

Pre-Hospital January 2020 Newsletter

Fun New Years Trivia & Facts!!

The song traditionally sung on New Year's, "Auld Lang Syne," means "times gone by."

Black eyed peas, ham, and cabbage are considered good luck if you eat them on New Year's Eve or Day because it is believed they will bring you money.

Lobster and chicken are considered bad luck because lobsters can move backward and chickens can scratch in reverse, so it is thought these foods could bring a reversal of fortune.

In Italy, people wear red underwear on New Year's Day to bring good luck all year long. The tradition dates back to medieval times.

Time Square New Year's Eve Ball was first dropped in 1907 after there was a fireworks ban. The original ball weighed 700 pounds and featured 100 25-watt bulbs. Much different to the ball we know today!

The tradition to kiss at midnight isn't a recent invention. According to old English and German folklore, the first person you come across in the new year could set the tone for the next 12 months.

To ensure a year of good luck, firecrackers and noisemakers became tradition in order to scare away any remaining evil spirits and to ensure a brand new start.

2,000 pounds (907kg) of confetti are dropped on the crowd in Times Square at midnight.

In this Issue:

Neal's Words of Wisdom (2) Hickory County Updates (2) Polk County Chatter (3) Life and Times from Beautiful Stackton Lake (4) Celebrations (5) Safety Tips from Brice (6) 2019 Review (7-8) Celebrations (9)

Hickory Staff
Meeting Jan
7th @ 0830

Polk Staff Meeting
Jan 15th at 0900

2020

Words of Wisdom from Neal

2020 is proving to be a year of change for CMH as **Mr. Babb** will be retiring January 1, 2020 and **Gary Fulbright** will be taking on the position as CEO. **Jeff Miller** has taken on a new position within the hospital, so **Mike Calhoun** will be stepping in as CDD, I will be reporting to Mike. There will be other senior leadership changes as the year progresses. As with any organization that has leadership changes, we will see changes trickle down to our department as well. Please be patient and remain positive. Mr Babb will be missed, but CMH will continue to strive as a leading Health Care Facility for our communities.

Not only is the hospital looking forward to changes in 2020, but so is Prehospital. I am very excited that we continue to make great strides forward. Currently we are becoming proficient with **ESD Schedule**. Everyone seems to like this scheduling program better as we learn how the program works and make it work for our needs, though we are still in the learning curve phase, it has been successful. I know **Aaron** really likes this program as he has become the "go to person" when we have questions. Keeping a 6 week rolling schedule out is working well. Managers continue to get used to it just as you are. We are working to keep up with time off requests. **Remember put in your Time Off requests in Kronos and Alice will add them to ESD Schedule.**

We have signed an agreement for **ESD EHR** (electronic health record) to replace Health EMS. Our kick off call is **January 7th**. As we move forward with this project we will keep you up to date. We are looking at a March/April roll out

We have been approved and are in the process of signing an agreement to install **Drbcmm Driver feedback devices** in all our ambulances. Also we will roll out a PHS Driver Safety Program. This will be a big step forward and increase our safety as well as patient safety. We should begin installation and roll out in January.

In April **Dr. Andy Nichols** will begin as our **Medical Director**. He will have dedicated time for our department. Dr. Cauchi has been instrumental facilitating and defining Dr. Nichols position with PHS.

As all of this is going on I will be working with the Operation Managers in developing our FY2021 operations and capital budget. Heather Finnell, CMH CFO will be meeting with me and the Managers in January and February to discuss our budgets. These meetings are in preparation for our budget meeting. Heather is interested in learning more about our needs and better understands EMS. I enjoy working with Heather and she is very interested in our department and how to better support us.

While I was on vacation I had the opportunity to visit a John Wayne exhibit. As I am a John Wayne fan, it was very interesting to see memorabilia and read his about his life and career. However, my visit left me a little melancholy. I have always enjoyed his quotes, the one that stuck with me was: "Life is hard: it's harder if you are stupid." I guess it stuck with me because I have been in EMS long enough through my life that I have seen many examples. Unfortunately, t-shirts were sold out, otherwise I would have purchased one.

In December we had some pretty exciting calls. **Brice Flynn** and **Zane Gore** worked a code and got RDS and the patient walked out of the hospital. A truck drove into United Super in Hermitage, multiple GSWs, MVAs and more. Thanks for all you do. When I hear about these calls, read the outcomes and how you responded and managed the calls I am proud of the solid work we do.

Be Safe

Neal T.

Hickory County Updates

Hope everyone had a GREAT holiday season this year with some great food and family.

Can't believe it is already 2020. We should already be time traveling, have a cure for cancer, and have habitable space stations due to the environmental catastrophes that earth as experienced. Well if all the 1980 and 1990 movies were real and not fictional we would be right on schedule.

This past year we have seen so many changes, an influx of brand new medic's that are out there spreading their wings, and hopefully, we will see 3 more finished with clinical's and ready to go test. What a GREAT pass rate for CHH's first Paramedic class. I know I have enjoyed having students riders with me and have evened learned something new here and there and discussing some old school ways vs the new school.

Our call volume ended the year right on target as previous years. Last couple of months we seen our call volume increase back to normal with a few shifts that were exhausting with little to no break. Crazy we miss so many calls and our year end call volume is not able to increase due to the way the calls come in. I know we have been trying hard to capture every call we possibly can, keep up the good work.

We are also having change in our upper leadership with the CEO and CDD. I am sure we will see some changes in the way things are handled that will be uncomfortable for a bit as we adjust. Please just bear with us as with any change we learn new ways of handling and doing things.

All medics please review protocols of where you can and cannot use an AEMT at. We have protocols for the Advanced EMT's. There are a few things more he can do vs a Basic and a few more patients they can take vs a basic. Know what they are. This is going to be a learning experience for all of us with our new PRN employee.

Please do not forget to do your Health Streams each month. You all have been doing GREAT getting them done and w/o prompting. I appreciate you finding time while on shift to get these done. Medics; we sure are being challenged a bit with the added 12 leads on there. After you are done, review the explanations on the 12 - leads and why they are what they are.

We will be preparing for the new ESD Eper in the upcoming months. Tom will need to be taken off the truck while getting this set up and there may be times when we both will need off. I may need to see about switching some shifts around in order to keep shifts covered. As we know more on dates, etc, I'll meet with you and see what we can get done.

I am so thankful that there was no major trauma or deaths at 5 Star grocery store the end of December. That is the 2nd incident in 2019 that could have turned out a lot worse than it did. Radio communications, once again, failed us. We will discuss at our next staff meeting what we, as an on duty crew, can do to help ourselves a bit better.

Please mark your calendars for station staff meeting the 2nd Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be January 9th at 8:30. Please do not be late and make every attempt to be there.

What a great 2019 year we have had. Looking back we have shored some things up and become a very strong unit here. Thank you for being a part of the Hickory County team! I look forward to 2020 and see what happens next

Alice Roberts, Paramedic

Hickory County Manager

Polk County Chatter!

I would like to start off thanking all the FTDs who have done extra shifts and made sacrifices so our paramedic students could finish up with their ride time. I am really proud to see all the crews working together to get that done. I have been watching this since July or August. Again thank you all very much for what you have done.

Reminder to keep the lobby door locked over night or when no one is in the station, we are looking into a different kind of lock and door that will be able to lock behind us. I will keep you up dated on the progress

Hey everyone I want to remind you to **get signatures** on all your patients. If they are unable to sign make sure next to the reason they are unable to sign we document why. Some chart reviews are showing altered level of consciousness however it is showing a GCS of 15. Lets make sure we are consistent with our documentation. We need both crew members and a nurses signature as well. If we chart correctly we get better reimbursement

12 lead with in 10 minutes of arriving on scene (chest pain): This is part of our performance center evaluations, in Polk county this is only being done 75 percent of the time. We have been steady at this score for quite a while now. I wanted to touch base with everyone again. I would really like to see you all make as much money as you possibly can with your merit raises. Again if you put chest discomfort as provider impression a 12 lead must be done with in 10 minutes of arriving on scene. If you have any questions or if you just cannot make your times any better come see me and I will help with whatever I can to make the times improve.

Downloading of the monitor into your chart: Again this will be part of your performance center scores, I feel this should be a slam dunk. If you do a chart ALS or BLS this must be downloaded. We gave a pretty easy thing to accomplish easy money on the performance center. We are doing a lot better from when we first started. So please continue to improve.

Thank you for everything you all do and thank you for making my job easier. I appreciate the team work

Aaron Weaver, Paramedic

Operations Manager—Polk County

Life and Times at the Beautiful Lake Stockton

As we say goodbye to another year, we ask ourselves "Were did the year go?" I just wanted to take a moment and say **THANK YOU** for a 2017 I know we have had our up and downs, hopefully more ups then downs, we have seen love ones come and go, I hope and pray that 2020 is a better year for you and your loved ones.

Thumbs Up:

A CMT nurse wanted to say a big "WAYTO GO" Eric Childress for a little patient he took care of in Cedar County, she stated he went above and beyond to get this patients confidence and trust, which made their job a lot easier taking care of this patient and what was even better he had to spend a long time with this patient due to the bad weather conditions which prolonged the EMS transport. Way to Go Eric.

Board Notes:

Cedar County Ambulance District board met on December 18th in Stockton. A few items they went over were the purchase of additional Ambulance either in 2020 or 2021, their big question will waiting be worth it, and due to all the issues we are having with 714. They also approved all the managers Budget request for 2020 in it was to finish the Stockton training room and MCI Kits for all 4 units. Additional items were Grill Guards for all 3 current units and 4th when it is purchased like what 706 has now. They also approved power washer for Eldorado station, and new Ventilators for the trucks.

Personnel:

We are in the process of filling the full time open medic shift in Eldorado that came open when Ray Kluhsman went from fulltime to prn. This should be completed by end of the month and new person on the schedule by 1st of February.

Thanks to **Morgan Young** on the great job he is doing with the CCFR 1st responder class, thanks for stepping up and helping teach this and helping the students feel comfortable and relaxed and want to learn something, and feel at home.

And a Great job to all the Medic students and EMT students that have gone hours and hours away from home and their loved ones to do their clinicals to further their education and help their fellow neighbors.

Happy & Safe New Year
Tom Ryan Ops Mgr
Cedar Co.

Health & Safety Tips from Brice

Happy New Year!!

2020 is upon us, and I wonder if we will view it with more clarity when it is over. With each new day and each new year we do not know what we will face. All we are able to do is prepare for our future by training and learning about possible scenarios we may find ourselves in. Take the time to teach new people among us and take the time to learn on your own. Ask the more experienced providers among us for the expertise when you are unsure of what you should do next time. Keep learning. Keep growing.

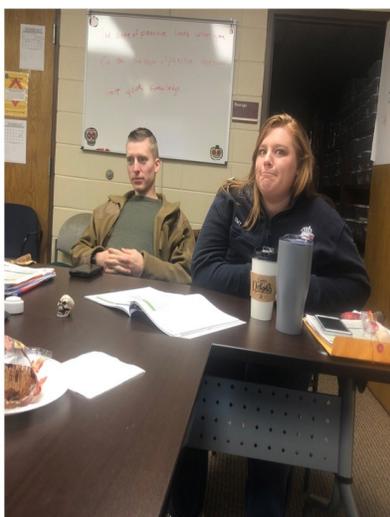
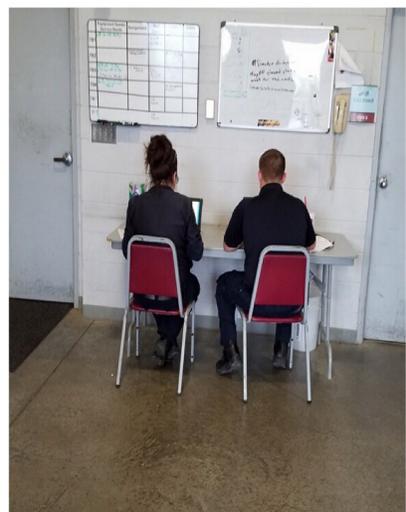
We will see what changes we go through over the next year with several of our co-workers working towards their Paramedic licenses and a new medical director coming on board. I'm thankful for the improvements we have made in 2019 and look forward to the innovations we will make in 2020.

Make the safest choice you can, whenever you can.

That's all for now.

—Brice







Celebrations!!!

Birthdays

AJ Sherrer Jan 8th

Cheryl Andrew Jan 8th

Melisa Painter Jan 20th

Lucky Johnson Jan 22nd

Allen Werner Jan 29th

Anniversaries

Cindy Bailey 2 years

Allen Werner 2 Years

John Wright 4 Years

Tim Bradley 8 Years

We hope you have an amazing day as we celebrate YDU and your AMAZING service you provide for our community!!!