



New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association
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Dear Colleague:

Is your organization a nonprofit community ambulance service (volunteer, combination service, fire based etc.), first responder service or rescue squad? Are you a volunteer with your local ambulance corps, rescue squad, medical first response team? Do you want to help strengthen the voice of community EMS in our state? Then please join us at the New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, a leading organization that actively represents your interests in New York.

Your views and experience are vital to the Association and to your colleagues around the state. NYSVARA provides a way for nonprofit community volunteer ambulance services, first responder services, rescue squads and volunteers to become more informed and involved at both the state and local level. More than ever, it is time to support and strengthen our voice in New York State.

NYSVARA has been addressing issues critical to community EMS for over five decades. Some of the important issues we are working on today include: **Direct Receipt of Insurance Payments, Workers Compensation Relief for Combination Services, and Authorization for Ambulance Subscription Programs.** NYSVARA sponsors the annual *Pulse Check* Educational Conference & Trade Show, is a founding member of the NYS EMS Coalition and maintains liaison with other EMS and Fire organizations. We are active in educating legislators and administrators on issues facing services and their members, and we have played an instrumental role in the passage of important legislation and the development of helpful programs including:

- Dedicated funding for EMS Training
- The Volunteer Ambulance Workers Benefit Law (VAWBL) and The Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)
- Expansion of the state's low interest loan program to independent VAC's and VFD's
- Revision of the "Green Light" standard, authorization for rear facing Blue Lights on Ambulances & County EMS Vehicles, and addressing the issue of "Official" plates and agency vehicle registration
- Enactment of a \$200 NYS Income Tax Credit
- Enactment of Source Patient Testing Legislation for HIV/AIDS
- Affiliation with the **Savvik Buying Group** – a Nationwide Group Discount, Best Cost Pricing Cooperative – a \$75 value included free with your NYSVARA squad membership
- Affiliation with the **National Association of EMTs (NAEMT)** with Best Value joint membership available.

Other membership benefits include: a subscription to *The Blanket*, the Association's newsletter, featuring articles of interest and legislative updates, discounts on EMS/rescue supplies, subscriptions to leading EMS magazines, networking opportunities with legislators, administrators and colleagues throughout the state.

Please join us today. We look forward to the honor of your membership.