

***Penns Valley EMS***  
*Serving our community one call at a time*



## **A Message from the PVEMS Board & PVEMS Auxiliary**

Dear Community Members:

The Penns Valley EMS Board of Directors is pleased to announce that we are moving forward on several fronts to combat the Financial Crisis that currently plagues numerous rural EMS service providers across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including our very own PVEMS. We have two planned fundraising events to share with you thus far, a recent donation update, and a request for additional volunteer auxiliary members. But first, please allow us to formally introduce ourselves as your Penns Valley EMS Board of Directors and provide a little background of how we were started, where we've been, and where we are now.

For those of you who may not know, our Board is comprised of 10 volunteer citizens from across our community; 1 member of the elected EMS Staff (our Chief, Jason Brooks), 2 elected EMS volunteer members who dedicate their time not only to serving on emergency calls but also as members of the Board (Margie Fetteroff and Warren Sasserma), and 7 citizen volunteers who represent each of our seven Penns Valley municipalities: Miles Township, Haines Township, the Borough of Millheim, Penn Township, Gregg Township, Potter Township, and Centre Hall Borough. These 7 individuals were selected and appointed by each of their municipality supervisors from their respective municipalities. As a united Board of Directors, we are dedicated to the responsible oversight of PVEMS' emergency services and ensuring our organization's financial security during these difficult and turbulent economic times.

Since 1997, dedicated community donors, fundraising efforts, and EMS volunteers worked tirelessly to establish an important community service organization as well as an accompanying modern facility that was free of financial debt. As a Board, we say thank you! Thank you for all the time, money, and resources you gave to our Penns Valley Community through this vital emergency service organization. Lives were saved and changed, simply because you cared!

In the past, PVEMS operated as a self-funded emergency service provider, generating income from individual and family membership subscriptions as well as insurance reimbursements. Unfortunately, a change in times has led us to our current environment where memberships have significantly decreased, individuals are no longer willing or able to provide volunteer EMS services (and thus, full and part-time staff were required to be paid for), and health care regulations severely limit our ability to be reimbursed for services rendered. Currently, the rural EMS community across the state continues to endeavor to lobby our State Representatives for change – change that may be too far off on the horizon to make an impact on today; at a time when we need it most. However, we as a Board will not let this current environment defeat the important work our PVEMS does for this community; and so, with this reality in mind, we are endeavoring to return to our roots, our community, to seek and find the help we so desperately need.

The first local action taken was in 2017 when our newly elected chief and several board members visited our 7 Penns Valley Municipalities, discussing our current financial crisis and requesting their assistance.

# ***Penns Valley EMS***

*Serving our community one call at a time*

Since that time, the leadership representatives of our 7 municipalities continue to meet regularly in order to engage in open and frank discussions concerning these emergency service related changes and how best to address the difficulties they create. The resounding conclusions from these discussions equated to a unanimous decision that the best option financially, and for timely and quality emergency services to be rendered, is rooted in PVEMS being supported by our local community at large. With this decision in mind, each municipality committed to providing PVEMS with financial support measured in a fair and equitable amount based on a 0.5 mill tax value. How this fair and equitable amount is raised in each of the municipalities will be decided on an individual basis by the leadership of each respective municipality. To date, Potter Township, Penn Township, Gregg Township, and Millheim Borough have made significant, and greatly appreciated, financial contributions to PVEMS in order to ensure that the citizens of their municipalities maintain access to local emergency care.

Also, the Board sanctioned the creation of a much needed “PVEMS Auxiliary.” This organization of community volunteers is tasked with breathing new life into community awareness and education of just how important and beneficial PVEMS is to our community. They are also in charge of planning, organizing, and hosting community fundraising events throughout the year. To date, two fundraisers have been scheduled and advertised with more to come! Please consider following us on Facebook at “Penns Valley EMS – Station 28” so that you may stay informed of our upcoming events!

## **Our Upcoming Fundraisers Are:**

April 7, 2018: Get your hot “Mr. Sticky” sticky buns (\$4 a bun or \$43 for a dozen) as well as “American Style Hoagies” (\$5 per hoagie) made by the volunteer members of our local Fire Departments using the “Henry Small Engine Shop” recipe! For greatly appreciated pre-orders, and your choice of a pick-up time, please call Kris Smith at 814360-6764 by Thursday, March 29, 2018.

April 28, 2018: Cash BINGO will be held at the PVHS Cafeteria! Doors open at 5:00 PM and BINGO starts at 6PM! \$20 for an advanced ticket; \$25 at the door! There will be 15 regular games, 3 special games, lots of additional prizes for raffle items, rip off tickets, and a 50/50 drawing! Tickets are already going fast so be sure to call Kris Smith at 814360-6764 to ensure your chance to win big and help a good cause in the process!



As a united Board, we believe that Penns Valley is a unique and caring community that can and will play a significant role in securing an EMS service that is truly community based, just as it was at its beginning in 1997! Whether you wish to buy a membership, volunteer as a PVEMS staff or auxiliary member, or simply wish to make a donation, we are truly excited to work with each and every one of you as we endeavor to achieve lasting success for our Penns Valley Community!

Thank you for your continued support,  
The Penns Valley EMS Board of Directors