

By Kim Littleton



RETIREMENT UPDATE

In case you haven't heard, I wanted to give you more information on the Georgia EMS retirement fund. If you have heard about it, here is an update.

The Georgia EMS Association has partnered with financial service partners and PointeNorth Insurance Group to assist in the development of a Georgia EMS Retirement Fund. Work on this project began two-three years ago. Significant progress has been made since we began, but there is still a lot of work left to be done before we can make this a reality.

The financial service partners working with GEMSA will attempt to create a retirement fund that is similar to the structure of the Georgia Firefighters' Pension. In order for the financial service partners to begin financial modeling work to complete and set up the fund, the membership participation of GEMSA needs to increase to show viable levels of participation in a potential fund. The financial service partners are using GEMSA's membership level as a model for the fund participation as one of the requirements for participation in the fund is membership in GEMSA.

GEMSA
Georgia EMS Association



The biggest obstacle that we face right now is the low number of EMS association members in relation to the total number of EMS professionals in Georgia. There are close to 14,000 EMS professionals in Georgia and the current membership of the association is at about 1,500. Increasing membership in the association is the first step in achieving the goal of creating an EMS Retirement for Georgia. This is a goal that can only be achieved with the cooperation of the entire EMS Community of Georgia including fire personnel.

Fire and EMS have an intertwined and overlapping relationship with one another, and we can work together to make this a reality. Entering into the EMS Retirement would have no effect on someone's current benefits with the Georgia Firefighters Pension Fund. If you are involved in a fire service, this is simply another investment for your future financial welfare. Encourage others to join as well! If you are not a member or know someone who wants to join, see the information below.

Thanks for your support of this worthwhile project to support EMS in Georgia. ■

FEATURES OF THE PLAN:*

1. Must be a member of GEMSA and continue as a member while contributing to the plan
2. 15 to 25 Years in plan to be vested.
3. Early retirement will be reduced benefits, not full payout of benefits.
4. Monthly contribution for each member will be \$20 to \$35
5. Monthly payouts will be structured based on total participation, so estimation of the payout is difficult to surmise.

**Note: All or some of these could change as the final plan is put into place. This is general information on how the retirement will work and is subject to change.*

Individuals and services can join the association. An individual membership for a provider is only \$25 a year. There are also discounted rates for groups of 10 or more. Join online today at georgiaemsassociation.com/join or visit georgiaemsassociation.com/membership to see other membership benefits.

If you have questions on membership, contact GEMSA Communications Specialist Mary Napier at communications@georgiaemsassociation.com or 229-231-2109.

If you have questions on the retirement plan, contact GEMSA Executive Director Kim Littleton at director@georgiaemsassociation.com or 229-402-2240.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDER:

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!



**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

THE GEORGIA EMS ASSOCIATION

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping EMS professionals in the state of Georgia.

Our mission is to advocate for the emergency medical provider, develop educational programs, liaison activities, provider benefit programs, and improvements to the Emergency Medical Service System in Georgia.



GEMSA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The primary goal for GEMSA is to make life a little better for those who have chosen emergency care as their profession. Our membership benefits continue to grow as we grow. GEMSA is an association you can be proud to be a member of.

Current benefits include:

A Voice for Georgia EMS **Group Buying Discounts**

Representation on State & National Organizations

Discounts on Conferences:

Spring - Directors & Leadership Conference

Fall - Providers & Educators Conference

Training Events hosted by GEMSA with Grant Funding

GEMSA Journal magazine *and more!*



**HOW CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO BE
A MEMBER? JOIN TODAY!**

www.georgiaemsassociation.com/join





SERVICE MEMBERSHIPS

Discounted memberships for groups of 10 or more

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP - \$15 PER PERSON

in the Providers or Educators Division

Directors Division - \$50 per person

Medical Directors Division - \$50 per person

Save more
than 40% per
member!

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **A Voice** for Georgia EMS through legislative representation and correspondence with legislators
- **Representation** on a host of organizations
 - EMSAC (EMS Advisory Council)
 - NAEMT (National Association of EMTs)
 - EMSMDAC (EMS Medical Directors Advisory Council)
 - GTAC (Georgia Trauma Advisory Council)
 - GICN (Georgia Infection Control Network)
 - APIC (Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology)
- **Educational Opportunities** with membership discounts: Spring - Directors & Leadership Conference and Fall - Providers & Educators Conference
- **Discounts on products and services** through Savvik Buying Group for individuals and organizations
- **GEMSA Journal** published twice a year
- **GEMSA website** with members only section
- **Social media sites** for information
- **FREE job postings** for members on the website
- **Columbia Southern University Partnership**
Members receive:
 - 10% Tuition Discount with application at no cost
 - Exclusive Scholarship Opportunities
- **Medic-CE**
 - Individuals - 25% off any regularly priced Medic-CE subscription or program and two free continuing education courses
 - Agencies can save up to 30% off any regularly priced Medic-CE subscriptions or program.
- **Compliance Solutions** - Save 10% on the most widely used compliance solutions in the EMS industry from Page, Wolfberg & Wirth (PWW)
- **Active/voting rights** for the Board of Directors and other actions
- Opportunity to join the **GEMSA Board of Directors** to help shape the future of the association and EMS in Georgia
- GEMSA **online membership card**
- and more!

RETIREMENT PLAN NEEDS MORE MEMBERS

The biggest obstacle that we face right now is the low number of EMS association members in relation to the total number of EMS professionals in Georgia. Actuaries are structuring the plan so that only members of the Georgia EMS Association will be eligible for the Retirement Fund. In order for the actuaries to begin creating the

framework for the financing of the fund, the membership level needs to be at a minimum of 10,000. Increasing membership in the association is the first step in achieving the goal of creating an EMS Retirement for Georgia. This is a goal that can only be achieved with the cooperation of the entire EMS Community of Georgia. ■

STRONGER TOGETHER

For more information on how to join, please contact Mary Napier - communications@georgiaemsassociation.com or 229-231-2109 or join online today at georgiaemsassociation.com/join.

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