



Westchester Regional EMS Council

Contact:
Katherine O'Connor
Westchester Regional EMS Office
(914) 231-1616
wremsco@wremsco.org

Westchester Caregivers Honored for Outstanding Service

Valhalla, NY – May 18, 2004 – The Westchester Regional EMS Council has presented eleven awards to individuals who have provided outstanding contributions to Emergency Medical Services in Westchester.

This is the third annual award ceremony hosted by the Westchester Regional EMS Council; the thirty-first event of its kind held in the county. The award recipients, recognized on May 18, 2004 at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, NY, included:

- **Jeffery Siegel, EMT-B, Yorktown, NY, “BLS Provider of the Year Award”.** Mr. Siegel has provided thirty years of service to the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps, ten of which he served as Captain. Under his leadership, the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps became one of the first basic life support volunteer services to attain certification in defibrillation and other advanced level care. Mr. Siegel also started a Youth Corps Cadet program, which enables junior members to provide emergency care on the ambulance.
- **Dr. Norman Scott, MD, Elmsford, NY, “Physician of Excellence Award.”** Dr. Scott is Associate Director of Emergency Medicine at the Westchester Medical Center. In addition to working as an Attending Physician at the Westchester Medical Center Emergency Department, he serves as the Medical Director for two regional EMS agencies, the Greenburgh Police Department and the Elmsford Fire Department. Dr. Scott has played a key role in both these systems, including helping to establish New York State Certification for the Elmsford Fire Department Rescue unit in 1998. Dr. Scott actively participates in the regionally credentialing of local paramedics, and has administered the oral protocol exam for many of Westchester’s advanced prehospital providers.
- **The Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Mt. Kisco, NY, “EMS Agency of the Year.”** Celebrating its 75th anniversary of service to the community, the Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps was the first established ambulance service provider in Westchester County. During its existence this agency has sought to increase its service to the community, obtaining advanced certifications for defibrillation and certain medication interventions by its EMTs. The Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps has operated as an all-volunteer organization since 1928.
- **Oliver Alkins, RN, EMT-P, Mt. Vernon, NY, “Registered Professional Nurse of Excellence Award.”** In addition to working as an ER nurse with St. Joseph’s Medical Center since January 1999, Mr. Alkins has been a practicing Paramedic with Empress Ambulance for more than fifteen years. Mr. Alkins recently developed an education program to train nursing, housekeeping, security, and medical staff in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) preparedness.

- **Jeffrey Meade, NREMT-P/CIC, Irvington, NY, “EMS Educator of Excellence.”** Mr. Meade is the Emergency Manager for Phelps Memorial Hospital Center and the Director of its Emergency Life Support Programs Office. Mr. Meade has been coordinating programs for and teaching courses to hospital and prehospital emergency medical providers for more than fifteen years, ranging from emergency care to managing Mass Casualty Incidents and hazardous materials. On top of his many years as an educator, Mr. Meade has been a field provider for more than twenty-five years and currently works as a Paramedic with Westchester EMS in Mt. Kisco.
- **Scott Holland, EMT-B, Peekskill, NY, “EMS Communications Specialist of the Year Award.”** In 1992 he joined the Mohegan Volunteer Fire Association Ambulance Corp. In 1995 Mr. Holland began working for Empress Ambulance in Yonkers, where he served as an EMT and was ultimately assigned to the Communications Division. Mr. Holland was recognized for his outstanding service during the North East Blackout of 2003. As the captain on duty in the Yonkers EMS dispatch center, he immediately took charge of communications operations, working to prioritize emergencies for the EMS crews as the immense blackout crippled the entire city.
- **Charles O’Connor, EMT-I, Croton-on-Hudson, NY, “EMS Volunteer of the Year Award.”** He has been an EMT for over ten years, and an EMT-I (Emergency Medical Technician with advanced training) since 1996. In addition to his active membership with both the Croton Fire Patrol and the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Mr. O’Connor is an American Red Cross CPR / First Aid instructor and holds a position on both the Westchester Regional EMS Council and the Westchester County EMS Advisory Board. At 77 years of age, Mr. O’Connor is one of New York State’s oldest practicing emergency medical technicians.
- **William Rothschild, EMT-P, Purdys, NY, “Advanced Life Support Provider of the Year Award.”** Mr. Rothschild has been involved in emergency medical services for more than twenty-two years, becoming an EMT-Basic in 1984 and a Paramedic in 1986. He has received ten Life Saving Awards in his eighteen years as a Paramedic, as well as receiving the American Ambulance Association’s Star of Life Award in 1996. In addition to his work with Empress Ambulance and the Somers Fire Department, Mr. Rothschild currently serves as a member of the Westchester County EMS Advisory Board.
- **Todd Spota, EMT-B, Sleepy Hollow, NY, “EMS Leadership Award”.** Presented for his dedication and commitment to improving emergency medical services, as Captain of the ambulance corps Mr. Spota has helped to catalyze positive change in the community of Sleepy Hollow. Over the span of approximately four years, Mr. Spota helped lead a significant recruitment effort which more than doubled the number of EMT’s in the agency, and reduced its average response time to emergencies by half.
- **Cathy Westrum, Forest Hills, NY, “Civilian Award”.** Ms. Westrum was recognized for selflessly administering lifesaving care to an 82-year-old man who was found in cardiac arrest in the parking lot of a shopping center in South Salem. On her arrival, a firefighter from the Vista Fire Department had initiated CPR. Ms. Westrum identified herself as being CPR-trained and provided chest compressions until EMS arrived, and continued to assist in his care as he was loaded into the ambulance. The gentleman fully recovered and was released from the hospital less than two weeks later. Ms. Westrum is a Recruiter for JetBlue Airways.

- **Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis, MD, Somers, NY, “William P. Dawson Award.”**
This award was established in 1999, in memory of one of Westchester’s most distinguished and respected EMS providers, and honors significant overall contributions to emergency medical services in the region. Dr. DeRobertis is Director of Emergency Medicine and President of the Hospital Board of St. Joseph’s Medical Center, Yonkers, NY. Over the course of nearly two decades, Dr. DeRobertis has held numerous positions of leadership in emergency medical services. Among his many accomplishments he has served as Chairman and Medical Director of both the Hudson Valley and Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committees, Member of the Paramedic Protocol Committee, Member of the Westchester Regional EMS Council, Member of the Westchester County EMS Advisory Board, and delegate to the New York State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee. Dr. DeRobertis serves as medical director for the two largest EMS agencies in Westchester, Empress Ambulance Service and MetroCare Ambulance Service.

The Westchester Regional EMS Council (WREMSCO), one of eighteen EMS regions in New York State, sponsors the annual awards ceremony. Regional EMS councils are provided for in NYS Public Health Law to work in conjunction with the New York State EMS Council and the New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS. The Westchester EMS Region is coterminous with the County of Westchester and represents over 70 ambulance and first response agencies, 12 emergency receiving hospitals, and more than 2000 paramedics and basic life support personnel.

For more information on the Westchester Regional EMS Council, contact the Westchester Regional EMS Office at (914) 231 – 1616, or visit <http://www.wremSCO.org>.