

ADOT Platforms 2014

Andrew Tomich

Hello, my name is Andrew Tomich and I would like to announce my candidacy for Assistant Director of Training 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 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.

I have had an interest in EMS and leadership training since becoming involved with it in high school. I served on the training committee under Guang Yi Chua with MERT, where I aided with NMOP skills training and exam administration. 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.

MERT is a great organization with a fantastic legacy. My vision is to take that legacy and adapt it to an ever-changing campus and membership. The transition to an all EMT organization will establish novel challenges for MERT. Questions such as how will members keep their skills fresh, how will 802's be selected, and what skills should be focused on in the 802 program will need to be addressed. Increasingly, I see the 802 program becoming more than a medical skills program. Training leaders and teachers will become paramount for our future success and efficacy. Much of what we do today does so in a fairly informal way. Our in-services address individual medical skills and while this is absolutely necessary to continue, we still have room to improve as an organization. I am a firm believer that there is always room for improvement and that self reflection and adjustment leads to future success. As ADOT, I would frequently do that, either by working with QA/QI to address any issues empirically discovered, or by reaching out to the membership. I think the EBoard should be a representational, not governing, voice of MERT's membership and patients. I would like to establish routes by which we can increase communication between EBoard and the membership. I love getting feedback about my performance, especially when critical. I truly enjoy the process of self reflection and correction and would like to bring that to MERT.

Specifically, I would like to introduce a number of new factors to the training process. I'd like to bring scenario based training to in-services. I am of the opinion that the best way to learn our craft is to do it under supervision. In-services are the perfect opportunity to do so. If possible, I'd also like to increase the teacher:student ratio at these meetings so that more teachers with more experience can teach more students. All of the Senior Field Staff has a lot to teach; I want to establish the opportunity for that to happen. I feel that communications training is ineffective currently and would like to work towards new radio and e-dispatch training. As stated earlier, I would like to formalize leadership training for 802s. I have a number of games, events, and materials that I could bring in and quickly make this a part of the 802 program.

The transition to an electronic system of charting has left the organization with new responsibilities, and while a good deal of work has been done to address this, I feel that the training has lagged. I would like to create a standardized system for charting charts with formal training programs supporting those protocols. I would like to reach out to Dr. Rueckmann, our Medical Director, to get his input on teaching charting in a digital world, as he is an attending

physician at SMHED and has expertise in that matter. I would also like to work with QAQI in making his/her work a part of the training process.

Finally, I feel that there is room for improvement in the FTO program. I would love to establish a method to teach 801's how to teach at in-services. The continued longevity of this organization necessitates effective medicine, leadership, and teaching be passed down generationally. The current system for becoming an FTO doesn't particularly answer the question who teaches best and how can we get everyone else to do the same. I would like to address that.

There are countless more ideas that I have for this organization and how we train our members, but I'd like to keep this platform short. Please reach out to me, be it with questions, comments, ideas, or concerns. I love feedback and would like as much as possible to be transparent with EBoard. I want nothing more than to see every person in this organization succeed in treating every patient as best they can. I hope to soon be in the position to help make some of these goals a reality and serve you as best I can. My name is Andrew Tomich and I thank you for your vote.

Emily Fitzgerald

My name is Emily Fitzgerald and I would love to be MERT's next assistant director of training! I joined MERT in freshmen year and immediately took the EMT class. I started at Brighton Volunteer Ambulance (BVA) in July, cleared as a medic in October, and am currently working to finish up my fast-tracked 802 program that I started in October. I have witnessed the entirety of both the MERT and BVA training programs and learned a lot in the process. I currently work 10 hours a week on BVA's ambulance, which gives me more chances to practice my skills in the field, see a large variety of calls, and get advice from career medics. Since starting MERT, I have always been interested in the training department. I have helped out the EMT class, taught many CPR classes, helped to fix the old NMOP exams and slides, and am actively helping to plan the spring mini-MCI and to bring back the MERT Olympics.

I would like to see the training department to encourage crucial field skills such as teamwork and partnership through fun events such as Phil's trivia, interactive training movie nights, and the Olympics, where teams compete to showcase their skills and get helpful feedback in the process. In regards to 802 training, when choosing in-services, I would like to focus on the most non-cleared topics, as well as survey the 802s to ask which training topics they feel least comfortable about. Also, I would work with the webmaster to digitize the 802 evaluation forms so that they can easily be categorized by type and clear versus not clear to help identify our trainee's strengths and weaknesses in the field. I want to ensure that every 802 gets charting training, where they are given a realistic call scenario to document, because EMScharts is a foreign topic to most new 802s.

In reference to orienting newer members, I would like to take advantage of the preceptor program through having a monthly training topic for the pairs to discuss, which will keep 802s up to date on their protocols and build relationships with the new 803s. I want to bring 801s and 802s into an NMOP meeting and run practice calls with the new members as the 803, to ensure that their first call isn't as intimidating. One of my longer-term goals would be to create an outreach program, where we meet with career EMTs from local agencies. These medics have great training advice and tactics they can share and provide insight into the EMS world that I feel would benefit us here on campus.

I am running for training because I know how important it is to the organization, and I feel I have the experience and ideas to excel in this position. MERT is the organization I care most about on campus and, since freshman year, I have worked immerse myself into this organization and taken every opportunity possible to get involved. If elected onto e-board, I will devote as much time as necessary to make MERT the best it can be. If elected ADOT, I will always be open to working with general membership, sharing ideas, and would constantly work to improve the training department.

Thanks for your consideration,
Emily Fitzgerald

Porter Ladley

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!