



# KCEAA

Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority

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## **Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority Appoints Lance Wheeler as Executive Director and Jason Sergent as Deputy Director**

The Board of Directors of the Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority (KCEAA) today announced the appointments of Lance Wheeler as Executive Director and Jason Sergent as Deputy Director, forming a leadership team that unites distinguished public service with nearly four decades of front-line operational expertise. The appointments mark a defining moment for one of West Virginia's most vital public safety organizations and signal the KCEAA Board's commitment to principled, experienced leadership as the agency enters its next chapter.

Wheeler, who has served as an elected member of the Kanawha County Commission and previously as its President, will relinquish his seat to assume the role of Executive Director — a deliberate and consequential step that reflects the depth of his commitment to the people of the Kanawha Valley. As Executive Director, Wheeler will provide overall leadership for KCEAA's operations, strategic direction, and organizational performance, overseeing the agency's full workforce of Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and support personnel.

Wheeler's decision to step down from his office to lead KCEAA is, by any measure, a significant act of public service. Having risen to the presidency of the Kanawha County Commission — one of the most prominent positions in county government — he has made a voluntary transition to the executive leadership of an emergency services agency, underscoring the weight he places on the 911 promise: the guarantee that when a resident of this community calls for help, a trained, well-equipped, and compassionately led team will respond. Wheeler's priorities as Executive Director will include sustaining the agency's high standards for emergency response and positioning KCEAA for long-term operational and financial strength.

Appointed as Deputy Director, Jason Sergent brings something no academic credential or external hire can replicate: an entire career at KCEAA. Over more than 30 years, Sergent has progressed through virtually every level of the organization — beginning as an Emergency Medical Technician, earning certification as a Paramedic, and advancing steadily through management roles as Captain, Chief, and Director of Operations, before serving as Interim Director and now formally appointed to the position of Deputy Director. Sergent's trajectory exemplifies what institutional commitment looks like in

practice. He has not simply witnessed KCEAA's growth and evolution from the outside — he has shaped it from within at every level. His operational expertise, rooted in genuine ground-up experience, and the deep organizational trust he has earned over three decades make him an irreplaceable partner as KCEAA enters this new leadership era. As Deputy Director, Sergent will support Wheeler in day-to-day leadership and operations, provide institutional continuity during the leadership transition, and serve as a key operational partner across all 13 stations to advance KCEAA's mission.

*"These two appointments represent the very best of what public safety leadership can be. Lance Wheeler has given years of distinguished service to the residents of Kanawha County, as a County Commissioner and as the former President of the Kanawha County Commission. The fact that he is willing to step away from this office to lead this agency is not a sacrifice we take lightly. It is a testament to the seriousness with which he views the mission of emergency medical services and to his enduring obligation to the people of this community. With Jason Sergent, we have something truly rare: a leader who has devoted his entire professional life to KCEAA. He began his career answering calls as an EMT, and now brings more than 30 years of continuous experience, knowledge, and trust to the Deputy Director's role. Together, they represent exactly the caliber of leadership our organization — and our community — deserves. We have every confidence that this team will carry KCEAA's legacy forward with integrity, operational excellence, and an unwavering commitment to those we serve."*

**- Board of Directors, Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority**

About the Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority (KCEAA)

It is a public emergency medical services agency serving the residents of Kanawha County, West Virginia. Established in 1977 under the Emergency Services Act of 1975 and operated under the authority of the Kanawha County Commission, KCEAA has provided professional pre-hospital emergency care to the Kanawha Valley for nearly five decades. The agency operates a fleet of 40 licensed ambulances across 13 strategically located stations, staffed by a dedicated workforce of Emergency Medical Technicians, Paramedics, and support personnel.

**For more information, contact Board of Directors President Rory Isaac at 713-452-0074.**

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