

August 26, 2009

Mr. Bob Stoll
33402 Bassett Road
Burlington, WI 53105

Dear Bob:

Thanks for your recent message regarding Assembly Bill 313, relating to licensure fees for EMT's. I appreciate hearing from you on this issue.

As you may know, the Department of Health Services (DHS) has been promulgating rules on licensure fees for EMT's for sometime. They have agreed not to pursue charging a fee for an EMT basic license if the licensee is an employee of a public agency and works for an ambulance provider. Also, they are not going to charge a licensing fee to any volunteer EMT.

I've been in contact with the author of AB 313, Rep. Phil Garthwaite. He's pursuing the legislation because DHS will continue to have the authority to charge fees for the above-mentioned groups, and his intent is to ensure that doesn't happen by removing that authority from the Department altogether.

You also mentioned your support for an amendment to the bill for intermediate and paramedic level EMT's. The author indicated that an amendment is being pursued by another legislator who is working with WEMSA. Rep. Garthwaite has no objections to the amendment – if the committee decides to support it and recommends the bill for passage.

I'm enclosing a copy of the bill and the fiscal note for your information. I hope you find this information helpful. Please don't hesitate to contact me in the future if I can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Samantha J. Kerkman
State Representative
66th Assembly District

Halverson, Vicky

From: Bob Stoll [rmstoll@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2009 7:38 AM
To: Kerkman, Samantha
Subject: AB 313 amendment

Sam;

The Randall Fire Dept is in support of the following position. Your thoughts and comments?

Thanks,

Bob

--- On Mon, 8/24/09, Jim Dinsch <jdinsch@countrysidefire.com> wrote:

From: Jim Dinsch <jdinsch@countrysidefire.com>
Subject: IMPORTANT - Call To Action
To: paj145@yahoo.com, Coreyp1c@aol.com, bstoll@randallfire.com, schaas77@yahoo.com, ticker01@charter.net, froboy1989@yahoo.com, rescue62@aol.com, littledimzoff@yahoo.com, thuffine@wi.rr.com, reindeer1@charter.net, divot04@charter.net, yakmobile@earthlink.net, "Bob Gillman (flyineagle1@msn.com)" <flyineagle392@yahoo.com>, cdraupp@charter.net, agdietz@yahoo.com, jkaldem@southportbank.com, kdaniels43@yahoo.com, "AJ Johnson" <ajkfdfrfd@yahoo.com>, redlin192@yahoo.com, "Ken Foszcz" <kfoszcz@rlfire.org>
Date: Monday, August 24, 2009, 10:58 PM

Please see the message below. Both of these are important legislative issues that need your personal attention. The license fees are really only critical to those of us licensed above the FR level, but everyone's help on that would be appreciated. The other issue relative to personal liability exposure should be a concern to anyone that responds to calls, because unlike Illinois that provides tort immunity to fire personnel, in Wisconsin you can be personally held liable for your actions.

Andy, please forward this on to the rest of the membership and ask for their help.

Thanks,

Jim Dinsch

From: wemsa@WisconsinEMS.com [mailto:wemsa@WisconsinEMS.com]
Sent: Mon 8/24/2009 5:30 PM
To: Jim Dinsch
Subject: IMPORTANT - Call To Action

The Wisconsin EMS Association is putting out a call for action for WEMSA members and anyone else involved with EMS in Wisconsin. Two pieces of legislation are about to be acted on in the state legislature and your help is needed to make sure our legislators do the right thing.

AB-313 currently seeks to prohibit the Department of Health Services (DHS) from charging an EMT-Basic who operates as a volunteer a fee for their license. While that is a good start, the bill does not go far enough. An

amendment is about to be introduced that will expand the bill to all levels of EMTs in Wisconsin. Currently no one in Wisconsin is charged a fee for their license and this bill, if passed, will make certain that fees are not instituted.

SB-127 is a damaging piece of legislation that would increase the amount of money that you as an EMS provider, or your service, can be pay as a result of a law suit. Currently municipal EMS services and EMTs affiliated with them are capped at \$50,000 and volunteer fire companies and their EMTs are capped at \$25,000. This bill, if passed, will increase those amounts to \$250,000! The bill will also remove the current 180 day filing limit and allow for a lawsuit to be filed after several years. Everyone must call their two state legislators right away and tell them to vote NO on SB-127.

The Wisconsin EMS Association, State Firefighters Association and State Fire Chief's Association are all working together on both of these bills. However, we cannot do it alone. It will take the members of the legislature to hear from you - the people who elect and send them to Madison. Telephone calls and letters coming from you will make all of the difference and will save you and your EMS organization money by prohibiting license fees and keeping a reasonable cap on lawsuits.

We are asking all members to call their state assembly representative and state senator over the next several days and ask them to approve the amendment to AB-313 and then vote to pass it. At the same time ask them to defeat SB-127. You will very likely speak to an aid for your elected official. They will not debate you. They will not ask you to defend your position. They will be very friendly and courteous with you on the telephone. They will simply take down your information and pass it along to their boss (your legislator). It will take less than five minutes to complete and will make all of the difference.

If you do not know who your state legislators are, go to www.legis.wisconsin.gov and click on the "Who are my Legislators?" link to find out. Please call today and help the state associations who are working so hard to help you. Call right now and be a part of prohibiting EMT license fees and putting a stop to raising lawsuit limits against EMS services, fire departments and the individuals affiliated with them.

Visit the Legislation pages at www.WisconsinEMS.com for more information.