

BEMCo 2018-2019

May 2019



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Director's Letter



Welcome to the 2019 BEMCo alumni newsletter. Thank you for continuing to support BEMCo and retaining interest in the organization that was obviously such a large part of your college experience. Our alumni are an integral part of our history and has kept us going. The 2018 - 2019 academic year has been an another great year for BEMCo in terms of medical care given and administrative success in addition to maintaining a long history of being an integral part of the Brandeis community. With a new and improved website BEMCo also has come up with a new catch phrase that summarizes BEMCo's mission: "Since 1983, BEMCo has striven to keep the Brandeis community safe with passion, education, and precision!" In this light BEMCo has enhanced our relationship with more students and different departments on campus. We presented at both Fall and Spring Freshmen Orientation where we gave a thirty minute long overview of BEMCo and the services we provide. In addition, we met with the Department of Community Living

at the beginning of both semesters in order to get to know each other and go over our different roles but similar missions of making sure our campus is both safe and enjoyable. As many of you know BEMCo's response is in conjunction with the Brandeis Police Department and thus the relationship with our Officers is integral. This relationship could not be stronger and in fact we have had meals and meet and greets which have only been positive. In addition, we have been invited to take part in some of their trainings in order to grow this partnership. BEMCo has also enhanced our social media presence. Our Facebook and Instagram pages are updated almost weekly with BEMCo news and events.

Of course, BEMCo attended yet another NCEMSF conference. This year it took place in Pittsburg, PA so BEMCo took to the skys and flew to the conference. We sent 15 EMT's to the conference who took many interesting classes on topics such as active shooter response among many other topics. In addition, we were given a renewal of our HeartSafe campus status which we have held since 2016. We also met with UMass Amherst EMS in order to discuss our different organizational activities. Of course, we also met up with Yoni Litwok, a BEMCo alumni who is also a Director for NCEMSF.

BEMCo is a unique organization and truly an integral part of such a great community. In talking with the Brandeis community, I am constantly told that BEMCo is the best. The way that we have achieved such praise is truly through our growth over the years. Earlier in fall semester, we had a month of very high call volume. After one such call I was looking at an old newspaper clipping about BEMCo from the 1980's. Our found, Jim Meisal, was quoted with saying that in BEMCo's second year they hoped to have 20 members by the next year and maybe even save a life. The particular call we had just wrapped up was an allergic reaction where we administered an epi pen. That same weekend we have oriented 26 brand new BEMCo EMTs. The foundation of BEMCo is strong and we are making headway. This upcoming year will show even more growth and I know that our new leaders will continue to provide brandeis with the highest quality of care with passion, education, and precision!

Yours,
Benjamin Merker, Director 2018-2019

Ops Update



It has been a busy year, operationally. Our call volume up to this point is 316, up from 301 last year at the same time last year. Over the summer, we began outfitting a new primary vehicle to replace the Ford Explorer. BEMCo welcomed a 2018 Chevy Suburban to its family, fondly known as Lord Mammoth Beast. The new vehicle comes complete with automatic red, blue and amber scene lighting, a chevron trunk, and a howler to name a few of the upgrades. The new vehicle is also equipped with a scoop stretcher.

This fall, BEMCo utilized our MCI protocol in order to respond to a hazmat emergency involving sodium cyanide in the Mods. Twenty-five members responded to the scene and many were present for the entirety of the 4 hour long incident. As expected, BEMCo stepped up and demonstrated what a valuable resource we are to the campus community.

This spring, BEMCo renewed its ambulance license for another two years. BEMCo also held an independently run active shooter drill involving the entire corps and several alumni. The drill solidified BEMCo's MCI response protocol including the use of CallFire, the Corp's emergency notification system. The drill also enabled participants to practice treatment, triage, and on-going care in a mock active shooter situation.

Allison Lewis, Ops 2018-2019

Training Corner



2018-2019 was an exciting year for training! In the fall, a Cataldo medic came to campus and taught corps members to assist ALS during a code (supervisors even intubated our airway manikin!). In the spring, our corps members attended hazmat training and participated in an active shooter drill organized by a former BEMCo supervisor. Throughout the year our members were instructed on topics such as obstetrics, splinting, extrication, airway management, and many others. A new team-oriented approach to mock calls was introduced and corps members expressed that this new format made mock calls more fun and less intimidating, especially for new members! BEMCo held its yearly free national refresher (NCCP) classes taught by crew chiefs Benjamin Merker, Allison Lewis, Samuel Ammerman, and myself and ran both a basic skill review class and an advanced skill review class. BEMCo also held two new member orientations and welcomed about 20 new active members!

A public shared google drive was created with all CE PowerPoints and resources for our corps members and will be continued next year. This drive has been a useful resource for members seeking extra information and for those seeking to work on integral skills for promotion. The team training drive created by Matthew O’Leary, last year’s Training Officer, was expanded this year to hold a digital record of all training materials and will be passed down through generations of Training Officers to come.

Our CPR Coordinator Talia Loeb, who will be taking over as Training Officer next year, arranged over 18 CPR classes for the Brandeis Community including a CPR class for local girl scouts! This year BEMCo also installed new quality assurance devices in our CPR manikins per AHA’s 2019 standards. Not only do our CPR Instructors love them, but students find them very helpful. This year’s Brandeis EMT Class was run by Boston University and our two class liaisons, Shinji Rho and Jacob Silverman had great things to say about them. Around 20 students are currently about to take their class finals and many have expressed intent to join BEMCo after seeing BEMCo’s work around campus. As always, BEMCo alumni are always welcome back to join BEMCo in their trainings and we wish those about to test for certification good luck!

Kaitlin Silveira, Training Officer, 2018-2019

BEMCo Eboard



Benjamin joined BEMCo in the fall of 2016. He is a senior majoring in Economics and Politics major with a minor in Business. He was appointed to Maintenance Officer for the Fall of 2017 and elected to the position of Administrative Officer for Spring 2018. In addition, he was promoted to Primary in the beginning of Spring 2018. For his senior year he was promoted to clinical field supervisor and elected to be the Director. He has truly enjoyed both of these roles and helping BEMCo grow both internally and externally. Outside of Brandeis, Benjamin is an EMT and driver for his hometown fire department in Somers, NY where he got involved when he was 17. Outside of EMS, Benjamin loves hiking, biking, and anything on the water and especially loves spending time with his family, which includes two BEMCo alumni. He is looking forward to pursuing a career in Law/Law Enforcement and of course continuing to be an EMT. He wishes all the new leaders of BEMCo good luck and kudos for helping BEMCo grow next year! Finally, Benjamin is thankful for his BEMCo family that helped him become a better and stronger leader!



Allison Lewis is the 2017-19 Director of Operations. She is a Senior majoring in Health: Science, Society, and Policy. She joined BEMCo in the Fall of her freshman year and became a Crew Chief in August 2016. She was Training Officer during the 2016-17 school year. She became a Clinical Supervisor in 2017. She worked at the Wolcott Volunteer Ambulance Association in CT from 2014-16 where she took her EMT class. As Operations, her responsibilities include QA/QI and managing other operational necessities including overseeing the trucks, equipment, and the work of this past years lovely Maintenance Officer, Scheduling Officer and Promotions Officer; David Bressler, Alison Ma, and Sarah Petrides. She plans to move on to graduate study in the Fall.



Katherine joined BEMCo Fall of 2016. She was elected as Treasurer from 2017-2018, and then as Admin from 2018-2019. She has enjoyed serving on the BEMCo Eboard these past two years and being part of the corps for the past three years. She is majoring in Neuroscience and Biology and plans to work at MGH in a lab after graduating, and then applying to MD/PhD programs. Outside of classes and BEMCo, Katherine works in a lab at Brandeis where she is completing a Masters thesis. She also serves as the president for YourStory International, tutors, and enjoys playing Frisbee, hiking, and reading. She looks forward to seeing the progress that the next Eboard makes!



Hi everyone! I'm Kaitlin, BEMCo's 2018-2019 Training Officer as well as a BEMCo Field Supervisor. I was also last year's Scheduling Officer. I am graduating this year with a double major in Neuroscience and Biology and I look forward to working to become a critical care nurse and eventually a flight nurse. When not busy with BEMCo related things, I can be found teaching at both Cataldo Ambulance and Boston University, reading, or cuddling my cat. I casually joined BEMCo as a sophomore and I fell in love! BEMCo is supportive and learning oriented, something I strived to uphold while I was Training Officer. I love teaching and being able to work one on one with Corps members and watching them achieve their goals was incredibly gratifying. Being on BEMCo's E-Board was a great opportunity to get more involved in BEMCo and to give back and working with other E-Board members who love BEMCo as much as I do was both fun and satisfying as we continued to make BEMCo the best it can be. I can't wait to see what next year's E-Board achieves!



Hello! My name is River, BEMCo #803, and I served as treasurer of BEMCo for the past year. I am a secondary on BEMCo, and have been a member of BEMCo since the very first few weeks of my arrival at Brandeis. I wanted to join E-Board to give back to BEMCo after finding such a wonderful community in my fellow BEMCo members. While serving as treasurer was demanding and time-consuming, it was also a deeply rewarding experience, and I enjoyed being able to give my time back to BEMCo. I am confident that BEMCo is in great hands with next year's E-Board, and that the corps will continue to succeed in coming years!



Being secretary this year has been an awesome experience and I'm so glad I had the opportunity to work with the other members of E-Board to keep BEMCo going strong!

-Hannah Lee, Secretary 2018-2019

NCEMSF 2019

As BEMCo has in many years past, we sent a strong delegation to the National Collegiate EMS Foundation's annual conference. This year's conference was in Pittsburgh, PA, so BEMCo tried something new- we flew to NCEMSF! Our 15 member strong delegation sent 6 members to a pre-conference workshop on medical considerations for technical rescue, and learned valuable lessons from the many workshops our members attended on topics of all types!



BEMCo Pets



“Her name is Ellie. Her favorite BLS drug is Narcan.”

-Zoe Scheier



“His name is Yuki. He’s a mix of Scottish fold and American shorthair. He loves people. He wants people’s attention all the time. He licks you when you pet him.”

-Isabella Hu



“Calio is an 8 year old rescue who always hints that he needs to get promoted to Supurr-visor playing with his mom’s pager and radio.”

-Kaitlin Silveira



“After a year of exposure therapy, Max has finally overcome his fear of trashcans. Max has displayed a great aptitude for rabbit chasing, sleeping, and eating pancakes off the table when no one is looking.”
-Katherine Dorfman



“Autumn, aka BEM-Cat, enjoying the Girl’s Night event.”



“Gretel practicing for her future role as an emergency cuddle technician like her sister, Autumn.”

-Allison Lewis



“Liesl, embodying the BEMCo moto of breaking hearts and saving lives.”

Quotes from Calls

BEMCo: "When did you start drinking?"
PT: "I started drinking when I was 5"

Cataldo goes to move Pt to stretcher. Pt:
"No! I know my first amendment rights!"

BEMCo: "Please repeat after me: 'the sky is blue in Cincinnati'"
Drunk PT: "but you know man, the sky is pretty dark and it rains all the time in Cincinnati"

BEMCo: "What day is it?"
PT: silence. Looks to bystanders for help
BEMCo: "I'll take either a number or a day of the week"
PT: "65"

BEMCo: "What's your favorite color?"
PT: "Zero"
BEMCo: "What's your favorite number?"
PT: "One"
BEMCo: "What's your favorite animal?"
PT: "Zero"

BEMCo: "What day is it?"
PT: "December"
BEMCo: "What year is it?"
PT: "Wednesday"

BEMCo: "are you in any pain?"
PT: "just existential pain"

PT wrapped in space blanket: "So how much longer on the baked potato?"

On board in PT's room:
"To do list for the month:
-Do my homework
-Go to class
-Have sex
-Have lots of sex
-Study harder"

BEMCo: "Are you sexually active?"
PT: "Of course not! Have you seen this room?"
gestures at anime posters

PT: "Let's just say I could diarrhea if given the chance, but I don't *have* to"

PT: "I don't want to go to the hospital. I just wanted to know should I take Dayquil or Nyquil? I don't trust the internet"

PT: "Can you give me a back massage?"

PT: "Do you know anything about diabetes?"
BEMCo: "Do you have diabetes?"
PT: "No."

PT: "I had one egg three years ago. No, three eggs. That's what I ate last."

BEMCo: "What time did you stop drinking?"
PT: "Alfredo"

PT on Cataldo stretcher, talking to BEMCo:
"I don't want BEMCo called!"

BEMCo: "Do you feel same on campus?"
PT: "I'm a psych major, I know what you're doing"