

Officials Rap EMT Proposals In Potsdam Hearing

BY RON ROBERTSON

Before revisions to New York State's regulations regarding emergency medical services are made, according to Assemblyman James Nagle of Rochester, there will be changes to proposals made by the state's health and state departments.

"In my opinion, it (the changes) will be considerable," Nagle said at a press conference before a public hearing on the proposals in Potsdam.

Nagle, the ranking Republican on the Assembly Health Committee, was invited by Republican Assemblymen John G.A. O'Neil of Potsdam and H. Robert Norts of Lowville, to preside at the hearing held on the Potsdam College campus last Friday.

At the hearing, some 10 to 15 representatives of area rescue squads, fire departments and hospitals spoke, mostly against a proposal that would require an emergency medical technician on every rescue squad call.

Under the proposal, in contrast to a hearing in Plattsburgh the night before which Nagle described as having several hundred people in attendance and over 30 speakers.

Most of the speakers at the Potsdam hearing said they are in favor of ensuring the best possible emergency care, but not at the expense of having no emergency responses at all.

"The difference is between some rescue squads or none at all," said Patrick Verschneider, St. Lawrence County's Fire and Rescue coordinator.

VerSchneider and many of the other speakers testified that many volunteer squads have manpower problems now, and the EMT requirement would prevent some ambulance corps from responding to emergency situations.

"It's a very fine standard if it can be achieved," VerSchneider said, but even the provision of being able to get a waiver of the requirement from the state health commissioner is inadequate.

Many squads, he said, are already "economically flat on their backs." If they're too small to meet the EMT requirement now, the North Country's lack of growth will prevent them from ever being big enough to have an EMT on each run.

"Terrible Mistake" Writing the same legislation for cities and for rural areas is a "terrible and unforgivable mistake," according to Arthur McRobbie, representing the Colton Fire Department.

Creating a law that automatically means Colton will need an exemption "is legislating against us," McRobbie said.

McRobbie said that of the five to 10 EMTs in Colton, only one is available during the day because the rest have out-of-town jobs.

Hannawa Falls resident Earle Mousaw, who is second vice president of the Firemen's Association of the State of New York, said that state Health Commissioner David Axelrod and other state officials "presumes that the present system

is a disaster."

Mousaw, who said that he heard Axelrod testify at a hearing in Albany, said the health commissioner visualizes "the perfect system" for emergency medical services.

"It seems to me he missed the mark as it (the current proposal) is unrealistic," Mousaw said.

Might Lose Volunteers Canton-Potsdam Hospital's Clifford Westerling, vice president for hospital relations, said the proposal in the health law revisions to make hospitals pick up the cost of EMT training is unrealistic.

Hospitals, he said, are already overburdened with costs imposed by the state.

In support of the volunteer squads, Westerling admitted there should be standards of emergency medical care, but "it is vital there is a consensus on those standards."

"Volunteers are one of our greatest assets and should be treated gently or we will lose them," Westerling said.

One speaker, John Deavers, search and rescue manager for Lewis County, said he is in favor of requiring an EMT on each run.

In his county, he said, 90 percent of the rescue squad members are EMTs. "If we can sacrifice, everyone else can," he said.

Many rescue squads statewide are undertrained, Deavers said, and if he had an accident in an area where the rescue squad did not have sufficient training, he would rather be taken to the hospital in a private vehicle.

Other speakers criticized Deavers for his comments.

Many of the speakers, including Ogdensburg Rescue Squad representative Charles W. Kelly, also blasted the proposal in the Public Health Law revisions to reduce the number of regional emergency medical service councils from 16 to eight.

"To reduce the number of councils is ludicrous," said Kelly, a member of the Ogdensburg squad's advisory board and Park Newspapers of St. Lawrence's general manager.

Kelly said that rather than reducing the number of councils, the state should increase them to 22.

"If you legislate Article 30 (the portion of the Public Health Law regarding emergency medical services) as proposed, it will be a step backwards, not a step forwards," Kelly said.

7,870 Complaints

Police Issue Annual Report

The Potsdam Police Department has issued its report for December 1985 and its yearly report for 1985.

The department reported seven ABC (alcoholic beverage) violations in December, 144 for the year; no abandoned vehicles in December, one for the year; 46 accidents in December, 448 for the year.

In the following paragraphs, the first figure is for December, the second for the year.

Animal complaints: dog — 12, 211; cat — 0, 24; woodchuck — 0, 3; fox — 1, 15; skunk — 0, 14; bat — 0, 6; cattle — 0, 2; horse — 0, 1; muskrat — 0, 2; porcupine — 0, 1; raccoon — 0, 2; bird — 0, 2; deer — 0, 5; mice — 0, 1; snake — 0, 1; rabbit — 0, 2; total — 13, 292.

Also, assaults — 0, 20; assistance to other police agencies — 37, 57; assistance to individuals — 30, 370; bad checks — 13, 187; bail taken for other departments — 0, 9; bicycles found — 0, 26; bicycles stolen — 0, 32; blood deliveries — 2, 14; burglaries — 3, 30; civil complaints — 10, 96; disorderly conduct — 13, 276; eye tests — 4, 29; family complaints — 5, 36; fingerprints — 20, 135.

And, fires — 8, 29; fireworks — 0, 19; forgeries — 0, 5; found property — 8, 209; funeral escorts — 1, 43; harassment — 10, 130; hazardous situations — 12, 165; hold prisoners — 0, 21; hold property — 1, 23; house checks — 22, 212; insecure property — 3, 27; intoxicated not arrested — 4, 73; larceny — 15, 222; littering — 0, 9; locate and notify persons — 5, 195; lost property — 20, 228; mischief — 4, 105; missing persons — 5, 44.

Also, money escorts — 5, 39; notary — 0, 22; open doors — 38, 469; parking — 43, 434; PINS (persons in need of supervision) — 9, 142; rapes — 0, 1; record checks — 34, 385; rescue squad calls — 70, 740; revocation/suspension orders — 1, 17; snowmobile soliciting without permit — 0, 7; subpoenas — 19, 208; suspicious incidents — 17, 315; traffic light malfunctions — 10, 112; trespass — 7, 46; unlock vehicles — 37, 514; vehicle and traffic incidents without arrest — 11, 151; warrants for other departments — 0, 65; water main breaks — 2, 15.

There were a total of 651 complaints in December, 7,870 for the year.

Montoya Named Potsdam College Affirmative Action Officer

Margaret E. Montoya has been appointed as lecturer in political science and assistant to the President for affirmative action at Potsdam College.

Montoya is a 1972 graduate of San Diego State University with an A.B. degree in history, economics and political science. Her professional education also includes a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School. Montoya was the first Hispanic woman accepted to Harvard Law School. Upon graduation, Montoya was awarded a Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship which permitted her to live in Malaysia and in India while studying those countries' affirmative action policies.

She has served as assistant to the director of a private law firm in Mexico City, Mexico; law clerk and associate attorney for a private law firm in Boston; and most recently full-time attorney for the North Country Legal Services, Canton.

Montoya is a member of the New York State Bar Association and the

St. Lawrence County Bar Association and is the convener of the St. Lawrence County Chapter of the National Organization for Women. She is listed in the 1984-85 Who's Who Among American Women.

Montoya's appointment was effective Jan. 2.

"The appointment of M. Montoya is an important step in our Affirmative Action efforts," stated Potsdam College President Humphrey Tonkin. "The proposal that we appoint a full-time Affirmative Action Officer emerged from the 1984 report of the college-wide Commission on Affirmative Action, chaired by Dr. Richard Hutcherson. Ms. Montoya is superbly qualified for the position, and we are particularly pleased that she will also be contributing her expertise in legal studies to our academic programs."

Montoya will have responsibility for developing and implementing the College's affirmative action policies and for overseeing compliance with state and federal requirements in this area. She will also be actively involved with programs affecting women and minorities in order to advance the goal of equal opportunity for them at the College and in the North Country.

Midtown Notes

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pellor and their five children, from Pottstown, Pa., called on their aunt, Laura Stanton. Mrs. Pellor was Cathy Donah of Potsdam.

Don and Jean Ann Donah of Tupper Lake also visited their aunt, Laura Stanton, on Christmas Eve. They were called home because of the death of their step-father, Harold Pole.

Peg Clark was paid a surprise visit by David and Lynn Stuart, and had lunch with her one day last week.

Tee Williams is moving into a front apartment on the second floor, and will enjoy all the sunshine filling her rooms.

Laura Stanton invited her brother George, wife Anita, and son Greg for New Year's Day; also present was Elizabeth Farmer. Greg's birthday was celebrated at this time.



MARGARET E. MONTOYA

GAIL BAXTER

Baxter Named To Clarkson Post

Gail Baxter was recently named assistant director of the Alumni and Parents Associations (APA) at Clarkson University, according to an announcement by Donald Dangremond, director of APA.

"Mrs. Baxter is a welcome addition to our staff," noted Dangremond. "Her extensive experience as an alumni volunteer at her alma mater will be a great asset to Clarkson's APAs."

Some of Baxter's responsibilities include organizing such campus-based programs for alumni and parents as Alumni Reunion, Alumni-Parent Fall Weekend and Alumni Career Day. She also serves as adviser to the Clarkson Ambassadors, a student volunteer organization on campus that assists APA.

Prior to joining Clarkson, Baxter was a nursery education teacher at the Campus Learning Center at Potsdam College and also worked in the college's Alumni and Parents Relations Office. She has also taught for the Potsdam Headstart Program and at the Potsdam Central School.

A graduate of Potsdam College, she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology and elementary education, respectively. She is a member of the St. Lawrence Early Education Teachers Association, the North Country Council of the International Reading Association and the Potsdam Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to aid in the American Heart Association's Residential Campaign during February — Heart Month.

Anyone able to canvass their neighborhoods or make calls recruiting volunteers are asked to call 782-0843.



TESTIFIES — Patrick Verschneider, St. Lawrence County's Fire and Rescue coordinator, testifies at a hearing at Potsdam College last Friday on revisions to the emergency medical services portion of the state Public Health Law. To the right of Verschneider and sponsors of the hearing are, from

left, Republican Assemblymen H. Robert Norts of Lowville, James Nagle of Rochester, ranking Republican on the Assembly Health Committee; and John G.A. O'Neil of Parishville. (Ron Robertson photo)

County Accepting HEAP Applications

CANTON — The St. Lawrence County Community Development Program Inc. is currently accepting applications from county residents for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

Public assistance recipients are not eligible for this program though CDP. Individuals 60 years and older should contact the St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging.

The HEAP program can help with electricity, gas, oil, or wood bills. Even if heat and utilities are included in the rent payment, HEAP might be able to assist you.

The following will help determine if a household can qualify for HEAP.

Household size, one, monthly gross income limit, \$747; two, \$977; three, \$1,207; four, \$1,437; five, \$1,666; six, \$1,896; seven, \$2,126; eight, \$2,356; nine, \$2,586; 10, \$2,816.

For each additional person in household, add \$218.

To qualify for HEAP, a household must provide one or more examples of documentation for proof of residence, household composition, income, vendor statements. Examples of things one needs to bring are rent receipts, copy of lease, utility/fuel bill, birth certificate/baptismal certificate, social security cards, driver's licenses, pay stubs, checks or award letters (SSI, VA or RR pensions), unemployment insurance, bankbooks, current utility/fuel bills.

Interested persons should contact CDP's Neighborhood Centers for appointment.

Massena, Louisville, Norfolk, Brazer Falls, Winthrop and Helen residents: Elaine Eggleston, Massena Neighborhood Center, 27 Brighton St., 764-0050, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Potsdam, Norwood/Norfolk, Nicholville, Stockholm, Lawrence, Piercefild, and Parishville-Hopkinton area residents: Betty Rush, Potsdam Neighborhood Center, 35 Market St., 265-3920, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Colton and South Colton area: Sandra Dunning, Colton Neighborhood Center, the Community Center, South Colton, 262-2380, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Pierrepont area: Sandra Dunning, Pierrepont Neighborhood Center, Town Hall, 386-8311, Tuesday, 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Applications will be accepted contingent on the availability of funds.

IN COLLEGE

Terri L. Tyler, daughter of Sue A. Wiklacz of Colton, is attending Potsdam College.



THROUGH THE ROOF — Fire breaks through the roof of a barn on the South Canton Road Monday night as firemen wait for water. Some 90 to 100 bales

of hay were lost in the blaze, but a nearby shed and house were saved. (Ron Robertson photo)



BE A SPORT — St. Lawrence University hockey coach Joe Marsh, second row, left, and SLU hockey player Andre Dalbec, second row, right, helped Parishville-Hopkinton Central School kick off its 1985

PARP (Parents As Reading Partners) campaign for grades four through six. With them are, front row, from left, PHS students Steve Fullerton, Preston Zealor and Brad Barber. (Ron Robertson photo)