

SAMPLE PLATFORMS SPRING 2015

QA/QI:

Hello, my name is Andrew Tomich and I would like to announce my candidacy for QA/QI Director for R/C MERT. I am a Sophomore studying Audio and Music Engineering and have been a member of MERT for 3 years. I am currently an 802 and served as QA/QI in the spring of 2012. I served on the training committee under Guang Yi Chua as well as the Operations Committee under Brien Walsh. I have worked in the EMS community for 7 years, initially as a Ski Patroller on the BM/BW Ski Patrol in Boston, Ohio and later as a member of MERT. I also have approximately 150 volunteer hours logged in the Emergency Department at South Pointe Hospital in Maple Heights, Ohio.

Outside of MERT, I aided in training BMBWSP's 2009 Outdoor Emergency Care class (effectively EMT-B with emphasis on cold weather/swift water emergencies, long term injury management, and musculoskeletal injury care). I also attended, and later worked for, the Greater Cleveland Council's National Youth Leadership Training program, a leadership development camp run through the Boy Scouts. At NYLT, I served as a Guide, leading a group of 10 participants through the program. I also taught a series of lectures on group management and effective communication while at NYLT. I am an Eagle Scout and an avid skier. I love spending time outdoors, be it climbing, camping, boating, fishing, or backpacking. On campus, I am a member of the Midnight Ramblers A Cappella group (currently inactive) and am a brother of Delta Upsilon.

I am a firm believer in full disclosure and accordingly will discuss what happened at the end of my (first) sophomore year. A number of personal factors also arose for me that semester. In short, I found myself severely overextended, underslept, and with little-to-no interest in school. My grades slipped and at the end of the semester I was placed on inactive status by the Academic Committee. Last year, while not at UR, I worked for a sound/light company, took some classes, and thought a lot. To be completely frank, it was boring as hell. At the end of the year I applied for readmission and it was granted to me.

A year and a half later, I feel I am specially suited to serve as QA/QI due to my past experience in the position. During my sophomore spring I oversaw QA during the shift to EMSCharts. Prior to April we had been using paper charts for all patients and the promise of simplicity in storage and QA made the shift to digital seem particularly appealing. At the time, the database of QA information was large enough that most laptops struggled to open the document and hours of data analysis were necessary in order to achieve usable data. Upon finding said data, I was shocked at some of the trends I uncovered, both good and bad. Trends in response times, chief complaint, call densities by day or time or location all became apparent, as well as which members of MERT were struggling with which aspects of the training program. I shared as much as possible with the Training Department at the time and was glad to see changes made to protocols.

Today, however, I feel that there has been a drastic change in the role of QA/QI. With all due respect to the current and past members of the position, I'm not entirely sure what the purpose of the role is anymore. I feel largely responsible for this, as I never transitioned Greta or Hannah into this position and much of the work on protocols regarding EMSCharts fell to the wayside. Simultaneously, Melissa Ratliff, our system administrator, became increasingly

difficult to get in touch with as her workload at SMH increased. It is my aim, therefore, to reinstate some of policies that I had once worked on bringing to MERT.

First and foremost, I would like to bring back QA Sessions. During these sessions, 801's and 802's would QA charts in a group format once a week (not all sessions were mandatory). Each person would sit down and QA each chart until all were done for the week. This afforded two important benefits. First, every 802 knew the exact format and language that was standardized by the training department, as each of them would work together in QA'ing. Second, and more importantly, each 802 would review 3-4 times more calls than they were able to take themselves. This increased frequency of calls increased everyone's familiarity with the right procedures under a greater number of circumstances. Accordingly, QA became a vital part of training, not just busy paperwork. This can be done with simple tweaking of EMSCharts to output a chart completely devoid of patient information.

Second, I would like to change the EMSCharts QA Hierarchy. Currently there are 3 levels of QA: Entry, 801, and QA/QI Director. This is not entirely in keeping with NYS standards and I would like to establish another level of QA. Ideally, this would be either a member of Top 3 or a senior 801. More eyes on each chart will aid in mistakes slipping through.

Third, a problem that I noticed two years ago as QA was the difficulty in determining procedural versus documentational errors. This will always be somewhat present, but by creating a simplified, standard method of QA and charting we can minimize the documentational errors. QA is not a commonsense process. A standardized form, or checklist, or method would vastly improve the efficacy of the system. In A Checklist Manifesto, Dr. Atul Gawande discusses the nature of commonsense vs. checklist based thinking in the medical setting. Seemingly simple, systemic problems are often eradicated by establishing a step by step system. I want to bring such a system to MERT.

Fourth, I feel that our e-Dispatch system can be improved. To date, we have no standardized protocols with security regarding these texts, and I would like to address this. I see no reason to not work with Public Safety to improve our entire process, not just what happens once en route to a call.

To conclude, I would like to leave you with this: I like complex systems. Inspecting them, breaking them down into their constituent parts, analyzing them, all of it. MERT is just that, a big system, that while great, can be improved. These are just some of the ideas I have and I am certain more will come if I am elected. I would like to make as many of those improvements as possible, or at least do the research to better identify and classify them. In doing so I can better help each of you in doing your job and hopefully improve the experience for the patient. I would be honored with the opportunity to serve as your QA/QI Director again for this coming year. My name is Andrew Tomich and I appreciate your vote.

ADOT:

Hey everyone. My name is Porter Ladley and I am running to be your Assistant Director of Training for the coming year. I am a sophomore and have been an active member of the organization since the fall of my freshman year. I am currently a crew chief trainee, a CPR Instructor, and I work very closely with our Webmaster/Scheduler as the Standby Coordinator to organize our day shifts and standby shifts.

Being Standby Coordinator for the past year has given me the chance to work very closely with E-board, and that experience combined with being an 802 has given me the chance to think about things we tend to do well and things we could improve on. I think one extremely important aspect of the organization that the training department seems to neglect is the 803 position. 803s make up the largest proportion of the organization and are extremely important to have present on every call. As an 802 getting ready to move up to 801, I've been able to experience just how detrimental the lack of an 803 can be. One of the biggest challenges facing our 803's is the lack of shift time. Many 803s are only able to take a shift every month and a half, and there is no way to build up any sort of training program if you never actually have the chance to practice your skills. What I propose is the creation of an 803 "Clearing" program. This is something that would not be mandatory for all 803s, but for those that would perhaps hope to become 802s or simply become more involved, this program could provide different objectives and requirements for 803s in the downtime between shifts that might serve to better prepare 803s for becoming 802s. Hopefully, this would be able to get 803s doing more things MERT, even if they cannot sign up for a shift every month.

In continuing up the training ladder, I would hope to reform the 802 training program. The increased call volume this year has allowed our 802's to clear much faster than in the past, something I have experienced first hand. But, another thing I have noticed, this quick tenure as 802 can leave some members inexperienced in regards to certain skills. I would propose adding to the current RMA/Transport clearing process to try and focus more on the type of call (Intox, trauma, medical, etc.) and the type of shift (day call, standby, night/day shift). The differences in the way these shifts are prepared for and the way calls are run during these shifts is a very important aspect of training we are missing right now. Finally, I would also hope to improve the current in-service and ride-along requirements for 801s and 802s, which have fallen by the wayside.

Over the past year and a half of being a member of MERT, I have tried my best to be as involved and dedicated as I can to this organization. This passion for the organization has allowed me to progress through the 802 program, continue working as the Standby Scheduler after over a year, and formulate these ideas and others concerning FTOs, in-services, and training in general. I am honored to have the chance to run as your ADOT for the next year. Thanks very much for listening!

SEC:

Hi, everyone! My name is Sanuja Bose and I would absolutely love to be MERT's next secretary. I am currently a sophomore and an 802, and have been a part of this organization since fall semester of my freshman year. Since the beginning, I have been interested in and have become more familiar with the duties of the Secretary, first as a member of the Secretary Committee under Adam, our current DO, and then Marie, our current Secretary. I also had the honor of being a member of the Selection Committee for the most recent application cycle, which reviewed the applications of and interviewed every single one of our lovely newest members.

After going through the application process from this end—as a member of the Selection Committee, I became even more excited about the idea of perfecting the process, from the quality of the questions on the application itself, to the way members are finally selected—in order to make it as fair as possible. Additionally, I hope to work with the Webmaster in finally digitizing the entire form, rendering it not only more eco-friendly, but friendlier towards the people writing and reading the applications, too. (Older members might remember this idea being proposed in the past, but it is now significantly more feasible with the new website; this time, it will be done.)

While running the application process has been the biggest part of this position in the past, once the constitution has been updated and new sub-committees can be created, I will implement them as E-Board and the general membership see fit, and I will ensure all members have access to detailed descriptions of each committee so they can make an informed decision when choosing to join one. In terms of other smaller projects and perks of having me as Secretary, I promise to send out meeting minutes to members who cannot make GMMs so nobody feels left out, as well as updates to members who are abroad but still wish to remain informed about MERT.

For those of you haven't noticed my presence in this organization, MERT means more to me than anything else on this campus. I went to my first E-Board meeting as a freshman, and I've regularly attended them as a sophomore. I was Member of the Month in October because I genuinely love doing everything MERT-related, as I'm proud of what we are and what we do. I also think I've demonstrated that I'm willing to always stand up for what I believe is right. For these reasons, I believe I would be a valuable member of MERT's Executive Board. I hope you see it too, and that you'll give me the chance to prove it to you.

PR:

My name is Sarah Jensen and I am excited to be running for Public Relations officer. I have been an active member of MERT for two years in which time I have become an 802, CPR instructor, and Assistant Public Relations chair.

Since becoming Assistant Public Relations chair at the beginning of the school year, I have been working closely with Sara to help create posters, plan events, and come up with new ideas. I have attended most e-board meetings and understand the amount of time needed to successfully fulfill the responsibilities of the position. I think Sara has done an incredible job revamping the Public Relations of MERT and I would like to continue what was started.

I would like to create an online calendar of PR events that members can easily access and reference. I would also work with the Webmaster to update the community page on a regular basis with new events. I am very excited for upcoming events such as Relay for Life and would love for MERT to get involved in other campus events such as Habitat for Humanity's Shack-a-thon, to increase MERT's visibility on campus. At these and other PR events, we could all wear our MERT T-shirts, which Sara, Jenny, and I have already been designing. As a CPR instructor, another program that I want to expand is CPR instruction for U of R students. Along with providing emergency medical service, this is another service that we can readily provide to campus and it would be an incredible way for MERT members to interact with students in a more casual and relaxed atmosphere. During the CPR instruction held in Wilson Commons earlier this year, many students commented that they enjoyed the event and learned a lot. I would also like to continue the preceptor/preceptee program and think it is very valuable for new members to have a mentor, someone they can talk to and get their questions answered. Lastly, I would want to continue to have events for MERT members to bond and have some fun! I would love to get the membership's input on activities that they would enjoy doing with their MERT friends. Since MERT is a large organization of about 90 members I know that there are many ideas that the membership will have. It is very important to me that I be approachable. I would always be open to suggestions and feedback.

I am extremely proud of MERT and all we do to provide quality health care on campus and would love the opportunity to coordinate events and programs to strengthen the organization even further. Thanks so much for your consideration!

EQP:

Hello, my name is Brian Miers and I am running for the position of Equipment Manager. Even though I am new to MERT, I have taken every opportunity possible to be an active member. I am currently enrolled in the EMT Class, have attended many MERT events and in-services, tried to be on as many committees as possible, attend E-Board meetings (when they do not conflict with the EMT Class), have earned the Member of the Month Award, and now I am running for the position of Equipment Manager. I believe I am prepared to be the Equipment Manager because I have a lot of experience managing equipment from serving in similar positions in scouts, as stage manager in high school, and at my job at the Rochester Museum & Science Center. Over the last few months, Joe Tocha and Jan Callens have been training me on how to effectively serve in the position of Equipment Manager. I have also been assisting Joe with his duties, including helping with the equipment inventory for the past two months.

If elected to the position of Equipment Manager, I would:

- Attend check out at least twice a week to address any equipment needs right then and to see what equipment is needs to be restocked or resupplied.
- Replace the sling that the Crew Chief has to carry with a more comfortable and professional looking backpack that would better protect the equipment.
- Inventory and organize the equipment located in the Spurrier Office.
- Continue renovating the new bunkroom.
- Work with Public Safety to get better radios.
- Make sure that there are 803 Timecards.
- Work with the Training Department to help them organize and inventory the training equipment.
- Update the equipment section of the NMOP training presentation.
- Work with the Training and PR Departments to make sure that they have all the equipment at they need for an event.
- Work with the Webmaster to make it possible for people to e-mail the Equipment Manager directly from the Equipment tab on the MERT Website.
- Always be available to answer any questions or concerns regarding equipment (especially during checkout).
- Work with Sharon to make sure she has all the necessary equipment for the EMT Certification Class.
- Listen to any suggestions that you guys may have about equipment or ideas to improve the organization as a whole.

I may be a new member of MERT, but I am dedicated to MERT and will be an active member of MERT until the day I graduate. I feel that my prior experience managing equipment, my organized and hardworking personality, and my passion for MERT will allow me to best serve you as the Equipment Manager.

WEB:

Hi, my name is Tad Spencer, I am a sophomore and I'm studying computer science. I have been in MERT since second semester of last year, and I am an 803. I am also currently enrolled in the EMT class and hope to become an 802 in the spring.

I am currently the Coding Projects Coordinator and have worked with Abhishek, the current Webmaster/Scheduler, to update the website and start developing a mobile app. I am interested in becoming Webmaster/Scheduler because I want to have more involvement in MERT and help to make the organization ever better. Out of all of the E-Board positions, I think I could make the biggest impact as Webmaster/Scheduler because of my background and experience with computers and web design. When I was in high school, I helped set up and maintain the website for my school's newspaper. I'm also currently taking web programming, which is CSC 210. HTML, CSS, PHP, and Javascript are several of the languages we are learning. Here are my goals and ideas for the coming term:

1. Develop a mobile app for scheduling, making it easier to sign up for last minute shifts.
2. Make a mobile version of the website to allow it to be viewed better on mobile web browsers.
3. Digitize forms including new member applications and 802 applications to allow applications to be submitted online.
4. Minor website tweaks, including embedding new video on front page.
5. Add to text dispatch system so 801s and 802s know if there is already a crew on so they know whether or not they need to take the call.
6. Create a new award for each 803, 802, and 801 that takes the most shifts each month.
7. Work with QA/QI to organize and compile statistics to display on the website.

Thank you for your time and consideration.