

**Legislative Representative:
William C. Koester, Vice President
Carr Public Affairs (518) 434-8830**

Current UNYAN Members:

Alamo EMS
AmCare Ambulance
Bangs Ambulance
Cooperstown Medical Transport
CHS Ambulance Services
Empire Ambulance
Erway Ambulance
Guilfoyle Ambulance
Hunter Ambulance
Kunkel Ambulance
Medical Transport Service
MetroCare
Midwood Ambulance
Mobile Life Support
Mohawk Ambulance
Monroe Ambulance
Northern Dutchess Paramedics
Oswego County Ambulance
Richmond County Ambulance
Rockland Mobile Care
Rural/Metro – Central NY
Rural/Metro – Corning
Rural/Metro – Intermountain
Rural/Metro – New York City
Rural/Metro – Rochester
Rural/Metro – Western NY
Schenectady Ambulance Serv.
Seaway Valley Ambulance
Superior Ambulance
TLC EMS
Trans Am Ambulance
Twin City Ambulance
WCA Serv. Corp.

UNYAN PRIORITIES FOR 2003

The United New York Ambulance Network (UNYAN) represents private ambulance services that provide 9-1-1 ambulance services to 22 of the 25 largest cities in New York State, and 40 of the State's 62 counties. Comprised of more than thirty ambulance services, UNYAN's members also provide the majority of medical inter-facility ambulance service. UNYAN members employ nearly 5,000 Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, and related personnel, ensuring emergency medical care and ambulance service to over 14 million urban, suburban, and rural New Yorkers.

- **CROSSOVER PAYMENTS - Medicaid reimbursement for co-payments and deductibles of "dual eligibles", those individuals who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare** Governor Pataki has proposed the elimination of "crossover" payments for ambulance services, a measure that would cripple ambulance services throughout the State, and would seriously diminish the capacity of all ambulance services to maintain service levels and quality of care for both 9-1-1 and inter-facility ambulance service. UNYAN urges that the Governor's proposed elimination of "crossover" payments be rejected.
- **MEDICAID REFORM - full reimbursement for Medicaid ambulance transportation services S. 2041 (Seward) / A. 4746 (Gottfried)** The "system" for reimbursement under Medicaid for ambulance transportation threatens the safety and security of communities across New York State, leaving them vulnerable in the event of a catastrophic emergency. By establishing Medicaid rates that cover the cost of ambulance transportation and care, we can stabilize ambulance companies, the medical "first responders" in emergencies. At the same time, we can address the healthcare worker shortage by offering paramedics a competitive wage. Medicaid ambulance rates are established on a county-by-county basis, and some counties have not adjusted rates since the 1970's. Only a few counties come close to covering the cost of providing ambulance transportation and care. UNYAN seeks a rational reimbursement program that covers costs and embraces full access, fairness, and quality of care in every region of New York State.
- **AMBULANCE VEHICLES EXEMPTED FROM SALES TAX BURDEN S. 3389 (Seward) / A. 5069 (Morelle)** would exempt ambulance vehicles from the sales tax on new or used ambulance vehicles purchased by certified ambulance transportation service companies.
- **FUEL TAX RELIEF FOR PATIENT TRANSPORTATION S. 3388 (Seward) / A. 1079 (Morelle)** would eliminate the fuel taxes currently paid by commercial ambulance services on fuel used to transport patients.
- **SUPPORT OF EXPANDED MUTUAL AID** UNYAN supports legislation (S. 2236 (Nozzolio) / A. 1812 (Magee) to permit emergency rescue and first aid squads organized under section 209-b of the General Municipal Law to enter into mutual aid contracts with appropriately certified ambulance companies, including proprietary ambulance companies, in order to assure coverage and service. This legislation will strengthen the relationships between commercial and volunteer ambulance companies, and assure the public of access to emergency medical care.
- **OPPOSITION TO DIRECT PATIENT AND THIRD-PARTY BILLING** Municipal and volunteer fire companies organized under Section 209-b of the General Municipal Law are currently prohibited from billing patients. Permitting this type of billing amounts to "double-billing", adding costs to the EMS system with no commensurate benefits. It would disrupt New York's paramedic intercept system under Medicare, which ensures access to advanced life support care in many rural areas by eliminating federal Medicare reimbursement. Language permitting billing under Section 209-b is contained in S. 3342 (Maziarz) and A. 6963 (Canestrari).

Enactment of this bill will help ambulance services to contain costs, and will provide needed tax relief to maintain and improve the high quality of service delivery and patient care characteristic of commercial ambulance services across the State.

UNYAN respectfully requests the passage of this measure, estimated to cost \$650,000 per year in lost revenues to the State.

Respectfully submitted,



Walter Reisner, Chairman
United New York Ambulance Network (UNYAN)