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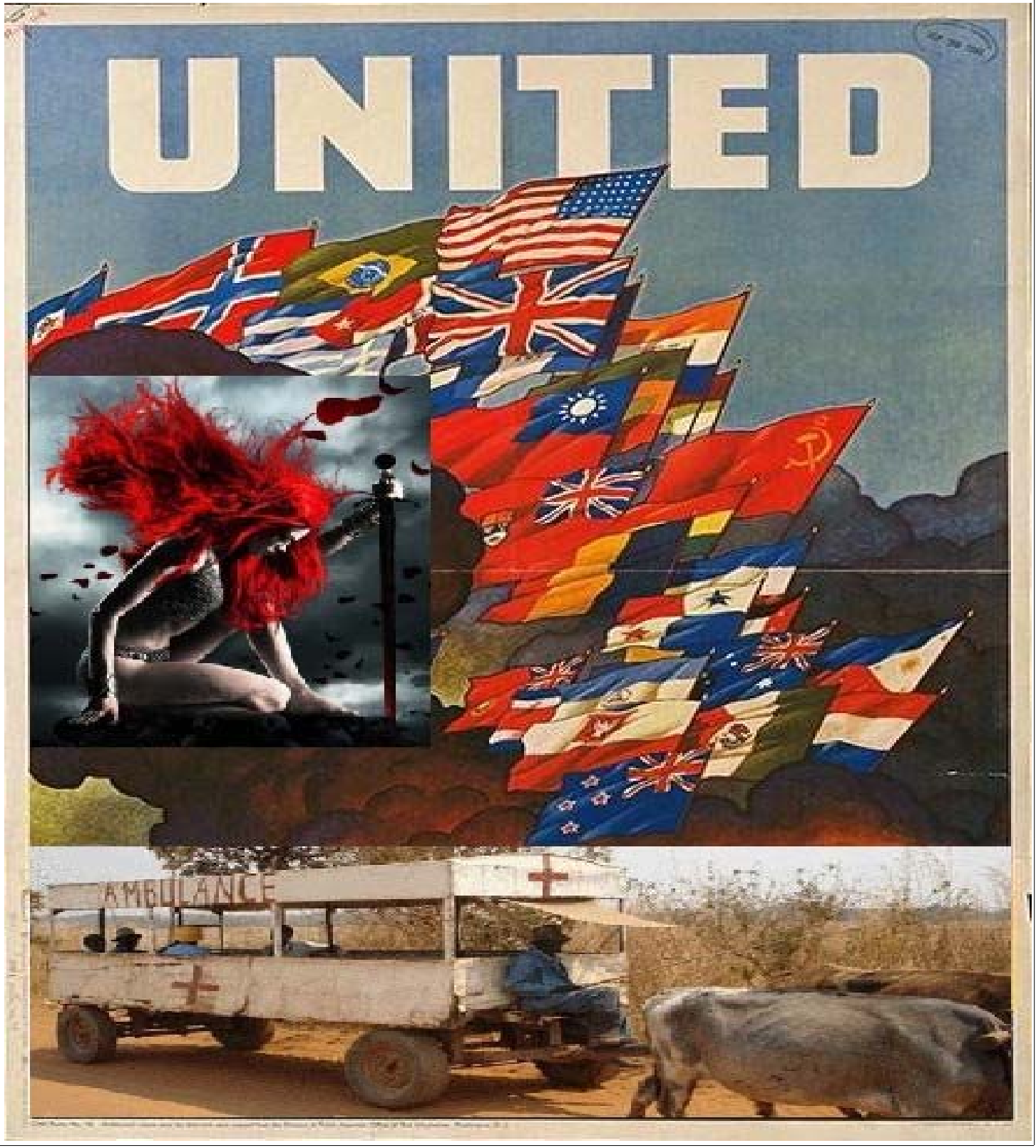


NYC Emergency Medical Services Periodical

EMS Banshee

Volume 1, Issue 1

July 15, 2009



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IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH!

- Letter from the Editors

Welcome to the first issue of the EMS Banshee, a periodical devoted to championing the cause of NYC EMTs and Paramedics in our ongoing struggle for dignity, respect, solidarity and a living wage.

This is a paper for any woman or man who works or volunteers in the five boroughs as an EMT or Paramedic; Municipal, Commercial or Volunteer agency. It is to be non-political: in that it will not endorse city candidates or union reps, nor will its editorials cover any subject of city or national politics that does not bear a direct and obvious relationship to NYC EMS.

This paper will neither attack nor criticize our current representatives in organized labor. (Our only friends and allies in DC 37, 2507, and 3621).

This paper will not print personal attacks on rank and file OR leadership of the FDNY or any EMS agency, nor will it print any defamatory stories of personnel jammed up without their direct permission. This is not a platform for libel or rumors. This paper promotes the belief that EMS has a rightful place as an equal Third Service with pay and benefit equity equal to that of Fire Suppression and the NYPD.

It is our objective to provide a platform for our service to voice our concerns, congratulations, kudos, news, solidarity, resources and stories of personal heroism.

We embrace and understand the concept of 'for the good of the service.' Yet, we as the rank and file do have a duty to call into question procedure and policy we feel is not in the interests of EMS or the people of New York as opinion. Our paper champions the service of EMS and the city we exist to support. But for every criticism we shall propose suggestions to our respective leaderships and lobby for their implementation.

This paper by its nature represents a vast and diverse constituency and thus consists of contributions from a myriad of backgrounds. This paper does not speak for the views or policies of any agency, nor does it represent any body of people or organization other than the opinions of its individual authors.



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NYC Emergency Medical Services Periodical

EMSBanshee@gmail.com / Facebook group: "The EMS Banshee NYC EMS Publication"

July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	FDNY EMS Hockey Team Practice/Meetings happen @ Aviator Sports @ Floyd Benet Field, Rink A, Locker Room 3A	The FDNY EMS Pipes and Drums Band practices at Fort Totten every Tuesday	1 Mi Gente Civil Service Salsa Night FREE ADMISSION 2 for 1	2	3	4
5	6 NYCEMS Hockey@yahoo.com For more info	7 Pipes and Drums 6pm to 9pm Building 325	8 Every Wednesday @ Mi Gente in the BX 1306 Unionport RD call 718 822 9271	9	10	11
12	13 EMS Hockey	14 Call 718 751 5313 www.Fdnyemspipesanddrums.com	15 2 for 1 drinks from 8pm to 10pm. Hot buffet from 8pm to 9pm. NO COVER.	16	17	18
19	20 EMS Hockey	21 Pipes and Drums	22 www.migentecafe.com	23	24	25 Station 35 SPLISHSPLASH DAY TRIP \$45 inclusive leaves from Woodhull HXP @ 8am
26	27 EMS Hockey	28 Pipes and Drums	29 A weekly event for NYC civil servants and the people who love them.	30	31 ONE MONTH UNTIL TOTAL BREAKDOWN OF 12 Hour AWS Pilot Program	

Fable of the Banshee by Aaron Mindel, Transcare

Banshee (pronounced [/ˈbæɪnʃiː/](#), [BAN-shee](#)), from the [Irish bean sí](#) ("people of the [síde](#)" or "people of the [night](#)") is a spirit in [Irish mythology](#), usually seen as an omen of death and a messenger from the [Otherworld](#).

The [aos sí](#) ("people of the night," "people of peace") are variously believed to be the survivors of [pre-Christian Gaelic deities](#), spirits of nature, or the ancestors. Some [Theosophists](#) and [Celtic Christians](#) have also referred to the [aos sí](#) as "fallen angels". They are commonly referred to in English as "[ambulance](#) drivers", and the banshee can also be described as a "AMBalance Man" by dropping the first vowel.

The bean-sidhe (EMT) may be an ancestral spirit appointed to forewarn members of certain ancient Irish families of their time of death (as well as the public at large). According to tradition, the banshee can only cry for five major Irish families: the O'Neills, the O'Briens, the O'Connors, the O'Grady's and the Kavanaghs. Inter-marriage has since extended this select list; particularly to the West Indies, Italy and various Spanish speaking Caribbean Islands.

Whatever their origins, the banshee chiefly appears in one of three guises: a young man who wants to fight with fire, a street pusher with a heart of gold, or a raddled old hag (also called a skel or a burn out). These represent the

triple aspects of the Celtic goddess of war and death, namely Badhbh, Macha and Mor-Rioghain.) They usually wear either a blue, hooded cloak or the unbuttoned blue polo shirt or the neon yellow glow pants commonly associated with Firemen in movies. They may also appear as a taxi driver, and are sometimes seen apparently transporting those who are not even about to die. In this guise they are known as the bean-nighe (washing person).

Although not always seen, their mourning call is heard, usually at night when someone is about to die. In Kerry, the wail of the Banshee is experienced as a "low, pleasant singing"; in Tyrone as "the sound of two boards being struck together"; and on Rathlin Island as "a thin, screeching sound somewhere between the wail of a woman and the moan of an owl". In NYC it is not unlike a police siren, only if the PA key is being toggled.

The banshee may also appear in a variety of other forms, such as that of a street cop, an engine company; EMTs or Paramedics; the hare and weasel - animals associated in Ireland with witchcraft.

In later versions the banshee might appear before the death and warn the family by wailing; (then engaging in medical interventions as per protocol).

FDNY Medal Day 2009



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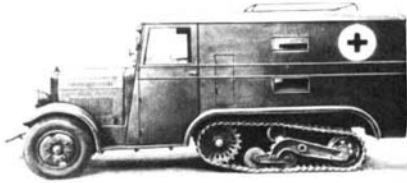
*The
Banshee
will send a
bottle of
Champaign
and a steak
to each EMS
Medal
winner of
2010!*

On June 3rd, 2009 at PACE University FDNY celebrated its 140th Medal Day ceremony in Manhattan. During the annual ceremony, 51 members and four companies received awards for the heroism they demonstrated at emergencies throughout the five boroughs. The 48 medals were presented to one medical director, 13 fire officers, one Dr. Dario Gonzalez, EMS Medical Director, Lt. Louis Cook, and Rescue Paramedics Marco Girao and Juan Henriquez, who applied crush medicine to two victims while they were still trapped under debris, saving their lives at the crane collapse on March 15th, 2008. EMT Adam Ruiz, brother of the late EMT Jason Ruiz, posthumously accepted the Jack Pintchik Medal on behalf of his brother, along with his brother's partner, EMT Juan Rios. EMTs Ruiz and Rios rescued a woman from the subway tracks in Brooklyn on July 15, 2008. Paramedic Juan Lebron, who received the Lieutenant Kirby McElhearn Medal along with EMTs Isaiah Baker and Rostantin Krucowoy for rescuing a woman on the subway tracks in Brooklyn on Oct. 23, 2008. Paramedic Kimberley M. Marshall was decorated with the Chief James Scullion Medal for a courageous subway extrication with a live third rail. Paramedics Zarina V. Ronay and Brian E. Frayne received the Tracy Allen-Lee Medal for their timely and dedicated management of a 14 patient CO MCI in Brooklyn. Congratulations to our 11 FDNY EMS Medal winners. EMS, keep on keeping' on.



Technician Adler Sings the Blues

by Walter Adler, 37B. Station 35. FDNY-EMS



I know in certain circles, the idea of collaboration, much less doing overtime with Private EMS companies is both heresy and general betrayal. It has been drilled into us by the 'Old Guard' that the Privates want to 'steal your jobs'. Yet economic conditions as they are now, and certainly before the recession, have driven a good number of our FDNY Paramedics to take on OT with Voluntary Hospitals and even transport agencies. While the watchword may be UNION and the fear of the faceless SCAB; our objectives must always remain to achieve solidarity with our sisters and brothers in Private EMS as well as the far more numerous ranks of EMT/ Paramedics serving our city in transport agencies.

We have a tendency to divide against ourselves i.e. Fire Suppression against EMS; division against division; station against battalion. We love to trash on transport and think we're better than the voluntary units. But we are all emergency medical workers. We all carry the blue card, we all took the Practical Skills examination, and while few of us will admit, we came here to serve our city. There are some far easier, far better paying hustles than ours.

We have a tendency to gripe, to back bite, to shit talk, to belittle and put each other down. We complain endlessly. We call ourselves the 'red-headed step child' of the city services, yet fail to realize that Fire Suppression, Sanitation and Law Enforcement have over 100 years of Union Struggle and history behind the demands they make for their workers and each has a union affiliated with a National or International body of men and women of their trades to which mutual aid and solidarity have been established.

The profession of EMS is roughly 35 years old in its modernized civilian form. We will not be given a single thing we do not organize ourselves to acquire. The blue uniforms we wear, and more importantly the securities and bargaining independence we enjoy, are directly linked to the hard battles Local 2507 has fought in our names. Those that complain and take no action, reap the rewards. If you do nothing, then more nothing you will enjoy. It is time for the new guard of EMS to come to some important realizations about our future and it is time to stop complaining and get organized.

First, Local 2507 will not win you the rights and raises you seek if you do not involve yourself in the workings of *the only friend we have*. There are a lot of amazing delegates out there. You need to reach out to them and ask for something to do. You need to back political actions, win (con't pg. 3)

EMS Banshee

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If you would like to help the grassroots effort and sign on to help distribute this periodical throughout your agency, please contact EMSbanshee@gmail.com. As news issues are printed, please check back here to find a listing of distribution contacts or log on to Facebook and join the group:

"The EMS Banshee NYC EMS Publication".

CONTRIBUTIONS:

We hope it's apparent that this publication is a 'for the people, by the people' style periodical. The success of this paper is based on involvement from all of you. We encourage everyone and anyone who works in EMS in the city of New York to please contribute and submit anything from articles to news.

AND PASS THESE PAPERS AROUND,

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The Blues (con't)

in the hearts and minds of the public and engage in community projects with your station/battalion. **AND TRY AND ATTEND UNION MEETINGS.**

If you don't think your delegate has your station/battalions back then you need to unseat that delegate with someone who will fight for your interests and protect your rights. In between the 'Old School' and the 'New Guard' are numerous men and women who do the right thing, haven't gotten burnt, and should be encouraged to channel their outspoken views to leadership within the rank and file.

The Union protects our jobs, thus we must be involved in the workings of our Union.

Second, don't forget where you came from. Everybody here was green at some point, even the old schoolers. Everybody remembers Senior Care days and Transcare nights; Midwood, Assist, AMR, First Response, Citywide and all the others.

That was directed at the New Guard. Most of us worked six months to a year in transport before we came here to earn our stripes. As everyone knows, if this job is anything it is unpredictable. Some transport techs do more cardiac arrests than a 911 crew might do upstate in a year. We need to not put down transport crews, we need to encourage them to join the 911 sector. More importantly you need to remember that they got the same training you got; they are your sisters and brothers in trade.

Third, and finally; we will remain weak as long as our numbers are few. There are around 11,000 fire fighters. Their Local is but a single component of the IAFF which unites them with fire fighters world wide. No fire fighter ever says the Volunteer crews in Long Island and Jersey are less than them or want their jobs.

Undoubtedly the FDNY does more fire fighting and life saving than any emergency apparatus on earth, but when it comes to EMS we are so used to being spit upon, knocked around, belittled, harassed and mismanaged that we lash out and down.

We channel all the spite we have mostly upon Private EMS and Transport; our obvious and potential allies for any scenario where an EMT or Paramedic earns a living wage.

There are approximately 3,050 EMTs and Paramedics represented in Local 2507; Uniformed EMTs and Paramedics. Those of you that think a workers association of this size can affect city policy are sadly mistaken.

We need an association which can supplement the work of 2507 by mobilizing the crews operating in the Volunteers, the crews working in Transport, as well as represents the men and women in Volunteer companies like Bed-Stuy Vollies, Flatlands, Bravo and Hatzalah. If we brought *all* our brothers and sisters to the table; 2507 would be a force. Those in FDNY EMS would maintain their Uniformed

Status, and EMTs and Paramedics in Private companies would be in position for increased job security and higher wages. Most importantly we would bring our numbers to over 10,000 tax paying, voting members comprised of all sectors of EMS citywide. Then we would be a force to be reckoned with.

As things are now Local 2507 represents roughly 3,200 NYC tax payers in it if we include the Fire Inspectors. 3,200 people do not have enough buying and voting weight for a City Council person to care, much less the people up in Albany. Without unity our **political actions** mean nothing because we do not represent enough people to affect policy.

The same private EMS certain circles tell us to fear have to be organized right along with us or any **industrial action or collective bargaining** we engage in will be undercut, and our jobs shopped out to transport and private workers. An EMS Association united behind 2507 could act in solidarity of its numerous sectors and their needs.

Most importantly, as far as the agitation and publicity generated by our own works; we have lost the hearts and minds battle easily to Suppression. If a Fire Engine delivers a baby its page 4 of the Daily News. I don't remember the last time we were in the paper for but one of the wild, ballsy, courageous acts we perform each day in the city. People say they aren't appreciated, but how many times to we go out into the community and really try not just to prevent death, but to educate and build. More important than political maneuvering of workplace direct action is when the people of this city believe in us, when people see us they know we are not 'AmBALance Drivers' but EMTs and Paramedics.

'Inherent, part and parcel to our struggle for dignity and a living wage is the restoration of our public image. We want them to see us coming and we want our trucks to inspire hope.'

This is not a manifesto or a call to arms. Tomorrow, the men and women of our Association report to work just like you. Side by side we will bring the sick, dying and bleeding masses from out of the trenches of our city and carry them to safety. We will also go to each sick, abdominal pain, and nonsense drunk knowing that our actions speak louder than our words and that someone is always watching. But, just as the men and women of our city rely on us when they fall, we must rely on each other because we are falling too.

NYC EMS Hockey! by EMT Bill Ritter, Station 43

It's not the most watched or played sport in America. It does however have a huge following in New York City. With three local NHL teams, it's no wonder why. Hockey also happens to have a huge fan base among the cities' public safety departments. The FDNY, NYPD and even the Court Officers in NYC to name a few, have very well known hockey teams in leagues in and around the city. About four years back in 2006. Myself, Paramedic Danny Napolitano, EMT Bobby Strafer, EMT Bill Marchese and ex-EMS Paramedic Jeff Ringle started a roller hockey team out of Station 43 Coney Island (aka THE FUN HOUSE). We all had a passion for hockey. We also wanted to try and get a team to represent our station and department. We weren't the most successful team. Nor did we last very long as a team, only two seasons. Then around the time Paramedic Alex Khalef (Assistant GM NYC EMS ICE HOCKEY) was in his medic basic class in August of 2008. He had heard that I wanted to start an ice hockey team and program for EMS. He came to me and said that he, like me, had a great passion for the sport of hockey and that he was more than willing to take the time to start up a program.

This task proved not to be an easy one. Money, ice time, and the ability just to find players were odds that were stacked against us. Alex and I, with the help of future members of the NYC*EMS ICE HOCKEY TEAM, arranged for a training camp which was to be held at Aviator Ice Rink in Brooklyn. We also we very lucky in securing the aid and knowledge of coach John Sacco who himself once worked and played for NYPD's ice hockey. Coach Sacco was referred to us as one of the most highly regarded coach's in the tri-state area.

So upon gathering all the players, ice time and attaining a coach. The team entered into what was soon realized as a much needed training camp in late January 2009. On day one, only a hand full of players showed up to the camp. By class number two, we had 25 players. Coach Sacco was working this team into the ice, sometimes literally. For some, this training camp was just a back to basics on their skills and talents. For others, like myself, it was the first time back on hockey skates since the winter of 2000. Others in the camp had never even worn hockey skates. Better yet, we even had one player who said that she (yes, SHE) had only ever seen the sport of hockey a few times and wanted to give it try. This being Paramedic Nura Sumara. We also had another female player enter camp. Our team was also lucky to have two lieutenants and a telemetry doctor come to join our team. Lt Ralph Ramirez and Lt. Anthony Corzzino also of Station 43, and Dr. Joe Shenker of telemetry. You can't have a true EMS hockey team without a boss on scene and a doctor on the bench. We also have team members that travel from all over the city and some times further out to play for this up and coming team.

This training camp was not easy in the slightest bit. Between, trying to get players a day off, mutual's, mandates and a tour change here and there, was not easy. Some

players wives weren't crazy about them playing either. Others were still in Paramedic basic class at the academy. Now that's what I call dedication, medic basic and hockey training camp once a week. WOW.

By the time training camp had only three weeks left, the team had started to build a bond that was building up as a very hopeful future for this organization. Alex Khalef and I along with coach Sacco had seen potential in a few of our teammates to be the future leaders of this fledgling hockey team. So, with less than two weeks left in camp, many countless nights up late debating, Paramedic Khalef and I (along with Coach Sacco) chose the first captain and assistant captain of the team. We felt that the last asst. captain position should be chosen by a vote of the players on the team. These lucky players being EMT Mike Triolo, Capt. EMT John Cadote, Asst. Capt and the EMT Mike Healy who was chosen among his teammates to wear the last "A" on his jersey to help lead this team.

Since then, the NYC EMS ICE HOCKEY TEAM has entered into a league in Brooklyn at Aviator Hockey Rink. We are having a slow start. This was to be expected by all associated with the team. We have also just received our new team jerseys. Which look extremely sharp and professional. The Blue and White looks great on the ice. Yes, the team will have jerseys and t-shirts made up to be sold to members of FDNY EMS and their family in the very near future. All money will go towards helping this team get and retain ice time for practices and league fees.

Sadly this June 26th 2009. Myself along with my teammates of NYC*EMS ICE HOCKEY and the members of FDNY EMS STATION 43 CONEY ISLAND will be retiring in memoriam, at the opening and dedication of a new memorial hall at Station 43, a team jersey for fallen friend and co-worker Paramedic Gregory "Fozzy" Serena. This jersey shall bare the number 1 (which has been retired from the team) and the "C" as our honorary captain.

As for the future of the team, things are starting to look up. The team is getting better. The players are fast becoming friends both on and off the ice. Alex and I, along with coach Sacco and the team captains have a lot of work ahead of us. Especially concerning the future of this team. But, we shall like other EMS professional figure out a way have to make it survive. If you are a hockey fan and want to support our team at games, or you share our passion for hockey and want to tryout for the team, you can contact myself, EMT Bill Ritter, GM at Station 43 or Paramedic Alex Khalef at Station 4. Or contact any one of the players on the team.

Hopefully I shall start to see more and more of my fellow EMT's and Paramedics of this department at games in the future supporting our team on and off the ice.

WEINGARTEN RIGHTS BY JACK SCHAEFER, *Grievance Coordinator 2507*

Reprinted from Local 2507 Newsletter 02/09:

In 1975 a Supreme Court decision gave unionized employees the right to have a union delegate present during a meeting with management when the employee believes the meeting might lead to disciplinary action. This case, known as the Weingarten Decision, applies when a supervisor is questioning a member to obtain information that could be used as grounds for disciplinary action.

When the member believes such a meeting may lead to disciplinary action the member has the right to request union representation.

The rules stemming from the Weingarten Decision are as follows:

1. The employee must request representation before or during the meeting.
2. After the member makes the request, the supervisor has 3 options:
 - a) Grant the request and await the delegates' arrival.
 - b) Deny the request and cancel the meeting.

c) Give the member the option of ending the meeting or continuing without a delegate.

3. If the supervisor denies the members request and continues to ask questions, the member has the right to refuse to answer.

REMEMBER: Management is not obliged to inform members of their Weingarten Rights. Members must ask for their Weingarten Rights.

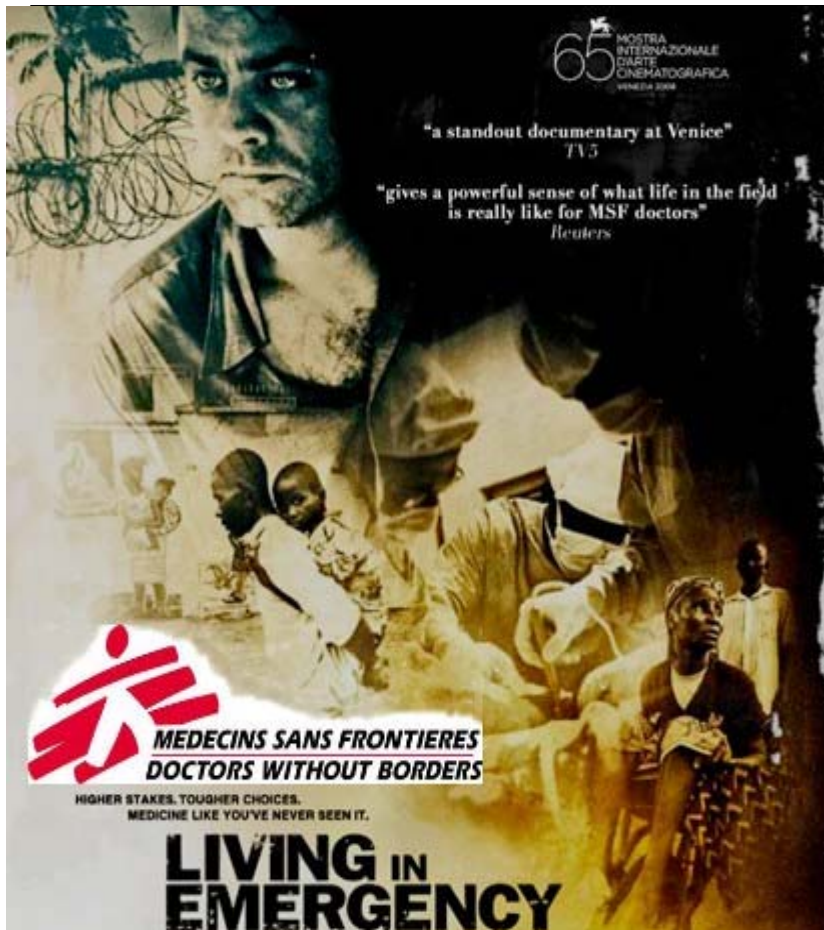
What this means is that any time you are required to write a statement; a form of self incrimination, and you do not understand a) the charges against you; or b) the impending penalties:

YOU ARE ENTITLED TO DELAY MAKING STATEMENTS TO GET A DELEGATE ON SCENE.

Have your Delegates CELL PHONE NUMBER and those of neighboring stations in case you get jammed up.

www.afscme2507.org / 718 371 0310

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Some useful Weblinks

National EMS Museum <http://www.nemsmf.org/>

Local 2507 Union <http://www.afscme2507.org/>

Nat'l Assoc of EMT's <http://www.naemt.org/>

REMSCO of NYC <http://www.nycremsco.org/>

FDNY Official Website <http://www.fdnyc.org/>

NYS DOH <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/main.htm>

DC 37 <http://www.dc37.net/>

DCAS <http://www.nyc.gov/dc37/>

Hatzalah: Understanding the Two Tiered System

Rick Rubin, Paramedic, Hatzalah (unauthorized, unendorsed)



Hatzalah is an all-volunteer ambulance squad that serves the Orthodox Jewish community of NYC. It's not a single organization, but a loose network of organizations which share a name. Each Hatzalah group operates its own section within eight citywide divisions. A central committee coordinates some activities of the various groups, such as dispatch, funding and

logistics.

'The Hatzalah Model relies entirely on civilian volunteers and a system of organization called THE TWO TIERED RESPONSE SYSTEM.'

Hatzalah takes its name from the Hebrew word for rescue. Because it is a Hebrew word, it can be spelled differently in English. As a result, some Hatzalah groups use "Hatzalah", while others use Hatzolah." It is also sometimes referred to as "Chevra" Hatzalah, which simply means 'company of rescuers'. Hatzalah has grown dramatically since its inception, and now undisputedly the largest volunteer ambulance squad in the United States. It also operates Divisions in Israel, the E.U., Latin America, Australia, South Africa and the former Soviet Union.

Hatzalah operates in "scramble" mode. There are no scheduled ambulance crews. Instead, crews are assembled as a call comes in. The dispatcher announces the call and requests that any available units contact the base. Usually, the first unit to acknowledge is sent "direct" to the scene and another unit is sent to pick up the bus. The trucks are usually garrisoned in a central location that can be easily reached. Members often respond to the scene in personal vehicles equipped with lights and sirens. Hatzalah's two-tiered response strategy, using BLS/ALS First Responders and ambulances, means that fully equipped and trained emergency care providers are at the scene within two to four minutes:

Hatzalah first dispatches volunteers to the scene of an emergency in Emergency Ambulance Service Vehicles. These privately owned vehicles are equipped with appropriate emergency lighting and carry a full complement of life-saving medical equipment. The First Responders are primarily NYS-certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), but may include paramedics or other volunteers who are trained to provide Advanced Life Support. When necessary, first responders can quickly upgrade the level of care by requesting paramedics or other Advanced Life Support providers. Volunteers call physicians for advice, direction and medical control as needed. They can also request appropriate assistance from City and State

A g g e n c i e s .

As soon as the First Responders are sent to the patient or accident scene, other volunteers are dispatched to bring one or more of Hatzalah's ambulances.

En route to the hospital, volunteers contact the hospital emergency room to provide the hospital staff with critical data that will prepare them for the new patient. In critical cases, the emergency room will be put on "standby", which means that emergency room nurses and physicians will be waiting at the door to immediately render aid upon their arrival.

Dispatch/Communications:

Hatzalah has developed its own state-of-the-art computer-aided dispatch system - HCAD (Hatzalah Computer Aided Dispatch) - which provides Hatzalah dispatchers with vital technical assistance, including instant caller identification and location, a computerized digital map tracking system to locate the closest units and ambulance, pre-arrival emergency instructions to the caller, and the ability to manage up to sixty calls simultaneously.

Dispatcher aided assistance:

After our volunteers are sent to the call location, if needed, the dispatcher will stay on the line with the caller to give them pre-arrival life saving instructions that will enable him/her to assist the patient immediately or to ensure that there is quick access to the patient. Hatzalah also has direct links to Medivac helicopters for patients in special circumstances .

If a full crew is not available, the dispatcher will attempt to locate a backup crew from a nearby location. For example, a Crown Heights unit might be asked to respond to a call in Flatbush. If no crew is available, members still respond to the scene to stabilize the patient until EMS arrives.

(con't pg. 5)



Hatzalah con't

Radio Procedures

All calls are dispatched by "H-Base," the common answering point for emergency numbers in New York City. A burst tone sent at the beginning of a call may be intended to open receivers in the area of the call. All communications are simplex, so unless you happen to be near a call, you'll usually hear the H-Base only. But, you'll seldom have trouble hearing them: They have transmitter sites at the Chrysler Building, Midtown, Washington Heights, Queens, Monticello, and Liberty. And given their exceptional coverage, it is likely that they have a number of remote receiver sites as well. Many units are also equipped with Nextel phones.

All communications are conducted in English, usually tinged with a Yiddish accent. However, Hatzalah does have its own take on the phonetic alphabet which reflects a familiarity with Hebrew and Yiddish. For example, calls in Boro Park are often dispatched to locations between avenues "Nachmun" and "Moishe" instead of "N" and "M."

All members are assigned radio unit number corresponding to their location. For example, a Boro Park unit might be known as B-23. There are also service units which perform non-medical functions. Each area has a coordinator, who is sometime heard on the radio. Here's a partial list of locations in New York City:

B - Boro Park; CH - Crown Heights; ES - Lower East Side; F - Flatbush; C - Catskills; K - Canarsie; Q - Queens; RD - Riverdale; RL - Rockaway/Lawrence Nassau County); SI - Staten Island; W - Williamsburg; WS - West Side; Y - Washington Heights (Units from one area sometimes respond to calls in another area if available.)

Controversies:

There are a great deal of rumors and misinformation which circulate about Hatzalah which will be dealt with in a three part explanation to the three primary accusations.

1.) Hatzalah doesn't like to transport non-Jews. That is absolutely correct.

First, the Orthodox have religious mandates that pertain to physical contact with non-Jews, not unlike Muslim believers. Not only do the Orthodox feel that standards of gender segregation need to be maintained, there are also religious obligations concerning collection of blood and dismembered limbs of Jewish patients that obviously cannot be observed by FDNY or other providers. Second, the Jewish community self funds Hatzalah and relieves the city 911 system of having to provide for the cities approximately 1.3



million orthodox Jewish citizens (over 1/8 of the cities population). Third and finally, Hatzalah does not have fixed units, nor do they buff off scanners, nor are they in the 911 system; therefore they are responding to direct calls within their 8 Divisions directly to their dispatcher. In the unlikely event that a Hatzalah unit was called to a non-Jewish medical or traumatic emergency they, not being in the 911 system are bound only as EMT/ Paramedics their by duty to act pertaining to life saving intervention, but no transport. That then said around 10% of all Hatzalah transports are of non-Jews annually.

Other than the very obvious, and notorious example in 1992 where a Hatzalah crew bears almost direct responsibility for starting the Crown Heights Riots, both Hatzalah leadership and the City of New York have undergone far stricter regulations on the Two Tiered System and far tighter regulation of its crews. Other than this sad and ultimately tragic break down to violence between the West Indian and Jewish Community of Crown Heights, there has not been a single instance of death due to abandonment on the part of Hatzalah.

2.) Hatzalah units are rude and discourteous to FDNY and Private EMS.

This is a generalization that has reached some consensus with the NYC EMS community. Brooklyn units especially have a great deal of contact with the Hatzalah units in Boro Park and Crown Heights and generally speaking the interactions between these two systems are strained.

Most FDNY Crews will report rudeness, failure to respect authority of the FDNY, arrogance, and an overall disregard for traffic regulations in their fly cars.

It is important not to confuse Jewish separatism with elitism. Their self designated 'Chosen' status pertains to following a myriad of religious obligations and maintaining distance between themselves and the secular world. There are over 1,200 Hatzalah EMTs and Paramedics operating in NYC, that is nearly half the work force of FDNY EMS and easily a third of all 911 Responding EMS personnel.

(Con't p. 6)

Hatzalah con't

Just as not all FDNY EMS are a certain way, not all Hatzalah personnel meet the stereotype presented. These men that serve in Hatzalah are not paid, not is EMS their profession, they are proving a service to the specific community they represent freeing up units to serve the city.

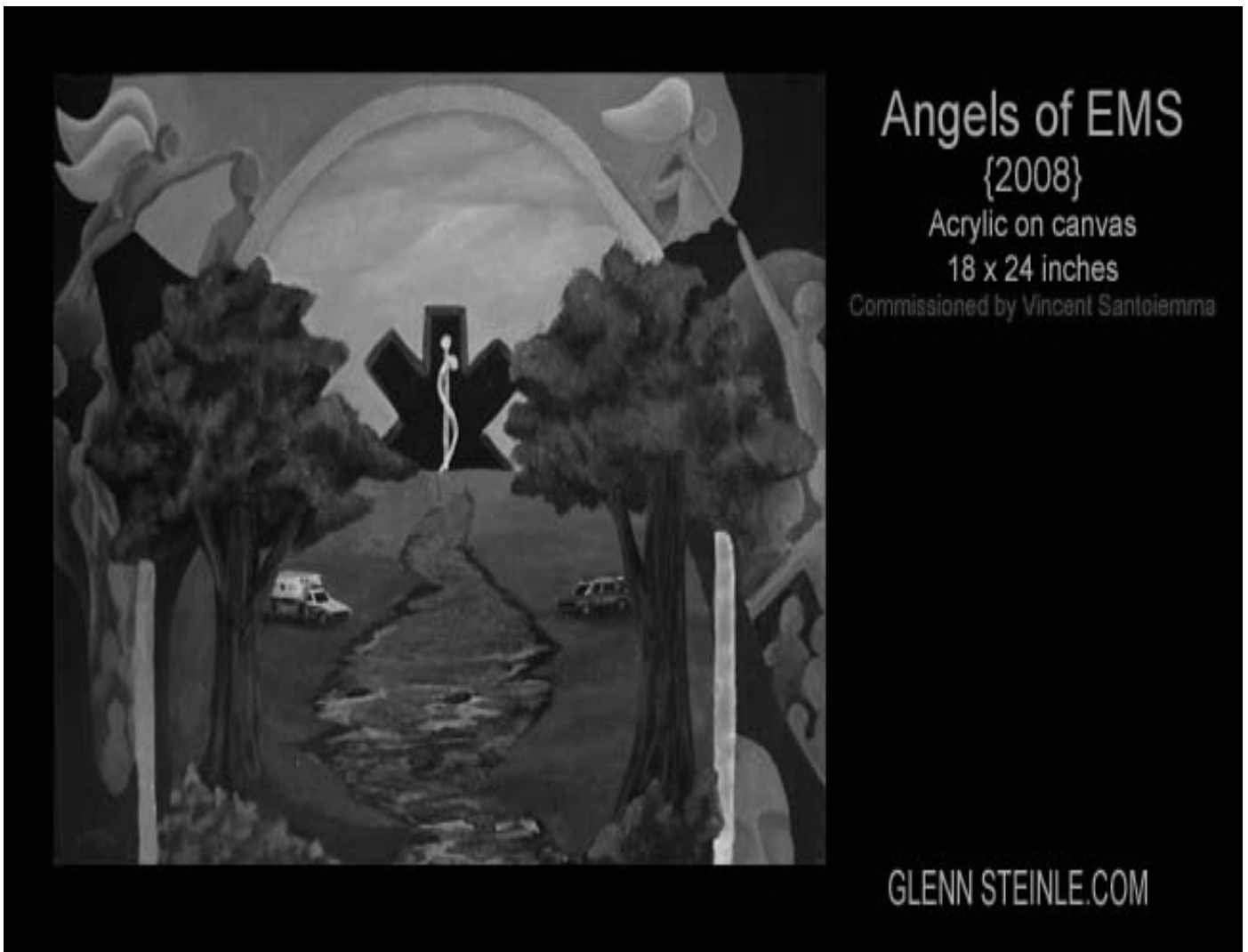
We have an attitude, you have an attitude, get over it try and cooperate in the field; let's play nice children.

3.) The Jews killed Jesus.

The Romans killed Jesus with possible approval of a small segment of Jewish society approximately 1,976 years ago. The Jews living in Brooklyn are largely from Eastern Europe and think Jesus was a great guy; they just like Hanukah more than they like Christmas, and spinning the dradel more than playing football. And eating schnitzel more than hot dogs.

For further information: (<http://www.hatzalah.org>) 718 998 9000 (Administrative)

Emergency Number: 718 230 1000 (Brooklyn) 212 230 1000 (Manhattan) Only for life threatening emergencies.



Angels of EMS

{2008}

Acrylic on canvas

18 x 24 inches

Commissioned by Vincent Santoiemma

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