



PULSE

A Quarterly Newsletter
Published by Brighton Volunteer
Ambulance for its Members



EMS 2006: Excellence in Action

by Heidi Stobie, Operations Manager, operations.manager@brightonambulance.org

As the first newsletter of a new year it is sometimes nice to sit and reflect on the past year. BVA saw a lot of change in 2005. Some of the milestones were passing the NYS DOH inspection, the replacement of 3079 and more recently, the revamping of the Training Department.

The Training Commit-

tee is hard at work trying to bring interesting training classes and programs to you and looks forward to the upcoming months. The goal is simple: to improve the care being delivered by providing many opportunities to improve ourselves.

The Year 2005 ended with 3,981 requests for

service, just 19 calls shy of 4,000. There were approximately 8,545 volunteer hours donated out of the 35,509 hours total. The last quarter of the year posted very good numbers with BVA covering 94.3% of the calls. That is a huge improvement over the first two quarters which posted *(continued on page 6)*

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Inside BVA: Member Spotlight

By Michael E. Pollock, Public Information Officer, pio@brightonambulance.org

BVA member Richard P. Wersinger was honored at the Webster-Fairport B.P.O. Elks no. 2396 Policeman – Firefighter – Ambulance Corps dinner on February 2. Richard was nominated for this special recognition by BVA President Dennis Mietz.

Richard has been a volunteer with BVA for the past 10 years. He works a regular shift

every Thursday from 1800 – 2300 as a driver. Over his several years of service, he has served as BVA president, vice president and a member of the Board of Directors. He has also served as the Assistant Director of Operations, a Driver Trainer, as well as a member of the Career Staff committee and Member Benefits committee.

(continued on page 3)



**Richard Wersinger has
been a volunteer
for 10 years**

Calendar of Events

General Membership Meeting

Monday, February 13, 2006
1830 Hours
BVA Base

Board of Directors Meeting

BVA Base
(2nd Monday of each month)

Festival of Ideas (Public Event)

Saturday, March 4, 2006
Brighton High School
1300—1700 (Volunteers Needed, see sign up sheet at Base)

Annual Awards Banquet

Saturday, March 11, 2006
DoubleTree Hotel (formerly Holidome)

STEP EMS Conference 2006

April 7th and 8th
RIT Inn and Conference Center.

EMS Week

May 14—20, 2006

Training Events

See Calendar on Page 9 or visit BVA web site
<http://www.brightonambulance.org/membertraining.htm>



Calls for Service
2005

3,981
(+7.1% from 2004)



"I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your continued time and effort."

Dennis Mietz,
President BVA



Late Breaking News

Visit the BVA Web Site for the latest news. Michael E. Pollock, PIO, has been busy updating its format and information. BVA's website contains up to date news, calendar of events and useful links.

www.brightonambulance.org

President's Message



Dennis Mietz, President

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all of their efforts during 2005. The New Year 2006 brings us new challenges and opportunities to continue our efforts to provide the highest quality of care to our patients.

The roll out of the new Training Plan and the Long Range Planning efforts toward the development of a Comprehensive Facility Plan are two very important initiatives which will be underway as we begin 2006. The success of these two key initiatives are critical to the future of BVA, and I ask for all of your support as they come to fruition. Thank you again for all you have done and I look forward to a very successful 2006 for BVA.

Dennis



"Thanks you for your kindness."

Brighton Resident

Pennarrow Road

Member Spotlight

(continued from page 1)

Wersinger's service to the Brighton community doesn't end with BVA. He has been a volunteer firefighter with Brighton Fire Department for the past 13 years. He additionally serves as a member of their Board of Directors and their Public Relations committee.

His additional community involvement includes being an Adjunct Professor at Monroe Community College (Sociology Dept.) and

a member of the American Public Health Association. He volunteers as a photographer for many non-profit groups.

Richard entered Brighton volunteer emergency services thanks to his children. His son and daughter were both volunteer firefighters with Brighton Fire Department. They convinced him to join. Later, one of his sons that served as an Emergency Medical Technician with

Brighton Volunteer Ambulance encouraged Richard to train as an EMT and join BVA.

BVA President Dennis Mietz said "Richard is the type of individual that every organization wants as a member. We are honored to have him in our ranks."

Elections Results for Board of Directors Positions

Robert Brody, Chairman Nominating Committee

Elections were held at the November Annual Membership meeting. There were 5 (five) board seats set to expire and open for election this past Fall.

Congratulations to the following members that were elected to the Board: Dennis Mietz, Eric Morrie, Michael Murphy, Ann Louise Rydzewski and Duncan Ververs.



Dennis Mietz will continue as President, Michael Murphy has become Vice President, Ann Louise Rydzewski, Secretary and

Eric Morrie as Treasurer. Duncan Ververs will server in a Board position.

Robert Brody, Michael Pollock, Steven Wexler, and Allen Scalise continue in their current Board positions.

BRIGHTON
Volunteer Ambulance



"Thank you for your help."

Brighton Resident
Antlers Drive

Business Management and Base News

Barbara Sforza, Business Manager, business.manager@brightonambulance.org

A lot goes on behind the scenes maintaining a smooth running organization. Here are a few things that are going on in Business Management and at the Base:

☞ BVA completed a successful 2005 financial audit.

☞ Volunteer Pension Plan Documents in final draft.

☞ New time clock system March 2006.

☞ Banquet 2005 invitations mailing week of Jan 30th.

Look for more updates in the near future!



Road Cleared Volunteer Member Listing

Steven Wexler, Membership Director, membership@brightonambulance.org

The following volunteer road cleared members are recognized for their dedication and commitment to BVA:

- ◆ Robert Brody
- ◆ Christina Corl
- ◆ Anthony DiMattia
- ◆ Lisa Engstrom
- ◆ Paul Fredericks
- ◆ Ken Gordon
- ◆ Jim Gumer
- ◆ Bo Jefferies
- ◆ Tony Katsetos
- ◆ Carrie Leo *
- ◆ Doreen Marvin
- ◆ Kelly Rose McCurley*
- ◆ Beth Ann McNeill
- ◆ Dennis Mietz
- ◆ Eric Morrie
- ◆ Michael Murphy
- ◆ Matt Quinn
- ◆ David Raz
- ◆ Shawna Rizzi *
- ◆ Ann Louise Rydzewski
- ◆ William Sauer
- ◆ Maurice Soucy
- ◆ Duncan Ververs
- ◆ Richard Wersinger
- ◆ Steven Wexler

*Recently cleared
Thank You!



"A Cheer to Brighton Volunteer Ambulance for making the grade."

Brighton-Pittsford Post

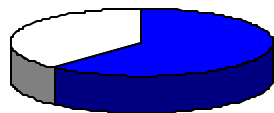
Recognized BVA's High Score on the DOH Inspection

Member Milestones

Congratulations to Christina Corl for graduating with a Master of Science degree in Physicians Assistant studies from Le Moyne College. She also passed her certification as a Registered Physicians Assistant-Certified. Christina is an EMT Volunteer at BVA and married to BVA Career Paramedic John Corl. Christina will soon be starting with Strong Health Geriatrics at Highland Hospital.

Other member news should be submitted to bvapulse@brightonambulance.org

BVA Fund Drive



62.7% of Goal

I am happy to report that the 2005/2006 Fund Drive has picked up. As of February 4, 2006, we have pledges amounting to \$59,533 (62.7%) of our target goal of \$95,000. The next mailing will be prepared and sent in March and hopefully will be as successful as our first mailing. -- Joan Cohen



EMS Excellence (continued from page 1)

88.7% and 85.7%, respectively. The third quarter posted 91.3% coverage. These improved numbers are the direct result of some staffing changes and the increased commitment of our volunteers.

The Challenge?

Looking ahead to this year, my personal goal is to work on increasing our staffing of volunteers on the evening, night, and weekend shifts. In addition, I would like to set the goal of bringing in a "net gain" of an average one new member per month.

That may seem ambitious, but I believe it can be done. BVA has changed the way people are trained and the requirements to becoming a member while maintaining our high standards. There are training programs that appeal to all levels of interest. We need to continue spreading the word about BVA and all that it has to offer. I would like to involve more people from the Brighton community. So I am asking each of you to think about someone you know who you think might be interested in joining BVA. Let's see if each of us can bring



"In Q4, BVA covered 94.3% of the calls. That is a huge improvement."

one new person in to join BVA this year.

Seasons:

Who would have guessed "Mother Nature" has been in a fairly good mood this winter? So far the weather has been mild. As a result, illness and trauma calls are down. But, we have a long way to go before we are out of the woods from the sleet and snow. So make sure to take your time when driving the ambulances and walking around at the scene. Keep those ambulance doors closed to keep the interior nice and toasty warm for our patients. And, make sure they are tucked in before exposing them to the cold tempera-

tures and harsh winds.

The ambulances take a beating in the winter so make sure to wash the ambulance at the end of every shift to keep the salt and elements from causing too much damage.

BE SAFE and stay warm!

EMS Week:

This year EMS week is 14-20 May 2006. The theme is "EMS: Excellence In Action."

Comments or Suggestions:

I always welcome comments and suggestions. If you have an idea you think might help the organization, please let me know. Leave me a note in my mailbox, or just send an e-mail. I am usually in the office Monday thru Thursday from 0600-1600, if you prefer to call or stop by.

Thanks:

I would like to thank Paul Fredericks for service as Deputy Operations Manager.

Sign-Off:

Respectfully,
Heidi Stobie



"Thank you for your help."

Brighton Resident
Antlers Drive

"Community Connection" Award Nominations Due

By Michael E. Pollock, Public Information Officer, pio@brightonambulance.org

Brighton Volunteer Ambulance is currently accepting nominations for the 2006 Community Connection Award.

The BVA Community Connection Award is given to an individual, organization or entity (public or private) that by their actions and/or deeds has provided Brighton Volunteer Ambulance with the ability to maintain the highest quality pre-hospital care, and/or take an active role in promoting community awareness of the role of EMS in our town.

Some Examples include the following:

- ✓ A community member, organization or entity that either volunteers to provide services or enacts procedures to better BVA's ability to provide quality pre-hospital care to the population of our EMS territory. This includes providing special training or services.
- ✓ A community member, organization or entity, within our district, that starts an employee/member CPR/AED program.
- ✓ A community member organization or entity that makes a significant in-kind or financial gift that enables BVA to better meet its mission.

The award is presented during the BVA Open House, traditionally held the first day of the National EMS Week, during the month of May

Last year, the award was given to University Cardiovascular Associates located at 2365 South Clinton Avenue.

When UCVA opened their new offices on South Clinton Avenue last year, they contacted the Brighton Volunteer Ambulance (BVA) Advanced Life Support (ALS) Department for information on what services BVA could render their "high risk" patients, when immediate transport to the hospital becomes necessary.

UCVA personnel invited BVA crews to tour their new offices and familiarize themselves in preparation for the times our crews would respond there. BVA worked with UCVA office staff to teach them how to

communicate information in an efficient manner to the 911 telecommunicators, so BVA ALS crews would know vital patient condition information, prior to arrival. The medical staff consistently has the patient ready for transport upon the ambulance's arrival. Essential paperwork is included as the practitioner gives the crew a thorough medical report. The significance of these extraordinary events is that UCVA came to BVA to request to work as a team to provide their patients with the best possible patient pre-hospital care in an expeditious manner.

University Cardiovascular Associates demonstrated their dedication to both their patients and BVA by helping our ambulance corps provide the high level of pre-hospital EMS care that the people of the town of Brighton have come to expect.

Request for a nomination form should be submitted to Michael E. Pollock. The complete application form will need to be submitted by April 15, 2006.



2006

Community
Connection Award

Send your
nomination to
Michael E. Pollock
by submitting to his
mail lock box at the
Base or via email

ALS and Training News

Darrell Grigg, ALS/Training Director, training@brightonambulance.org

Hello all,

Enjoying our great winter? Ugh!!

Things in the Training Department are in full swing!!! All the interns are trained on the new Training Packets and are all using them. We have our first two employees done and ready to clear!!:)

All of our preceptors are through their training and many have been assigned as mentors to help our interns through their training and probationary period. We have heard nothing but positive remarks so far about our revamped program. I am very excited about this finally getting going and where this will take us.



We are putting the finishing touches on our Assistant program and have three individuals ready to take the first class.

As many of you have seen, our Event Board is now installed in dispatch and has a running three month calen-

dar with all the Training classes, meeting, and other important data.

Also in dispatch is the class signup board. All Training classes are posted with the date, time, and location. Please sign up well ahead, as the rule of thumb will be if there is no more than 5 people signed up 24 hours before the class, it will be cancelled. I need a tab on who's coming, not just hoping that someone drops by and sits in.

As always, if you have any questions/issues or would like to see certain class put on, feel free to see me.

Thanks and lets hope we see 4 feet of snow soon!!!:))



"Thank you for help getting my husband to Strong."

Brighton Resident
Westfall Road



Make sure to take your time when driving the ambulances and walking around at the scene.



Training Calendar training@brightonambulance.org

See the latest schedule at <http://www.brightonambulance.org/membertraining.htm>

February						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Advanced Airway Management 1900 - 2200 BVA Base	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Annual OSHA/HIPAA Training 1300 - 1700 BVA Base	13 General Mem- bership Meeting Board Meeting 1830 BVA Bas4e	14	15	16 Proper Body Mechanics for EMS Personnel 1900 - 2200 BVA Base	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Annual OSHA/HIPAA Training 1300 - 1700 BVA Base	27	28 Annual OSHA/HIPAA Training 1800 - 2200 BVA Base				

March						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Board Meeting 1830 BVA Base	14 Spinal Immobil- zation/Fracture Management 1900 - 2200 BVA Base	15	16	17	18
19 Coaching the Emergency Vehicle Opera- tor (CEVO) 0900 - 1700 BVA Base	20	21	22	23 Shock 1900 - 2200 BVA Base	24	25
26	27	28	29 My Tummy Hurts! 1900 - 2200 Hours BVA Base	30	31	



Check the BVA web
Site for Updates and
Changes to the
Training Schedule

Print this page for
your reference

Nominations Accepted for 2006 STEP EMS Conference Awards

By Beth Ann McNeil

The STEP EMS Conference 2006 will be held on April 7th and 8th at the RIT Inn and Conference Center. The Monroe-Livingston Regional EMS Council Awards will be presented at the banquet on Friday evening. This is an opportunity to recognize the very special talents of EMS providers and the contributions that they have made to the improvement of pre-hospital care in the Monroe-Livingston Region.

Please consider nominees for each category listed below, which follows the NYS EMS Council Annual Awards criteria.

- ☞ BLS Provider of the Year
- ☞ ALS Provider of the Year



- ☞ EMS Leadership
- ☞ EMS Educator of Excellence
- ☞ EMS Communication Specialist
- ☞ Registered Professional Nurse of Excellence
- ☞ Physician of Excellence

Submission of the enclosed "Application for the NYS EMS Council Annual

Awards" is due to be returned to Mark Tornstrom c/o Rural Metro Medical Services. The form can be e-mailed to you upon request.

The Agency of the Year recipient will not be notified until the awards presentation at the banquet on Friday evening.

The Lloyd Leve Award is a local award that will also be presented at the STEP EMS Conference, but is not forwarded to the NYS EMS Council Awards Committee. A separate application for this award is enclosed. The recipient of this award will be notified in advance and receive two complimentary banquet tickets.

Deadline to return all nominations is February 10, 2006.



STEP Council of the
Genesee Region
www.stepems.org

The application form is available via e-mail by contacting
amy_ettaro@urmc.rochester.edu at the Office of Prehospital Care.

Questions? Contact Mark Tornstrom @ 530-1215

Return completed forms to

Mark Tornstrom, Rural Metro, 177 University Avenue, Rochester, NY 14605.

Deadline to return all nominations is February 10, 2006.

EMS Week: May 14-20

By Michael E. Pollock, Public Information Officer, pio@brightonambulance.org

Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day life-saving services of the medical "front line." EMS week will be May 14-20, 2006.

BVA will hold its Open House on Saturday, May 20, 2006 from 1:00—4:00. The day of the week for this event changed this year so as not to conflict with Mother's Day.

Activities planned for the day include Base Tours, Rig Tours, 911 Center Display and BP Checks. BPD and BFD will also be participating with demonstrations and equipment displays. An extra bonus for



kids will be a clown and moon bounce.

EMS Week is sponsored by the American College of Emergency Physicians. Organizational sponsors include The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Emergency Medical Services for Children program.

Look for further updates on EMS Week activities and Open House on the BVA web site. Sign up sheets will be posted at the Base.

Apply ICE as Needed

Have you ever been on the scene of an emergency and needed to contact the patient's next of kin? Maybe you needed to get a medical history on an unconscious person. A paramedic from England has launched a campaign that is catching on nationally and across the globe as well. The idea is called ICE, which stands for "In Case of Emergency." People can enter "ICE" in the contact list of their cell phones, along with the phone number of the person who should be contacted in case of an emergency. By looking up "ICE" on the injured person's cell phone contact list, emergency personnel and others could then quickly find the right person to contact. BVA believes ICE is an excellent public education idea and that can be part of our EMS Week activities.



Submit your articles to
bvapulse@brightonambulance.org
 Next Issue Deadline is May 27, 2006.



"I have used your services a few times in the past few months-your people have been wonderful and caring."

Brighton Resident
 East Ave

Communications Update

by Michael E. Pollock, Communications Officer,
communications@brightonambulance.org

The Communications Dept. has been busy making changes to try to streamline and improve the tools we use at BVA. This is a brief overview of some of the changes. There will be in-service training coming up on some items.

When you dial in on the "public" phone line, you now receive a voice greeting. This is as a result of research that found most of our phone calls were for the Business Manager, Operations Manager or the Training Director. Now, the caller just chooses Option 1, 2 or 3 to get one of those extensions. If they require a live person, they dial "0" and anyone in the base will hear a rapid "double-ring" and should answer the phone. If there is no answer (when the crews are all out on the road) the call will go to voice mail. Calls coming in on the "member's" phone line give a rapid "single" ring. This number is for family and friends to reach you while you are on-duty. You can also call in to check on availability of shifts. This number is not for the general public use. There is no voice mail on this line.



"BVA is now 100% compliant with the new standards. Interagency communications is improved. This will benefit our patients."

With Monroe County Public Safety Communications working to meet Federal Communications Commission mandates, some technical changes have been made in our radios. Most of these changes are transparent to the end-user. One change that is obvious is that all the ambulance front control heads now have an extra row of buttons above them.

These buttons, once labeled, will act as pre-set buttons like on your car AM/FM car radio. By a single press of the appropriate button you can change from EMS Dispatch to Brighton Fire Channel 52 without stepping through a number of other channels. The most com-

mon channels we use will be set-up through this device.

In all our radios, both mobile and portable, a new first bank of channels has been set-up. It includes our most used channels, as well as the new EMS/Fire "narrowband" operational channels for the two battalions we cover. Additionally, there is a new BVA agency channel for special details. It is tentatively named "Channel 30". Members are reminded that they must receive written permission from BVA to operate on any frequencies under our FCC license. Approved individuals will receive a BVA unit number and MDC identifier. Contact me for further information.

Our back-up base antenna and coax was replaced as part of a preventative maintenance program. The parts had reached the safety limit for public safety use.

A new cell phone has been installed in the front of Ambulance 3079. A new cell phone is being ordered for the fifth set of ALS gear.



"Thank you for your wonderful care and thoughtfulness."

Brighton Resident
Stanford Drive

December Holiday Banquet Photo Gallery

Social Committee Chair, Amy Mietz

Photos courtesy of Michael E. Pollock, Public Information Officer



"Many thanks for the kind compassionate care you provided at a critical time."

Brighton Resident
Schoolhouse Lane

Thanks again
Social Committee.
We Had Fun!

Long Range Planning Update

Allen Scalise, Chair, Long Range Planning Committee

BVA long-range strategies continue to be developed to address the future of BVA. The Long Range Planning Committee was formed to help guide BVA through this process.

Some of the Committee's purpose includes:

- ✓ Identify long term issues that need to be addressed
- ✓ Develop an action plan
- ✓ Survey Needs
- ✓ Make recommendations to the Board.

One of the primary items the Board asked the Committee to study is alternatives to our current Base. As a result, the Committee began to work on the following:

- ✓ Identify existing constraints and limitations
- ✓ Plot Call Response Data to identify where our "customers" are located and call density
- ✓ Seek possible alternatives
- ✓ Identify Operational needs.



1575 Winton Road South

To handle the growing demand for service and address limitations at the current Base, it was concluded that alternatives would be required to fulfill our mission to the Brighton community. In the midst of this process, our neighbor decided to sell their property. Subsequently, a recommendation was made to the Board to acquire the property at 1575 Winton Road South, which would provide us the future opportunity to have additional land available. The Board voted to acquire the property and BVA took possession in late 2005.

The Committee is in the process of assessing long-range strategies to ensure

BVA is prepared to meet the future needs of the community. The plan will address future facility needs.

The first steps toward a plan are now being prepared and will be an ongoing process for several months. Look for future reports from the Committee during Board and General Membership Meetings.

Thanks to committee members including Allen Scalise, Chair, Dennis Mietz, Michael Murphy, Eric Morrie, Michael E. Pollock, Paul Fredericks and Barb Sforza. Thanks also to Heidi Stobie, Operations Manager.

BRIGHTON
Volunteer Ambulance



"Thank you for your
fine service."

Brighton Resident
Summit Circle Drive

BVA Participates in JCC Health & Wellness Fair

By Allen Scalise, Newsletter Chair, bvapulse@brightonambulance.org

BVA participated in the JCC Health & Wellness Fair on Sunday Oct 16, 2005. BVA Members Vicki Field, Doreen Marvin, and Allen Scalise staffed a table with exhibits from BVA.

The event was free and the community was able to get free health screenings for blood pressure from BVA EMTs Vicki Field and Doreen Marvin. BVA conducted approx twenty four BP checks and handed out health related information to adults and children.

More than 40 information booths provided visitors a chance to ask questions of the experts. Samples of new products and the latest health informa-



BVA members Vicki Field (seated) and Doreen Marvin (standing) provided free blood pressure checks at the JCC Health & Wellness Fair

tion were available to help participants maintain optimal physical condition and reinforce—or introduce—

healthy living practices, according to the JCC.

BVA Participates in Town of Brighton Recreation Dept. "Trick or Treat on Safety Street"

BVA participated in Brighton Recreation's trick or treat on safety street in October 2005. Emma Pollock and Madison Scalise handed out treats along with the childhood emergency pamphlets printed by BVA. Over 75 children attend this event each year, according to Brighton Recreation.



Emma Pollock (center) hands out candy out at the BVA "haunted house" during Brighton Recreation's Trick or Treat on Safety Street



Volunteers Needed
for Public Event

"Festival of Ideas"

Conduct three 50
minute "Medic!"
workshops

Brighton High
School

Saturday, March 4,
2006

1200-1700 Hrs.

See Sign Up Sheet
at the Base

PULSE is published by
Brighton Volunteer Ambulance

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Michael E. Pollock

Steven Wexler

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President - Dennis Mietz

Vice President - Michael Murphy

Secretary - Ann Louise Rydzewski

Treasurer - Eric Morrie

Board Member - Robert Brody

Board Member - Michael E. Pollock

Board Member - Allen Scalise

Board Member - Duncan Ververs

Board Member - Steven Wexler

bvapulse@brightonambulance.org

Board Appointed Positions

Operations Manager - Heidi Stobie

Business Manager - Barbara Sforza

Development / Grants -

Michael E. Pollock

Fund Drive - Joan Cohen

General Counsel - Kenneth W. Gordon

HIPAA / Privacy Officer - Dennis Mietz

Medical Advisor - Joseph Rubé, MD

Medical Director -

Charles L. Maddow, MD

Membership - Steven Wexler

Public Information Officer -

Michael E. Pollock

Recording Secretary - Patti Brody

Social Committee - Amy Mietz

Operations Staff

Operations Manager - Heidi Stobie

Director of Training /ALS Chief -

Darrell Grigg

Communications Officer -

Michael E. Pollock

Vehicle Maintenance Officer -

Jeremiah Shufelt

EMS Supply Officer - Chuck McDonald

K-9 / SAR - Bob Brody

Training Department Staff

Director of Training - Darrell Grigg

ALS Training Coordinator - Ben Lee

EMT Training Coordinator - Jerry Fedele

Assistant Training Coordinator/
Community Education - Ryan Caster

Driver Training Coordinator -

Ken Stavalone

www.brightonambulance.org