

It's Women's History Month and NEMSQA is recognizing and celebrating the women leaders serving on the Board.



Megan Hollern, MA, RN, BSN, NRP is the Certification Manager at National Registry of EMTs, a paramedic a registered nurse, a member of the NEMSQA Board and chair of the Bylaws Committee.

It is no surprise that when asked what she'd like to learn to do she responded "To sit and relax or pick up a hobby. My mind never stops!"



Is there a woman from history or present day you find inspiring?

Just one woman?

My mother. She passed when I was just 19 of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. She was an ER nurse, great mother, wife, friend, and loved by everyone she met. Everyone in the neighborhood would call her for advice. She was incredibly giving, represented the schools, always at my side in competitions, and my biggest cheerleader in life. She was determined and resilient, always smiling.

More famous women...Mother Teresa - She dedicated her life to improving the life of others. Amelia Earhart- determined, fearless and broke the gender barriers as a pilot crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Eleanor Roosevelt for her role in human rights. Sally Ride – first American women to travel to space. Simone Biles – simply because she defies gravity. The Code Girls – these women broke the German and Japanese codes to help win WW2. There are so many more and we should all learn from history and keep breaking those records and barriers.

What qualities do you think make a great leader?

Teamwork. Take NEMSQA as an example. I think everyone on the NEMSQA Board has a strong desire to help others and progress EMS forward as EMS is still a fairly new and evolving field. It's pretty cool to be part of that transformation. But I like learning and listening the most, which are also qualities of teamwork. I learn from all my fellow board members and their incredibly diverse backgrounds. Listening to their input, opinions, expertise and adding where I can makes for a strong, well rounded and impactful team.

What are you most proud of doing?

I think in general, I'm proud of who I am today, the future me, and all the help and guidance I've had along the way. Father Mychal Judge, Chaplain FDNY in his last homily on September 10, 2001 said "...That's the way it is. Good days. And bad days. Up days. Down days. Sad days. Happy days. But never a boring day on this job. You do what God has called you to do. You show up. You put one foot in front of another..."

I think what makes me proud is just taking a moment to really reflect on the opportunities I have been able to take advantage of, overcome so many fears and self-doubts, and to simply celebrate the days where I can literally just put one foot in front of the other and keep going when life is challenging. Life is different for all of us, challenging in all aspects, but to keep going when it's tough and knowing when to ask for help and guidance along the way, that's what I'm most proud of. That is being brave, resilient, and grateful. I did not get to where I am today or where I'm going in the future alone.

What is the most important message you want to send out to young women thinking about their careers?

I still think about my career everyday and what I want to be "when I grow up". Yes, I'm grown up, but that doesn't mean I don't dream and push harder to be a better me, every day. I strive to learn something new, enjoy learning and being mentored. I love what I do at National Registry of EMTs, making a national impact, local impact as a paramedic and RN, and the work I do with NEMSQA. I am forever grateful, but I don't stop here. Keep going, keep dreaming, strive to learn more and do more, and keep your eyes open for new opportunities to better yourself – education, attitude, physical and mental wellness, and all around.