

Secretary-Treasurer Platform Statement

My name is Joshua Higgins and I am running for the position of Secretary-Treasurer on the SEMPA Board of Directors. I appreciate your time and consideration for reviewing my statement for the above position.

I have been employed with Vituity practicing emergency medicine exclusively for over 11 years, since graduating from San Joaquin Valley College PA program and after receiving my Masters degree in PA studies from the University of Nebraska. Prior to this, I received my undergraduate degree in Emergency Medical Care from Loma Linda University. I've spent the last 24 years dedicating my professional life to Emergency Medical Services, beginning at the age of 18 as an EMT-B, working both in the pre-hospital and hospital settings as a first responder as well as a trauma technician at the University of California Irvine Level 1 Trauma Center.

For the past eight years I have been in clinical practice in the ED at Palomar Medical Center. Palomar is a high volume, level II trauma and tertiary care center located in San Diego County. In addition to my clinical duties, I am also the Lead PA and take part in multiple ED committees, which include the throughput collaborative, QI, patient experience and chart review as well as the ED process improvement leadership team. With a team of 23 PA's, I am continuously fostering the growth and development of our group, while working closely with my medical director and site management team to solve the day-to-day obstacles that can face such a large group.

My connection to SEMPA originally started in 2009 when I was chosen during my second year of PA school for the SEMPA Student Scholarship award. 4 years ago I was selected to join the SEMPA Education Committee and since that time I've had the privilege to work alongside some great minds assisting in the planning and implementation of SEMPA's annual 360 conference. It was during this time I had the opportunity to witness first hand the inner workings of the organization and the amount of time and effort it takes to provide our members with some of the highest level EM education there is to offer. From here, my interest in becoming more involved only grew and in 2017 I was twice elected to the SEMPA Board of Directors in the position of Director at Large in 2017 and 2019. I have had a tremendous opportunity over the past 3 years to grow both personally and professionally and develop the necessary leadership skills to continue helping solve some of the challenges that face our profession. In 2019, I joined the SEMPA Advocacy Committee to identify public policy issues and concerns that directly affect the role, scope of practice, reimbursement, and practice ability of the EMPA.

As the roles and educational opportunities for EMPAs continue to broaden, it is more important than ever that we continue to grow and strengthen our relationships with partnering organizations. There is a lot of discussion currently on the state of PA supervision and EM workforce and SEMPA has positioned itself as the most reliable and relevant organization to be at the forefront of these issues. I will continue to work with my PA and physician colleagues to advance our practice and profession and give EMPAs a voice to propel us into the future of healthcare.

As Secretary-Treasurer, I will ensure that there is proper financial oversight while working closely with other Board members to assure funds are properly dispersed and accounted for. As a returning Board member, I feel it is equally important to continue to advocate for professional and clinical growth, ensure that the membership is well represented at the ground level and work closely with the Board to carry out the mission of our group - to advance the goals of those that came before me while looking ahead towards the future of our profession.

Thank you for considering me for this position.

Sincerely,

Joshua Higgins