



January 16, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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National Ski Patrol announces Ed McNamara as board chair

The National Ski Patrol (NSP), the largest winter rescue organization in the world, announced today that Ed McNamara has been elected as the organization's new board chair, effective Jan. 9, 2014. McNamara brings 34-plus years of experience in the patrol world to the NSP board of directors. As board chair, McNamara plans to enhance the educational opportunities the NSP provides for members and build stronger relationships with key EMS and snow sports industry groups such as the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), the National Ski Areas Association (NSAA), the National Park Service (NPS), and others.

"It is an honor to have been elected chair of the National Ski Patrol's board of directors," said McNamara. "The NSP is fortunate to have an enthusiastic, dedicated, and hard-working national office and leadership team. I am proud and humbled to have the opportunity to serve with them. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities to work with all our members and leaders in every division and region to expand our membership and enhance our ability to serve the public, not only during the winter season, but throughout the year in the activities where we can be of service."

McNamara, a retired U.S. National Guard colonel, has served on federal, state, and local emergency medical and Homeland Security committees, is a nationally registered paramedic, and has been deployed with federal disaster medical teams responding to Hurricane Katrina, 9/11 in New York City, and the Haiti earthquake, among others. He spent six years serving as the NSP's Outdoor Emergency Care Program director, helping to oversee the creation and release of the *Outdoor Emergency Care Fifth Edition* textbook. McNamara is also a patroller at Wachusett Mountain in Massachusetts.

Outside NSP, McNamara spent 35 years working as the executive director of a nonprofit educational association and served as the chair of a 70-town Homeland Security committee. He also has served for 25 years as the deputy chief of a fire/EMS department.

"I look forward to working with Ed in the year ahead," said NSP Executive Director John McMahon. "I believe his vast experience as an executive director of a nonprofit, plus his past involvement with grants and the medical field, will be an important asset to the NSP."

McNamara is in the second year of his three-year elected term on the board; he was elected in fall 2012. McNamara will be eligible for re-election to the board during the 2015 election for another three-year term that would begin in 2016. His term as board chair is good for one year, at which time he will be eligible for re-election. In addition to McNamara, the NSP board of directors elected John Lawson as assistant national chair and Keith Cassidy as second assistant chair at its midwinter meeting in Denver in January 2014.

About the National Ski Patrol

The National Ski Patrol is a federally chartered nonprofit membership association dedicated to serving the public and the mountain recreation industry. For 75 years, the NSP has been at the forefront of safety and emergency care education programs. The association's 28,000 members represent 98 percent of the nation's patrollers. For more information, access www.nsp.org.

For further comments or interviews regarding the NSP, please call NSP Communications Director Candace Horgan at (303) 988-1111, x2625.