

I have been involved in Emergency Services for 28 years and counting. I am a certified EMT-P with an Associate's Degree in EMS. I am still active in EMS/ Rescue/ Special Ops/firefighting. I started in EMS as a 16 year old that lived nearby the community hospital and every time an ambulance would pull in to the ER doors the neighborhood kids would run down to check out the action. It, along with getting to know some of the members, sparked an interest and when I was old enough I joined the service. I made a lot of calls and completed my EMT during my senior year in high school. I was unsure of my future so I decided a junior college would work in my favor and chose the EMS course at CCAC in Pittsburgh. I was certified as a Paramedic II (at that time) and worked as a paid ALS provider for a few years in Scranton/Lackawanna County. I also had a short stint as a medic on an oil drilling rig in the Caribbean. I left the paid ranks and went to work in town at the family business where I currently am still employed and serve as President. Working in town allows me to stay active in EMS and I can sometimes sneak out for calls. I serve as Training and Compliance Officer and also Financial Secretary for our organization and find all phases of volunteer work both exciting and relaxing. It's kind of a therapy for me to focus on something completely different for an hour or so and get away from the rigors of the ordinary day. I like to call it a professional hobby that does not cost me any money to enjoy. I have been married for 19 years and have 2 wonderful children. My son is 15 and is chomping at the bit to join the active ranks. He is starting to attend some basic training classes and already knows where all the equipment is on the EMS/Rescue vehicles. He is ready to contribute as soon as he becomes a member. His interest in joining just solidifies my dedication to the service. I can only hope my 11 year daughter can also show an interest. I strongly support the current pending legislation to support and encourage recruitment and retention. I encourage all volunteer organizations to prepare to take full advantage of these programs. Our organization is looking at re-writing our by-laws to allow participation of the younger generation by decreasing our age requirement to 16 but also increasing the training and minimum call requirements to maintain active status. I maintain a hunger for new training and knowledge and there is no limit to what you can accomplish in this field. I hope to be around for another 20 years or more. Our organization has great continuity with five (5) 25 year members and 4 of them have over 35 years. One member is 84 and is still our current Recording Secretary and still makes calls every now and then. I am proud to belong to a great volunteer organization and hope it can continue to stay volunteer for a long time to come.

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