



BTLS Chapter Update

July 2004

Last Call for Nominations

There are only a few days left to submit your suggestions for candidates for the BTLS Board of Directors.

Three positions will be elected to the BTLS Board of Directors this October by the chapter delegates attending the International Trauma Conference. Incumbents Tony Connelly, Sr. Para., BSc (Northern & Yorkshire, England) and Pete Ganas, MD (Florida) will seek re-election. The seat vacated by Jon Hobbs, DO (South Carolina) will also be elected.

The term of office is three years, and there are no limits on the number of terms a Board member may serve.

The criteria used for Board nominations are:

1. The candidate should be an active and dependable member of BTLS.
2. The candidate should have the support of his or her chapter.
3. The candidate should be experienced in teaching or coordinating BTLS courses.
4. The candidate should be supportive of a consensus-building process.
5. The Board should be comprised of members who represent various geographic areas, rather than be clustered in one section of the U.S.
6. The Board should be comprised of members who represent the various professions that teach and coordinate BTLS programs.

To make a nomination, a letter explaining the nominee's qualifications with a copy of his or her CV should be sent to Ginny Kennedy Palys at ginnykp@btls.org no later than **July 15**.

**International
Trauma
Conference**
**October 28 - 30,
2004**
**Oak Brook,
Illinois
USA**

*Basic Trauma Life
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1 South 280 Summit Ave.
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Delegate Reports

In the next week, all chapters will be sent their 2004 delegate report. The report shows the number of delegates allocated to each chapter based on student rosters and fees received by the International office as of March 31, 2004.

Please complete the report with the information about your delegates and return it to the International office no later than September 1, 2004. If you know that a delegate will not be attending the conference, please place an X by his or her name so that on-site materials are not prepared.

Reminder: Fees and Rosters

All chapters are reminded that fees and rosters should be submitted to the International office on a quarterly basis. Some chapters have become increasingly late in submitting these items which results in fewer than expected numbers of students appearing to be trained. To make sure that all your students are accounted for, be sure to submit the fees and rosters regularly.

BTLS is developing a new web site which will give chapters the option of submitting rosters electronically. That feature is expected to be rolled out this fall. In the meantime, chapters may submit rosters electronically using your current software. If you have questions, contact Gloria Pappas at gloriap@btl.org.

BTLS Awards

Does your chapter have unsung heroes who should be considered for a BTLS award? These are the BTLS members who provide exemplary service, can always be counted on when you need a last minute instructor, or maybe the person who students always give the highest evaluations.

BTLS will recognize those individuals with the 2004 BTLS awards. We invite your nominations for the following BTLS awards: the John Campbell Medical Director Award, the Ray Fowler Instructor Award, the Pat Gandy Coordinator Award, and the Harvey Grant Memorial Award. The deadline for nominations is **September 15**. Please send a letter describing your award nominees to Ginny Kennedy Palys at ginnykp@btl.org.

News from the Editorial Board

Comments on 25th Anniversary Edition Tests

The BTLS Editorial Board is reviewing the tests used for the BTLS Advanced and Basic courses based on the 25th Anniversary edition of the BTLS books.

The Editorial Board is seeking your input on the tests. If you have used the tests and have comments or suggestions, or if you have found discrepancies, please email your suggestions to ginnykp@btls.org. Suggestions should be sent by July 25th. Your input will be used to develop Version II of the Anniversary Edition exams this summer for release September 1.

Scenario Grade Sheet

The BTLS Editorial Board has prepared a revised Scenario Grade Sheet to replace the sheet printed in the Anniversary editions of the BTLS Instructor guide. Due to a printing error, the second page of the sheet was omitted when published. A copy of the revised (July 2004) grade sheet is attached to this memo.

2004 Conference Brochures

Brochures for the 2004 conference will be mailed by the end of July. If you have additional names you would like added to your chapter mailing list, or if there are names that should be deleted, please email the changes to Sharon Hardrick at sharonh@btls.org ASAP.

The Conference program is spectacular, and we plan on having the best educational experience ever.

Call for Abstracts

The BTLS Research Task Force is accepting abstracts for research presentations at the 2004 conference. Original work involving all aspects of trauma care and related EMS issues will be considered. Because this is an international meeting, abstracts presented at other national or state meeting are welcome. If you need an abstract form, please contact Sharon Hardrick at the International office. Abstracts must be received by **September 15**.

Farewell to a Friend



BTLS recently lost one of its oldest friends and authors. Jim Gargan passed away on June 19 after a brief illness.

Jim is the author of *BTLS ACCESS*. His other publications include *Trench Rescue*, *First Due Trench Rescue*, and *Republic of South Africa, Land of Milk and Misery*. He is the co-author of the *2nd Edition of Vehicle Rescue* and the *Action Guide for Emergency Service Personnel*.

Jim was considered by many to be the world's foremost authority on Trench and Structural Collapse Rescue. He marked his 57th anniversary in the emergency services in 2004. He served as Chief of the Prospect Park, Pennsylvania Fire Department and was an instructor for the Pennsylvania State Fire School. He was Director of the Delaware County (Pa.) Fire School. He was Delaware County (Pa.) Fireman of the Year in 1968.

Jim was a member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the Eastern Association of Fire Chiefs and the Delaware County Fireman's Association. He also served on the advisory council to the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus in Washington, D.C.

Jim served as Technical Director for the First Due Rescue Company series on Trench Rescue, Advanced Trench Collapse Operations and Building Collapse-Heavy Construction by American Safety Video Publishers of Mosby Lifeline. He wrote numerous articles for emergency service magazines and has taught worldwide. Most recently he founded the South African Search & Rescue Team.

Jim served as a volunteer for the N.C. Underwater Archeology unit at Fort Fisher, dove on the "Queen Ann's Revenge" the ship of Blackbeard the Pirate, and climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, Africa in 1998 and again in 1999. He holds the record for an American going the deepest in the earth – 12,660 ft. He served on recovery operations at the World Trade Center, 9-11-2001. He was planning to return to California, where he has worked the wild fires as recently as 2003.

Jim invented the Jimmi-Jak pneumatic/mechanical stabilization rescue system. Jim and his wife Barbara owned and operated J&B Equipment Co. Inc. in Wilmington, Delaware for 25 years along with Rescue Training Associates, Ltd. and Rescue Training Consultants.

BTLS honored Jim for his contributions to trauma and emergency care in 1999. His passing will be remembered at the 2004 International Trauma Conference in Chicago.