



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Caitlin Stibitz
Business: Cetronia Ambulance Corps
Address: 4300 Broadway
Allentown, PA 18104
www.cetronia.org

Phone: 610-398-0239 Ext 511
610-751-1495 (Cell)
Email: Stibitz@cetronia.org

CETRONIA AMBULANCE CORPS RECEIVES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PRE-HOSPITAL CARDIAC CARE FROM THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, ALLENTOWN, PA – During National EMS Week, Cetronia Ambulance Corps received recognition and a Silver Performance Achievement Award from the American Heart Association (AHA) for their performance in treating critical cardiac patients and excellence in pre-hospital patient care provided.

“We are extremely proud of our team of lifesaving and compassionate personnel and strive to continuously raise the bar in our efforts of lifesaving every day” states Larry Wiersch, Chief Executive Officer for Cetronia Ambulance Corps. “EMS is about caring, compassion and treating everyone like you would want your family to be treated and receiving this designation along with our National Accreditation and quality metrics further supports our 60 year reputation of excellence” Wiersch goes on to say.

As part of its 2015 Mission: Lifeline STEMI Systems of Care, the AHA recognizes the vital importance that field providers within an Emergency Medical Services system provide to the overall success and outcomes for patients who suffer a tragic and sudden cardiac episode. To meet the criteria for obtaining recognition as a Silver Performance Achievement, EMS agencies must deliver continuing education to its pre-hospital providers in STEMI identification, provide access to 12 lead EKG machines, and develop and implement patient care protocols that follow both the ACC/AHA STEMI Guideline. The AHA also identified a set of specific quality performance indicators in which agencies must exceed a 75% compliance score and agencies must treat at least eight STEMI patients per year to reach the Silver Performance level. The quality measures evaluated were:

- Percentage of patients with non-traumatic chest pain > 35 years of age, treated and transported by EMS who receives a pre-hospital 12 Lead ECG.

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- Percentage of STEMI patients transported to a STEMI Receiving Center, with pre-hospital First Medical Contact (FMC) to Device (PCI) < 90 Minutes.
- Percentage of STEMI patients transported to a STEMI Referring Center with arrival to fibrinolysis therapy administration < 30 minutes.

Cetronia Ambulance Corps joins 447 EMS agencies in the US and is 1 of 62 agencies in Pennsylvania to receive the 2015 American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline EMS Performance Achievement Award.

STEMI stands for ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction and is the most dangerous type of heart attack. Every year, more than 250,000 people experience a STEMI, which is a type of heart attack caused by a complete blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires immediate medical treatment. To prevent death, it's critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by surgically opening the blocked vessel or by giving clot-busting medication. Unfortunately, a significant number who suffer a STEMI attack do not receive this medical treatment. Mission: Lifeline seeks to save lives by closing the gaps that separate STEMI patients from timely access to appropriate life-saving care. The program was developed to recognize EMS personnel for their efforts in implementing quality improvement measures that directly lead to advancements in patient outcomes and STEMI systems of care. "EMTs and paramedics play a vital part in the system of care for those who have heart attacks," said Nancy Brown, Chief Executive Officer of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. "Since they often are the first medical point of contact, they can shave precious minutes of life-saving treatment time by activating the emergency response system that alerts hospitals. We applaud the Cetronia Ambulance Corps for achieving this award that shows it meets evidence-based guidelines in the treatment of people who have severe heart attacks." The program works by mobilizing teams across the continuum of care to implement American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology clinical treatment guidelines. For more information, visit heart.org/missionlifeline and heart.org/quality.

The AHA released the names of the EMS agencies who obtained Silver Performance Achievement at the start of National EMS Week, May 17-23rd. National EMS Week brings together local communities and healthcare providers to create awareness around public health and safety, as well as honor the dedication of those who provide the life-saving care and services as medicines "front line". It is an opportunity for the public to recognize what EMS professionals do every day and to educate the public on how, when and why they need to utilize emergency services.

Cetronia Ambulance Corps, founded in 1955, is a non-profit, 501(c)3 community-based emergency medical services provider prominently located in the Lehigh Valley. Cetronia Ambulance Corps is one of the largest providers of ambulance and medical transportation services in Eastern Pennsylvania; employing 140 full and part time career associates, and 20 active volunteers. Cetronia's boasts a fleet of 41 vehicles consisting of 19 ambulances, 18 para-transit vehicles, a quick response supervisor's vehicle, three medi-cars and a special operations unit. Cetronia provides basic and advanced life support ambulance, para-transit, wheelchair, -more-

stretcher van, educational, medical alarm, dispatch and medical billing services to meet the communities' emergency medical service, medical transportation and population health needs in collaboration with other local healthcare agencies.

Cetronia Ambulance Corps believes in regional partnerships with others to better and more efficiently serve the emergency and non-emergency needs of our community. With Cetronia's recent move into their new Joint Operations and Lehigh County Medical Forensics Center located at 4300 Broadway in Allentown, South Whitehall Township, Cetronia has expanded its capabilities to further meet the needs of the growing Lehigh Valley Community. Our people are representative of the fabric of our community and as the regional leader in High Performance EMS; Cetronia Ambulance Corps will exceed 50,000 requests for service this year, covering an emergency service area that spans across 150 square miles and a non-emergency coverage area that encompasses seven counties. Cetronia Ambulance Corps provides Health on Wheels™ and is dedicated to saving lives and partnering with community every day.

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