above listed reasons, Baraboo District Ambulance Service is proud to nominate Matthew Koeppe as a 2015 PAAW "Star of Life".



Thomas Konieczka
EMT - Paramedic
Oconomowoc, WI

Nominated By
Greenfield Fire Department

Thomas worked as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Greenfield for 3 years, and previously with Town of Waukesha and Washington, D.C.

On February 1st, 2015, Thomas responded to a call for a person who collapsed while shoveling his driveway. Upon arrival, Thomas and the other paramedics successfully resuscitated the gentleman and transported him to St. Luke's Hospital.

When both Med Units returned to the station, Thomas approached his supervisor and asked if they could return to the scene and finish shoveling the patient's driveway for him. They were told, of course!

A picture was taken of the crews shoveling and was posted on twitter. It went viral. The picture ended up on multiple national news stations and social media outlets.

Thomas is being nominated for this award because of his thoughtfulness and caring attitude while this family was going through an extremely emotional time. The patient has since made a full recovery and has visited Thomas and his peers on many occasions.

He displayed an extremely selfless attitude and provided the highest level of customer service for a patient.



Larry P. Krueger
Medical First Responder
Sheboygan, WI

Nominated By
Town of Sheboygan First Responders

Larry is nominated for this award because he works very hard to keep our organization staffed, current and well-educated.

He is always looking to the future. His ability to see 'the bigger picture' has helped our organization grow significantly.

Larry started as a first responder in 2002. Larry was promoted to EMS Co-Service Director in 2010 and Service Director in 2011.

He works fulltime as a corrections officer, in addition to volunteering with the first responders, fire department and dive team.

Larry goes above and beyond in his job as Service Director. He is in constant contact with our local technical college to schedule classes and training opportunities. He also corresponds heavily with the State and our medical director to ensure our organization is meeting the highest standards.

He puts in over a thousand hours of on-call shifts per year and attends over a third of our calls.

Larry believes in our mission and is dedicated to serving our members and the residents of our township. His selfless loyalty to our organization and community acts as an inspiration to us all.