

# The MTAC Monthly Review

Welcome to the first "MTAC Newsletter." Regional trauma care is a remarkably intricate system of protocols, resources, and most importantly, personnel. That care begins with the 911 call through the prehospital phase, to the ED, into the hospital which may include the ICU, OR, and the medical surgical floors. For the trauma centers, the entire hospital is engaged in the trauma response including the labs, radiology, respiratory care, and even housekeeping requires the training to manage blood and fluid contamination to the hospital from the resuscitations. Being discharged is not the end of trauma care, but in many cases the beginnings of prolonged rehabilitation. Our purpose with the MTAC Newsletter is to update and disseminate the activities and accomplishments without our region.



Metrolina Trauma Advisory Committee is one of eight North Carolina Regional Advisory Councils (RACs), dedicated to working with its regional emergency & trauma care providers, hospitals, & agencies in efforts of constructing & maintaining a coordinative, evidence based process for the delivery of consistent, quality trauma care.

## Tribute to Joe Lord



Cleveland County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director Joe Lord served Cleveland County for 27 years. After living in Milwaukee, Cleveland and Detroit, he moved to Cleveland County, NC in 1992 thanks to his wife. She had been hired by Cleveland Regional Medical Center to manage their emergency room. Soon after, Joe was hired as Cleveland County's EMS Director. In 1992, the County's EMS Department consisted of 25 employees. Fast forward 27 years to 2019 when he retired and the County's EMS Department has 72 full-time employees, plus 30 to 40 part-time employees.

Susan Allen, County Commission Chair stated for the Shelby Star: "Joe Lord has been instrumental in growing Cleveland County's ability to provide emergency medical and transport services when the need is most critical. He, and all of the County's first responders, literally save lives every day and we could not be prouder of the work that they do,"

During Lord's tenure as EMS Director, he has managed the evolution of emergency medical service delivery. Examples include:

- Cleveland County was one of the first county EMS departments in the state to have all emergency medical services personnel trained as critical care paramedics.
- Cleveland County's EMS personnel, training and equipment continue to be top-notch and state-of-the-art
- Cleveland County's EMS department has received multiple grants that have paid for EMS personnel to be trained in trench rescues, collapsed structures, heavy rescues, and State Medical Assistance Teams to work in a mobile hospital during a disaster, to provide medical care in a temporary medical shelter, or to work in a decontamination unit.
- Under his leadership, salaries have been increased to more competitive levels rewarding employees for the excellent service they provide.

Joe's commitment to injury prevention has included:

- Being a strong and consistent partner with Safe Kids Cleveland
- Hosting a Safety Town in the Cleveland Mall,

continued at [www.metrolinatrauma.org](http://www.metrolinatrauma.org)

## Upcoming Education

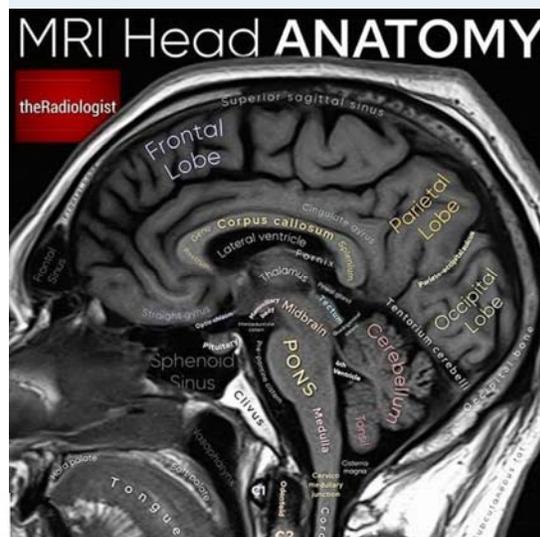
- 5/19.....Peds Trauma\*
- 5/21.....Concussions\*\*
- 6/10-11.....ATLS
- 6/11.....ATLS Refresher
- 6/23.....Rib Fracture Fixation\*
- 7/21.....Blunt Cerebrovascular Injury\*

\* MTAC Monthly Trauma Conference at CMC  
\*\*NH Trauma Talks at NH Presbyterian Medical Center

For more event info, go to [www.metrolinatrauma.org](http://www.metrolinatrauma.org)

## Special points of interest

- Interested in knowing what the clinical outcome of a trauma patient was? Reach out to us at [scott.wilson@atriumhealth.org](mailto:scott.wilson@atriumhealth.org)
- Do you have a trauma course coming up & need it advertised? We can put it on our website or social media to help market it.
- Want to say good job to an EMS crew or another hospital for their excellent patient care? Let us know!





## Tribute to Joe Lord continued...

- Being an integral partner of Safe Teens (a program provided to every drivers education class in Cleveland County)
- Providing instructors for Kid TIPP's which involves Nine 30 minute safety and injury prevention sessions for all first graders in Cleveland County
- A presence at many other injury prevention activities throughout the year.

His understanding of community needs for the underserved have included

- Providing a medical care bridge for the underserved, Joe help provide basic medical check at soup kitchens including blood pressure monitoring, helping with medication needs, and most of all an approachable caring person.
- Embracing the Community Paramedic concept as part of a transitional care model partnering with Atrium Health Cleveland. Though not fully funded he was able to stretch resources to provide home assistance for those discharged from the hospital not qualifying for other resource agencies.

Under Joe's leadership, Cleveland County EMS crews have provided emergency medical services and personnel for major events, natural disasters and regional search and rescues, including:

- U.S. Olympics in Atlanta
- Hurricane Katrina disaster response in Waveland, MS
- Hurricane Florence disaster response in South Carolina
- Democratic National Convention in Charlotte
- World Equestrian Games in Tryon, NC
- Kilauea Volcano eruption in Hawaii
- The search for six-year-old Maddox Ritch in Gastonia, NC

In addition to managing Cleveland County EMS, he teaches all-hazard, incident management classes to first responders, fire departments and police officers across the state, and hosts active shooter training for local police and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agents.

Lord has also been actively involved in the North Carolina Association of EMS Administrators serving as chair, vice chair, president and past president.

In an interview with the local paper he reported that he was most proud of "the ability to serve the citizens of Cleveland County" remarked that he will most miss the fellowship he has with the community, EMS personnel, colleagues and hospital staff.

Commissioner Johnny Hutchins commented: "We will miss Joe's dedication to his work, his EMS staff and his profession. That commitment has been evident in all that he has done for the County in the past 27 years. We appreciate him so much,"

My medical colleagues and I strongly second that and wish him the best.

- Michael Barringer, MD



**Distracted to Death**  
*Pay Attention or Pay the Price*

National Trauma Awareness Month 2020



[www.nattrauma.org/what-is-trauma/trauma-statistics-facts/](http://www.nattrauma.org/what-is-trauma/trauma-statistics-facts/)