



## Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Bulletin

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**RE:** Legislative Activities

**DATE:** May 23, 2011

**FROM:** Chris Bitner, Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Committee

It is the consensus of those that attended that our 2011 Legislative Day was a great success.

Participation by our members was as strong as ever. The Adirondacks, Central New York, the Hudson Valley, New York City, and Long Island were all represented by NYSVARA members.

We met with 15 senators and assemblyman, educating them about the interests and needs of volunteer ambulance and rescue organizations across the state. These meetings were possible because of the efforts of NYSVARA's officers and legislative committee as well as district representatives.

Other highlights of the day included a very candid and informative discussion with EMS Bureau Director Lee Burns, and the introduction of our members on the floor of the assembly.

Members found our legislative representatives to be very interested in our needs and concerns. They were particularly responsive to:

- The need to display a blue light to the rear of an ambulance and EMS vehicle
- Direct payment of ambulance corps by insurance companies
- Legitimizing ambulance subscription programs

Our next steps are for you, our members and member agencies, to follow up with your local senators and assemblyman about these topics. The process is quite simple:

- Make an appointments with your local representatives
- Print NYSVARA's *Bill Watch List* from our web site – a copy for you and another for your representative
- Review our *Legislative Handbook* for guidelines and useful tips to make your meeting successful
- Discuss the agenda with your representative, and explain how the items directly impact your squad