



Voice OF V

The official voice of Region V



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January 2008

LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR TEAM MEMBERS

GEOFFREY ALAN WELLS



Geoff Wells is an Ohio Board Certified Funeral Director and Embalmer. He earned his degree in Mortuary Science, Magna cum Laude, from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in Cincinnati, Ohio where he also served 8 years as a board member of the college. Geoff owns and operates *Wells Funeral Home* in Waterville, Ohio. He has over 38 years experience in his profession - specializing in major trauma, rare disease, and unusual cases of embalming and reconstruction. Mr. Wells is the Founder/President of *Wells Professional Services* in Toledo, Ohio: he functions as chief executive officer and chief operating officer at this trade embalming/livery professional practice for public funeral homes in Northwest Ohio and Southeastern Michigan. Geoff is also the Founder/Board Chairman/CEO of *Amidon-Wells & Medi-TAS Medical Answering Services* in Toledo, Ohio. In addition, Geoff is a sub-registrar with the Ohio Department of Health-Bureau of Vital Statistics.

Geoff is an accomplished public speaker and has conducted over 500 seminars and workshops, primarily for educators and professional groups, on the behavior of adjustment to the loss of what we love. Also, he is a published author of a book -

Changing with the Seasons of Our Life (1984) - currently in its third printing with copies distributed in all fifty states and two foreign countries.

Mr. Wells is a member of numerous professional organizations: Northwest Ohio Funeral Directors Association, Ohio Funeral Directors Association, National Funeral Directors Association, Ohio Embalmers Association, Cincinnati Foundation for Mortuary Education, Pi Sigma Eta-National Morticians Fraternity, Alpha Tau Epsilon-National Morticians Fraternity, Mu Sigma Alpha-National Morticians Honorary Society, The Cincinnati Foundation for Mortuary Education, St. Luke's Hospital Emergency Management Sub-Committee, and the Ohio Funeral Directors Association Mortuary Response Team.

Along with his professional affiliations, Geoff is actively involved in community organizations: Waterville Chamber of Commerce, Zion Lutheran Church (former church councilman), Wakeman Masonic Lodge #522, Scottish Rite - Valley of Toledo, Zenobia Shrine, Waterville Historical Society, National Model Railroaders Association, Toledo Zoological Society, and Friends of the Lucas County Library.

Geoff joined DMORT Region V in 2000. Since that time, he has been a regular attendee at both National and Regional Trainings. He was deployed to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (St. Gabriel, Louisiana) in September and October, 2005. He is one of the Region V team members designated to be cross-trained for Family Assistance Core Team (FACT) if needed. Geoff received the Region V Commanders' Award for Meritorious Service in 2007.

Geoff resides in Waterville, Ohio with his wife, Shelley. He has five children - Laura, Steven, David, Geoff II, and Rob – and he has two step-daughters - Tara and Erin. Geoff also has four grandchildren - Christopher, Zach, Tayler, and Brandon.

When he can “railroad” any leisure time, Geoff has many interests and hobbies. He has one of the largest private “HO” Scale Model Railroad collections in Northwest Ohio. Geoff's most recent acquisition - *The Cornelius-Wells & Northern Railroad* – spans approximately 300 square feet in the lower level of his funeral home, where he operates it as a psychological diversion for the children (not to mention the adults), during funeral visitations. Geoff also collects *American Flyer* “S” Gauge toy trains, dating prior to 1962. His other interests include fishing, all aspects of do-it-yourself home remodeling, cooking (and taste-testing) delicious food, reading, writing, playing Bridge, Scrabble, Pac Man and Tetris. His greatest joy is watching his five adult children and two adult step-daughters mature into their own lives; and as for his three grandsons and granddaughter, their eyes say it all.

Region V is fortunate to have “tracked” Geoff Wells to the team!

REORGANIZATION OF NDMS HEADQUARTERS

Within the last year NDMS has been transferred back to the **Department of Health and Human Services** from Homeland Security, specifically FEMA. It has been a year of numerous changes and obstacles for our staff as well as with our teams. We continue to proceed through the transition. Throughout the transition, a common theme became obvious; we needed to do a better job to serve our team members. We needed to address issues in a holistic and standardized approach.

In response to this issue, NDMS headquarters staff has been re-organized. The goal of this re-organization is to serve teams with one voice and be a resource for issues and concerns that you may have. Having a team to work on your issues should provide a prompt and correct answer to any questions you may have.

The teams have been divided into three sections: **East (Red)**, **Central (Blue)**, and **West (Green)**. Each section has a team of three to support your requirements.

DMORT V falls in the Central “Blue” Region

The **Central Region Team** (also known as the **BLUE team**) consists of:

Stephen Allen represents the **Program Development Branch**. His areas of responsibilities consist of:

- Training - assessment, assist in planning, implementation and evaluation
- Development of new programs in NDMS
- Development of new teams within NDMS
- NDMS Training Summit
- Training Officer point of contact
- Online training
- Training website

Kirsten Clatterbuck represents the **Human Resource Branch in NDMS**. Her areas of responsibilities consist of:

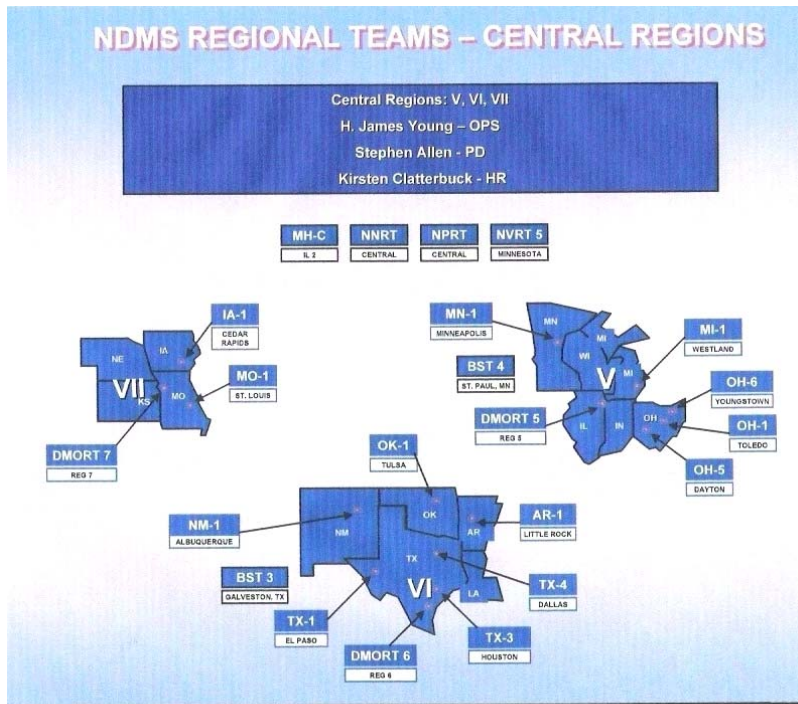
- EEO issues
- Ethics issues
- Application process for existing and new team members
- Termination, Hiring and Suspension issues for team members
- Conflict of interest issues on teams
- Work with Administrative Officers to maintain correct and efficient database

H. James Young represents the **Operations Branch in NDMS**. His areas of responsibilities consist of:

- Day to Day operational issues on the teams
- Any logistical issues or concerns

- Request for purchasing or renting equipment or supplies for day to day requirements
- Warehouse issues
- Issues regarding deployability of team or team members
- Communication equipment requirements or issues

As members, you should direct your inquiries/concerns to your officers.



NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM

THE THOMAS J. SHEPARDSON AWARD NOMINATION

Excerpts from the National Disaster Medical System Weekly Update
NDMS Weekly Update November 29, 2007

The Thomas J. Shepardson Award Memorandum November 23, 2007

MEMORANDUM TO: All NDMS Employees

FROM: Jack W. Beall /s/ Director, National Disaster Medical System

SUBJECT: The Thomas J. Shepardson Award

In recognition of the founder of DMORT, the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) is planning to present the first annual “**Thomas J. Shepardson Award**” at the NDMS Training Summit in March 2008. The selection criteria will **not** be based on team rank, number of deployments, popularity, or professional affiliations, but rather on the qualities

Tom Shepardson possessed and brought to his tenure with NDMS, specifically **leadership, vision, service, and commitment to stakeholders** and those we serve as NDMS employees.

All employees of NDMS have an opportunity to nominate personnel on their team who have demonstrated these traits.

This award is a great inspiration for all and will serve to recognize those truly dedicated employees who time after time commit themselves to serving others. To begin this initiative, I have asked the Management Working Group to select the members of the awards panel, including a group chairman, by January 31, 2008. This panel will receive nominations, which should include a written justification, from NDMS team personnel until February 15, 2008. The nominations will go through a comprehensive selection process, which will culminate in the presentation of the award at the NDMS Training Summit. I ask for your support in this endeavor.

If you know of such an individual who has demonstrated these traits, please take the time to complete the nomination form and forward to NDMS as directed.

Name of
Nominee: _____

Team
Position: _____

NDMS Team: _____

Instructions to Nominate:

Categories of eligibility: Please provide an example of your nominee's eligibility to receive the Thomas J. Shepardson Award in each of the four categories, **Leadership, Service, Vision and Commitment**. The examples you provide may have taken place either during a deployment or during a non-deployment period. An example must be expressed in 500 words or less and fit on a single (8.5x11") page for each category. Please sign and date the nomination and return to:

**Mr. Jack W. Beall, Director NDMS,
330 Independence Avenue SW, Room G-644
Washington, DC 20201.**

All nominees must be received post marked no later than **January 31, 2008** to be eligible for consideration.

MICHIGAN MORTUARY RESPONSE TEAM
Dutch Nie, DMORT Region V Team Member

For quite some time, members of the **Michigan Funeral Directors Association-Mortuary Response Team (MFDA-MRT)** have realized the limitations in their capabilities as funeral directors in the event of a mass disaster. Thus, the **Michigan Mortuary Response Team (MI-MORT)** was formed. The search began to look for other “forensic specialists” to work with in order to become a more complete response team. Several DMORT Region V team members became involved. **Dr. Joyce deJong** (forensic pathologist), **Dr. Gary Berman** (forensic odontologist), and **Dr. Norm Sauer** (forensic anthropologist) were all able to bring their DMORT experience to the Michigan State level response team.

The MI-MORT mission is: to respond to any State level response that might not warrant a Federal response, and if a Federal response becomes needed, the State team can provide an immediate response while waiting for DMORT to arrive. With this objective in mind, a seamless integration approach was instituted, utilizing DMORT standards and protocols - including the VIP program and other procedures.

MI-MORT has evolved into a State level team instead of a Funeral Directors Association team. It works under an agreement with the **Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Health Preparedness**. This relationship has enabled the team to obtain two Federal grants to equip a portable DPMU which is housed in four trailers that can be transported to any incident site. The process has begun to add two more “Push Packs” to these four trailers - which will be staged in two remote locations in the state.

At the present time, **Dutch Nie** and **Dr. Joyce deJong** are Co-Commanders of the MI-MORT. Any Region V members from Michigan are encouraged to consider joining the team. For more information, visit www.mimort.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

SUE ATWOOD
Administrative Officer



Welcome to 2008. I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season.

Thank you to all who notified me that you would be out of town. It is **very** important that I know when you are away from home and unable for deployment or correspondence. If HQ contacts me for a reason why you're not responding to an email from their security personnel, they may assume that you do not wish to remain on the team. My knowing that you are away eliminates this problem, as I would be able to clarify the question immediately. Should there be a call down, my knowing which team members are not available, saves time and frustration on the part of those members who have volunteered to call every member on our team. All I need is a brief email stating the dates you are unavailable.

W-2's are now available online and will also be sent to your home. If you deployed or attended training in 2007, you will be receiving a W-2. If you did not, it still is a good idea to go online and make sure your information is correct. The website is:
<https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx?flps=W2S-DCPS>.

As always, I need you to keep me updated with your current contact numbers and current licenses. Every member **must** have a government issued US Bank credit card in order to deploy or attend trainings. It is not too late to apply for one.

TRAINING UPDATES

JAN SIMONS
Training Officer

DMORT National Training (March 15 & 16) **NDMS Training Summit (March 17-19)**

As you know, this year there will be a National DMORT Training held in Nashville, TN the weekend before the NDMS Training Summit (formerly the NDMS Conference). This National DMORT Training is intended to provide standardization for DMORT missions, using the DMORT SOP's that are in the process of approval. The specific content of the National DMORT Training is still being determined, but is likely to involve one of the Federal DPMU's.

The dates are **Saturday, March 15 and Sunday, March 16 from 7am to 4pm each day** (travel in on Friday March 14, travel out Sunday, March 16 or Monday March 17). Our team will be able to send a small number of funded members to this National DMORT Training. Funding consists of travel and per diem expenses but no salary. Selection will be based on the role that you might play in the training as well as your potential for disseminating training to other members.

Funded members **must** possess a government issued US Bank credit card and have a current license on file (if applicable to your team position) in order to attend. Funded members will be expected to share a hotel room with another funded team member in order to conserve funds.

Anyone may attend the National DMORT Training (no registration fee) but you must sign up through our team so that accurate numbers can be accommodated.

The **NDMS Training Summit is Monday, March 17 through Wednesday, noon on March 19.** There is no registration fee for the NDMS Training Summit. At the present time, we don't know whether or not there will be funding for the NDMS Summit portion. For that matter, we do not have a schedule of activities for the NDMS Summit.

MAKE NO TRAVEL PLANS NOW, AS WE ARE WAITING FOR WORD FROM HQ REGARDING OUR FUNDING LIMITS FOR TRAINING. AS OF TODAY, REGISTRATION IS STILL NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE. THERE ARE DIFFERENT CATEGORIES FOR THE ONLINE REGISTRATION. WAIT TO REGISTER UNTIL DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT VIA E-MAIL, PLEASE COMPLETE ALL NECESSARY FORMS AND SUBMIT THEM TO SUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IMMUNIZATION UPDATE

JIM ADAMS
Logistics Officer

Well, we should have all had our flu shots by now, and I hope everyone is compliant and deployable. Unfortunately, since I have the records, I know better.

Our AO, Sue, sent out a good reminder last month with the current NDMS requirements. Within those requirements was the restriction on deploying people who do not have their immunizations to areas where they are in danger of being exposed to communicable diseases. This is not only for the individual's safety, but also for the well being of the team and the mission. Imagine what would happen if one of us with the flu, or worse, were to expose the rest of our team.

The only yearly requirement is Flu immunization and TB testing. If you test false positive or have an allergy, contact me for instructions on reporting protocols.

Our other immunization requirements including Hepatitis, Polio, Measles (MMR), etc. need to be on our permanent record. If you do not have proof of these immunizations - titers (except for polio) can be submitted. Personally, when I found my old grade school health records had been destroyed, I found it easier and cheaper to go the local health department and get new immunizations.

We have a lot going on right now with all of the changes in NDMS, and the new trainings that are being scheduled. Let's all make a real effort to get our immunizations and licenses current so that when we are needed, we are ready.

NEW REGION V TEAM MEMBERS

Region V has 2 new editions to our team - **Douglas “Dutch” Nie** and **Dr. E. Charles Eckstein**.

Dutch Nie is a second generation Funeral Director and has joined Region V as a Mortuary Officer. He owns and operates Nie Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Dutch is also a co-commander of the Michigan Mortuary Response Team (MI-MORT.)

Dr. Eckstein has joined Region V after moving from Tenafly, New Jersey, where he was formerly a member of Region II. He has worked in a private dental practice for 30 years and he currently works as the Managing Dental Director of Allcare Dental Office in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Region V team members welcome Dutch and Charles and look forward to meeting them in person!

If there are is anything you would like to see included in upcoming newsletters, please feel free to contact any of us at the following email addresses:

Terry Swanson: TerrySwanson@msn.com

Mary Fischer: mffischer53@hotmail.com

Sheila Hall: halls@infantwelfare.org