



# Voice OF V

*The official voice of Region V*



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## **LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR TEAM MEMBERS**

**MARY E. B. JOHNSON**



**Mary E.B. Johnson**, originally from East St. Louis, Illinois, is a licensed funeral director and embalmer. She attended Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree, after which she pursued a career working with the federal government. Her position as a Consumer Safety Inspector with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration lasted 20 years. During her employment with the FDA, she used her annual leave to attend classes in funeral service at St. Louis Community College. She then received an Associates Applied Science Degree in Funeral Service.

Mary has been a funeral director and embalmer for over 20 years, in both Illinois and Missouri. She currently works part-time as a funeral director and pre-arrangement consultant at two funeral homes/cemeteries.

Mary attended a Forensic Pathology course at St. Louis University, which was sponsored by the Department of Forensic and Environmental Pathology in St. Louis, Missouri. She also completed a training course in Eye Enucleation, sponsored by St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville, Illinois.

Since she possesses an Illinois Teacher's certificate, Mary works as a substitute teacher in East St. Louis, teaching elementary and early childhood classes when she's needed and is available.

She has been a member of DMORT since 1996, after attending a Disaster Training in St. Louis and a Mass Fatality Incident Response course in Jefferson City, Missouri. Mary has been deployed to the World Trade Center disaster in 2001 and Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

Mary is a devoted member of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. She is also actively involved in several community events: ministering monthly at a local nursing home, volunteering weekly as a chaplain at a behavioral health facility, and donating time at a street ministry providing food to the homeless. Mary volunteers for Hospice of Southern Illinois, and she is a member of the Belleville Salvation Army Advisory Council.

Some of her professional affiliations include: the St. Clair County Funeral Directors Association, of which she was the first female president in 1996; St. Louis Gateway Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, where she served two terms as president; Illinois Funeral Directors Association; and past member of the National Funeral Directors Association. She has been a member of the Funeral Service Advisory Board at St. Louis Community College for over 15 years. Mary was one of many participants to be honored at the Illinois Funeral Directors Association Convention for her participation in the World Trade Center and Hurricane Katrina disasters.

Mary resides in Belleville, Illinois with her husband, Roosevelt Jr. They have two children: Tricia, who currently attends Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, and Roosevelt III, who is employed by the American Red Cross.

Mary's interests and hobbies include arts and crafts, gardening, and her favorite sport, roller skating. Music is one of her passions. She plays the organ and piano and occasionally performs at church services.

DMORT Region V recognizes the "charitable" nature of Mary Johnson and finds her an "instrumental" team member!

**VETTING ROSTERS**  
*Brad B. Targhetta, FABMDI, CFSP*  
*DMORT V Deputy Commander*

At the onset of every deployment, teams are required to complete a “Vetting” process.

What is “Vetting a Roster”?

All teams send in their respective member availability list to Headquarters. While DMAT teams have monthly “on-call” rosters, Region V uses the “call-down list”, which is submitted for review by personnel at Headquarters. Each submitted member must be found within the database to determine if the member has fulfilled all of the requirements to be deployed: they **MUST** have their **government issued credit card, current identification badge, attended training – Team and/or National, ICS Classes, inoculations, and a current professional state license** (if their classification requires a license). If any of these requirements are not met, the member is considered non-deployable. Non-deployable members are given a chance to become deployable when time permits the personnel at Headquarters to contact the Team Commander and/or the Administrative Officer (AO). The AO then contacts the team member to give him/her the opportunity to provide sufficient proof of having met the necessary requirements. If the requirements are met and proof is provided, the AO will send the updated information to Headquarters. This process can take several days after the name was originally submitted; therefore, the member may miss being deployed if they are not current with their requirements before the incident occurs.

Each and every time a roster is submitted, members are scrutinized in this manner. The process takes about a minute per member to check. A complete team can be “Vetted” in less than an hour - provided all team members have their information correct and up to date.

**CREDIT CARDS**  
*Sue Atwood*  
*DMORT V Administrative Officer*

If there is anyone who had a Citibank Credit Card and has not received the new JP Morgan credit card, please let me know. The front of the card has an airplane and a flag with “GSA SmartPay 2” in the upper left hand corner and “United States of American” in the upper right hand corner. On the back at the very bottom states that the card is issued by JPMorgan Chase Bank.

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## **TRAINING UPDATES**

*Jan Simons*

*DMORT V Training Officer*

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Team members do **NOT** need to complete the IS 300 and 400 courses. Previously, it was announced that the IS 300 and 400 courses would be a requirement for all NDMS team members. This requirement has been reduced to **designated team command personnel only**.

### **IS 100a, 200a, 700a, and 800b**

Per the requirements established by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and supported by the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), effective January 1, 2009, the following (4) ICS online training courses **must** be completed in order to be fully deployable for an ESF #8 mission.

1. IS-100a – Introduction to Incident Command;
2. IS-200a – ICS – for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents;
3. IS-700a – National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction;
4. IS-800b – National Response Framework, An Introduction

Additionally, the following list of ICS training courses are acceptable substitutes:

1. IS-100 (no longer available)
2. IS-100.HC
3. IS-100.LE
4. IS-100Lea
5. IS-100.PW
6. IS-100PWa
7. IS-100SC
8. IS-100SCa
9. IS-200 (no longer available)
10. IS-200. HC
11. IS-800 (no longer available)

**2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness and Response Training Summit**

April 4-8 Dallas, TX

Formally known as the NDMS Training Summit, the name has changed once again to represent the many disciplines and agencies that this meeting will serve including; U.S. Public Health Service (PHS), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and the Emergency System for Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP). The website for additional information is <http://www.hhstrainingsummit.org>. Specific program information should be available in the next couple of weeks. **This year, the Training Summit will NOT include a DMORT National Training.**

DMORT Region IV has invited all DMORT members to join them at an "unofficial" training January 24-25, 2009 in Orlando, Florida. They plan on having a session on the DMORT SOP, deployment procedures, information on the IBA credit cards and more. For more information, visit the web site: [www.dmort4.com](http://www.dmort4.com).

**DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD ("Volunteer of the Year")**

**NOMINATIONS**

*Dr. Frank Saul*

*DMORT V Commander*

NDMS has once more requested that we send them the name of Region V's choice for the Distinguished Member Award so that he or she may be honored at the 2009 NDMS meeting in Dallas.

This is, of course, a difficult task at any time because we have so many truly outstanding team members in Region V.

Please send me the name of your candidate by December 25, 2008, so that we can then narrow the field and conduct an election (by January 15, 2009) that will produce just one nominee to be forwarded to NDMS.

Previous Award winners (**Julie Saul, Bob Shank, Jr, Don Bloom, Brad Targhetta, Sue Atwood, Robert [Bubba] Stevens, Mike Gedert, Mary Fischer, Dave Hunt, Leslie Eisenberg and Jan Simons**) are not eligible. (I am not eligible because I say so.)

**DO NOT REPLY ON THIS MESSAGE TO THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP!!!!!!**

**E-mail your nomination to me at:  
saul@dmort.org <mailto:saul@dmort.org>**

Please send your candidate's NAME ONLY (no text or other commentary) and "sign" your full name.

\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE FOLLOW THE ABOVE INSTRUCTIONS WITHOUT VARIATION\*\*\*\*\*

**Please note that nominations will close on December 25, 2008.**

We will then ask you to vote, by January 15, 2009, on those Team members who have been nominated.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### Condolences

Region V would like to offer their condolences to **Jim “Smokey” Weldy** (former Region V member and current DMORT DPMU member) on the recent passing of his father. Jim can be reached at [jtweldy@grics.net](mailto:jtweldy@grics.net).



*Picture submitted by Terry Swanson*

*The Region V Leadership Team and the “Voice of V” Newsletter Editors wish everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season.*