

Weston EMS profile: EMT Sandy Buckle is on a mission

Written by Susan Spindler Jordan, Weston EMS
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Sandy Buckle is on a mission — a mission to recruit new members for Weston EMS.

When asked her about her mission she says, "It's really pretty simple. We do this volunteer work for the people of Weston and we all feel very good about doing it. Why wouldn't we tell people they could do it, too? We're spreading the word!"

Ms. Buckle continued, "People think you need a medical background to become an EMT and that's not true. We train people from all sorts of different careers and backgrounds: teachers, business people, carpenters, real estate brokers, and stay-at-home moms. Yes, we have some nurses and doctors but they are a minority. We also have all ages from mothers of young children to retired people... We have quite a bit of diversity in our 45 member squad!"

In order to become a Weston EMT, one needs to take the EMT certification course. Many colleges and hospitals offer the course, which usually runs from four to six months.

Weston EMS will offer the course in Weston on Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting in January 2013. The course offered in Weston follows the Weston school calendar for holidays.

Once the six-month course is completed, there is a state test and then you are a certified EMT.

Ms. Buckle has been a member of Weston EMS since 1993. Her background is in nursing but she is careful to remind everyone that the medical background is not mandatory.

She became an EMT after a family emergency when Weston EMS came to help her.

Ms. Buckle has held various positions in the organization in the past years, from treasurer, fund drive chairman, crew chief, and now her newest challenge, membership chair.

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Ms. Buckle has three grown children, Jason, Jamie and Justine. Her daughter recently got her nursing degree, keeping the tradition going in the family.

"You know it's our 50th year for Weston EMS ... and we need to celebrate that. What better way to celebrate than to get a whole group of new members!"

Ms. Buckle continued, "Weston EMS is a group of volunteers all dedicated to helping families when they have a medical emergency. It's a very vulnerable time, when someone in your family is sick or injured. We're familiar faces you know from around town and hopefully that's a comfort. We really are neighbors helping neighbors."

Ms. Buckle explained the time commitment for those considering joining Weston EMS. "Every member must be on duty for 36 hours per month. You can choose daytime, nights or a combination to fulfill that. You can be on duty at home but you must be ready to roll when your radio goes off."

Those interested in joining Weston EMS or who want more information, may call Ms. Buckle at 203- 858-8617.

"Come join us!" she said.