



Rural Health Community Systems, Inc.

Rural Health Community Systems is pleased to announce the appointment of Art Jones to the position of Coordinator of Network Initiatives. Jones brings more than 30 years of emergency medical services to the position. His duty is to promote RHCS programs within the Steuben County community.

"I'll be taking the long list of network programs and tools to the EMS volunteers on the street," Jones explained. Jones began his emergency services career as a volunteer in Greene. "The infancy of the EMS program," he recalled.



In those days, the only available emergency transportation was likely to be a hearse. "The funeral director often had the ambulance service," Jones explained. Emergency services have evolved into medical transport services since then. Jones evolved with them. "I got right into it," he said.

That involvement required countless hours of clinical instruction to meet the standards of each job. Over the years his volunteer positions grew from cardiac tech to critical care. In 1991, Jones moved from volunteer to professional, joining the staff of Corning Ambulance Service. Rural Metro Services bought the business in 1995. His career changed direction in 2003 when he went to work as a safety medical technician at Mills Pride in Sayre, PA.

"I pursued the opportunity to develop ideas in industry," Jones said. Always interested in new venues of emergency medical care, 1997 saw Jones drawn to an EMS oriented rural health network in its infancy – Rural Health Community Systems.

A voluntary collaborative effort, RHCS is dedicated to expanding the scope of access to emergency care services, as well as providing the community with the information, training and awareness needed to take advantage of those services.

At this point, Jones' focus is to listen to and speak with the 19 volunteer EMS corps in Steuben County about what's on their minds including the new electronic Patient Care Report (e-PCR).

To implement this program, RHCS purchased laptops and software for each corps. Funding for this project comes as a grant from the New York State Department of Health Offices of Rural Health. The grant is not for use to provide actual EMS services. It helps support directorially the important work of EMS volunteers.

Members of RHCS include representatives of Ira Davenport Hospital, New York State Police, Steuben County Office of Emergency Services, American Red Cross, and Steuben County Office for the Aging, Steuben County Sheriff's Department, EMSTAR, EMS Association and industry.

"I'm very excited about this position," Jones said. "It's an awesome opportunity to work with people of this caliber."

Jones is available to address any of the 19 volunteer EMS Corps or clubs and organizations. His office is in the Bath Municipal Building, 2nd floor, 110 Liberty Street, P.O. Box 209, Bath, NY 14810. He can be reached at (607) 794-0759 or at cnrhcs@stny.rr.com.