



# The BREMSS Bulletin

BREMSS will endeavor to provide a monthly e-mail bulletin to all of the EMS community in our seven county Region. It is our hope to increase the level of communications to and from the EMS community. Each of the BREMSS Staff will provide several paragraphs each month to the BREMSS Bulletin. We welcome your comments on any of the topics or if there are specific topics of presentation you would like us to address from a BREMSS Staff position.



***Time is muscle.***



Shelby County EMT of the Year—Richard Smith, EMT-B. Richard was presented the award by Ben Kirkland of the Shelby County Fire & EMS Association. Ben read a letter from Captain David Lawthorne nominating Richard. “It is a continuing personal sacrifice of family and personal time that he completes his duties tirelessly, professionally and proudly. He gives 110% not just to collect a paycheck but to give back to his community. He drives us all to excel in what we do.”



St. Clair County EMT of the Year—Tim J. Kurzejeski, EMT-P. Tim was presented the award by James Robinson of St. Clair County Fire & EMS Association. Chief Robinson had this to say about Tim: “Tim is a firefighter/paramedic for the City of Pell City where he’s been since 1995. He also provides EMS in Riverside. He is a model for the younger EMTs in Pell City and Riverside and always sets the standards for and practices superior patient care. I’m proud to call him a friend, a colleague and a fellow leader of what we do.”



Blount County EMT of the Year—Neal Brooks, EMT-P. Neal was presented the award by John Reed of the Blount County Fire & EMS Association. John had this to say about Neal: “He always has his priorities straight. He’s been a dispatcher, a paramedic, and a supervisor and now he’s become a teacher to give back to those coming into EMS. In his present position of supervisor, he still remembers and respects the patient care aspects of EMS.”



Winston County EMT of the Year—Erik Gilbreath, EMT-B. Erik was presented the award by Chief Pat West of Double Springs FD. Chief West had the following to say about Erik: “Erik has always been a vital part of Double Springs Fire & Rescue. His willingness to help others and serve our community is unparalleled. What he does he does with passion and love for his fellow man. I feel there is no one more deserving to be singled out among fellow emergency medical service personnel. Erik sets the bar high for the rest of us.”



Jefferson County EMT of the Year—Grant Webb, EMT-P. Grant was presented the award by Joe Acker of BREMSS. Joe had this to say about Grant: “Grant was a breath of fresh air the first time I met him. He was interested in making sure the new things that were set to happen in EMS were going to happen. It’s not always the heroic people out front that we need in EMS, but also the people that function in a supervisory role to be able to set the standards for the way things are done. Grant has been able to get people to adhere to the system and want to help.”



Walker County EMT of the Year—Greg Tubbs, EMT-P. Greg was presented the award by Eric Pendley of RPS. Eric had this to say about Greg: “We chose a paramedic that has worked for RPS for 14 years and he also volunteered for Boldo FD and worked for the Walker County Sheriff’s Department. As a supervisor, he has made a tremendous affect on patient care by the decisions he’s made on the scene as well as by getting back to the station and reviewing our policies and procedures. He also serves in the community as a CPR instructor for schools and businesses.”



The R. Floyd Yarbrough EMS Award was presented to the St. Clair County 911 Board by Joe Acker and Chief Richard Harvey. Richard had this to say about the Board: "As an EMS Provider, a Fire Chief and a citizen of St. Clair County, I'd like to say on behalf of all the citizens of St. Clair County, thank the St. Clair County Commission for their diligence, hard work and for standing behind the process of getting a single transport provider for St. Clair County established. It wasn't about choosing just one provider, it was about choosing accountability and responsibility. "

Seated, L-R: Paul Manning, District Three; Stanley Batemon, Chairman. Standing, L-R: Ken Crowe, District Two; Jeff Brown, District One; Jimmy Roberts, District Four



The Marilyn Grubbs Educational Excellence Award was presented to Bill Collum by John Reed. John had this to say about Bill: "Bill has received an honorable mention in this category almost every year over the past 10 years. Bill has brought over 150 people into EMS over the last couple of years; in the last 2 years teaching First Responder courses. He's taught well over 1000 people either EMT-Basic, First Responder or any other continuing education classes he can provide."



Chilton County EMT of the Year: the late Charles Culp, EMT-B. Charles's family was presented the award by Bill Collum of the Chilton County EMA. Bill had this to say about Charles: "Charles' life in EMS was a family affair. His family not only helped with the peach farm but also with EMS. I know Charles was put into our lives to make it better. He certainly paid his dues and did his job well. He was Chilton County's Emergency communicator before 911."

The EMD of the Year award was presented to the late Cyndi Jones Arnold's family by Brent Dierking of NorthStar Paramedical Services. Brent had this to say about Cyndi: "As an EMT herself she had a particular skill with working out scheduling for the dispatchers and the EMTs. Cyndi's proudest moment came in 1995 when a devastating tornado ripped through her community and she was able to assist her community. She had a caring spirit and was passionate about EMS. When things got hectic, she was the one you wanted behind the dispatch desk."