

# HAMMOND

headlines  
quarterly

SUMMER 2020 | Issue # 1



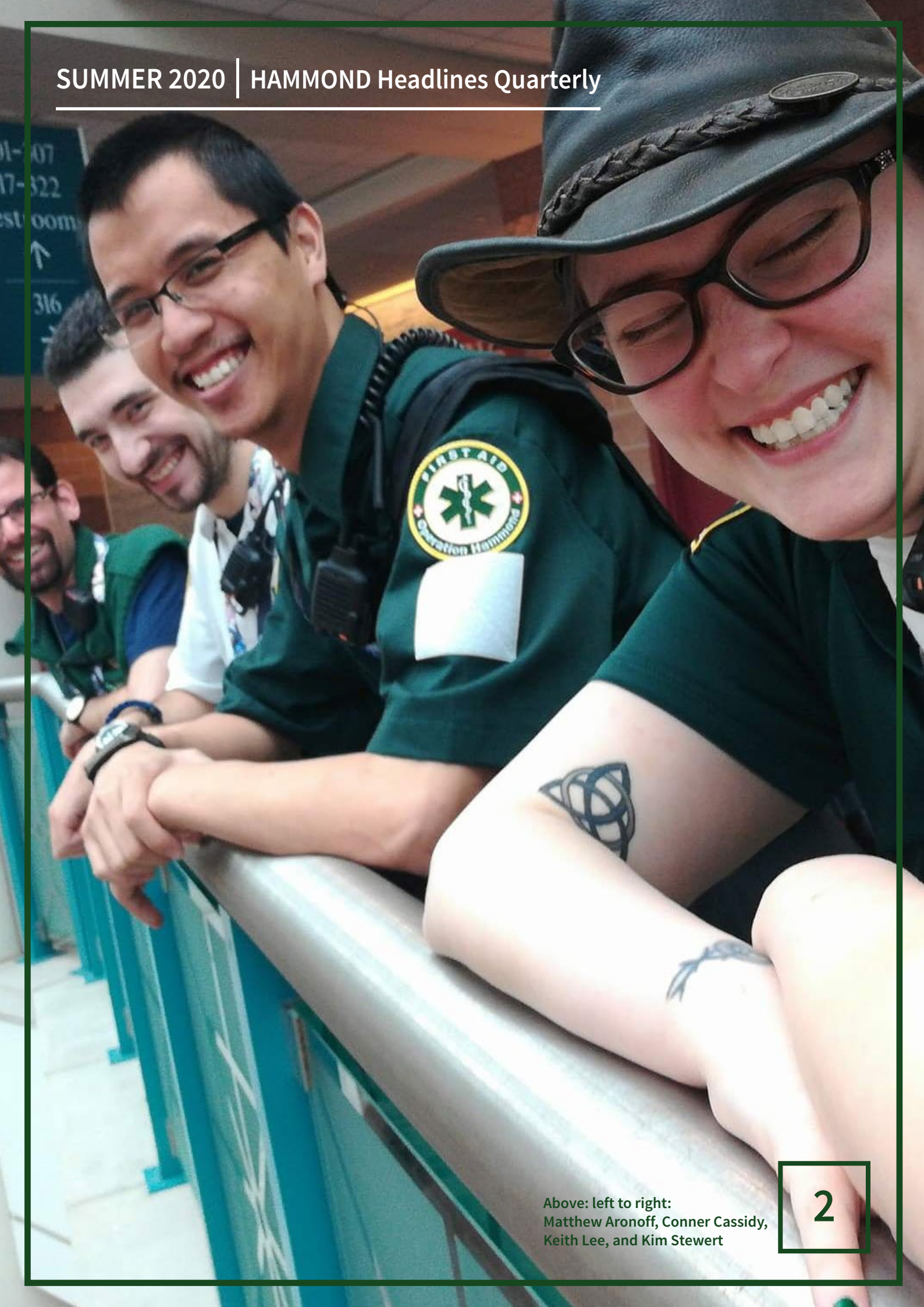
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Above: left to right:  
Matthew Aronoff, Conner Cassidy,  
Keith Lee, and Kim Stewart



# s t a f f

summer 2020

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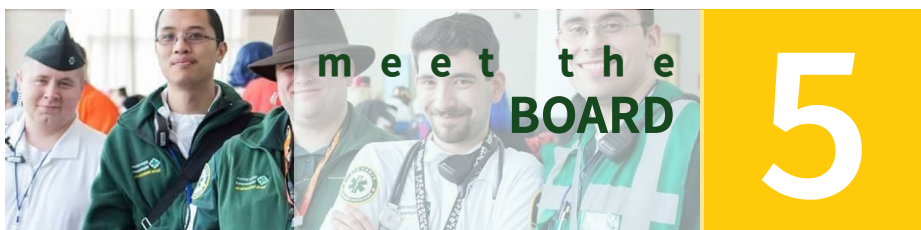


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# t a b l e o f CONTENTS



# CHAIRMAN'S c o r n e r



## My name is Alexander.

I started my role as the President of Operation Hammond First Response Incorporated in March of 2019 after our previous Chairman, James “Fedora” Mandeville, passed away. Since then, it has been my duty to continue Fedora’s legacy by growing and building Operation Hammond.

Fedora was a good friend. We had worked together since February 2015 to continue the improvement of Operation Hammond, and to better help the communities we serve. I started at Operation Hammond as our Director of IT, where I spent years: redesigning our website, recreating our databases, advising the board of directors, rewriting policies, and various other duties associated with running Operation Hammond.

Above: photo of Alexander V. Mecca, President and Chairman of Operation Hammond, 2019

I was voted onto the Board of Directors in 2019 gaining the title of Vice-President and Vice-Chairman of Operation Hammond. When Fedora passed away, I took the interim position as both Chairman and President, which was made permanent by our Board of Directors that same month.

Since taking on the role of President and Chairman, I’ve led a year’s worth of outstanding progress under the administration. I cannot even begin to explain the positive changes that we’ve made to further the direction of Operation Hammond. I believe that it is our duty to keep the public updated with the progress of our organization, so that people can understand how their contributions and volunteer hours help our cause.

“I see  
**GREAT  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**  
and a  
**BRIGHT  
FUTURE**  
for us.”

I am truly excited to see where we go. With the hard work and dedication of our donors and volunteers, I see great accomplishments and a bright future for us.

Alexander V. Mecca, NREMT  
Chairman / President  
Operation Hammond First Response  
[www.OperationHammond.com](http://www.OperationHammond.com)  
(617) 297- 8452

# meet the BOARD

## Who leads Operation Hammond?

We are led by a very talented group of people, all of whom the readers will learn about in upcoming newsletters.

You have already been introduced to our President and Director of IT, Alexander Mecca, NREMT, and his famous green hat is one of many he wears in leading the organization. Elizabeth Aronoff, EMT, M.S., is the Vice-Chair, Vice President and Director of Training and Compliance. She's a woman of many talents, keeping our training on track.

The rest of the board is currently composed of Keith Lee, EMT and Director of Logistics who works to

keep our radio systems functioning. Rachael Hughes, Treasurer, Kiara Estrada, NREMT, RN and Director of Member Conduct, James Rosse, Advising Director and Diane Hauer, EMT and Secretary.

While the Board leads us with policies, there are numerous volunteers who assist with every part of operations from food at conventions, hotel rooms and convention donations.



**Alexander V. Mecca, NREMT**  
Chairman / President  
Director of IT  
ASHI L.9 Instructor



**Elizabeth Aronoff, M.S., EMT**  
Vice Chairperson / Vice President  
Director of Training and Compliance  
ASHI L.7 Instructor



**Rachael Hughes**  
Treasurer



**Kiara Estrada, RN, NREMT**  
Director of Member Conduct



**Keith Lee, FF, EMT**  
Director of Logistics  
Asst. Director of Information Systems  
ASHI L.8 Instructor



**Diane Hauer, FF, EMT**  
Secretary



**James Rosse, FF, EMT**  
Advising Director



# w h y SUPPORT O.H.?

**Operation Hammond** is one of the few volunteer organizations that you can see how your donations are used. \$25 feeds a member for a day, \$75 fully stocks one of our medical bags and other donations can help us continue to upgrade our equipment. Our members are all volunteers, and come from all different types of backgrounds.

Below: photo of Jacob Ogard (left), and Kiara Estrada (right), assisting a convention patient (center).

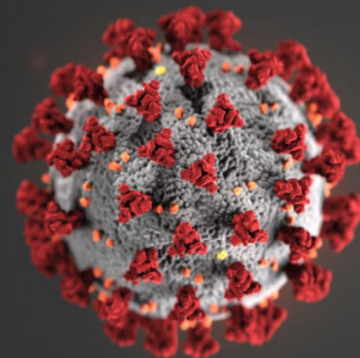
Since we do not charge a membership fee, your donation could also fund a uniform for a member who might not be able to purchase one on their own. Donations come in many different forms; we can also use donations of cots, and medical equipment to help us serve the community even better.

If you wish to support our cause as a sponsor or donor, please reach out to:

[sponsorships-grants@operationhammond.com](mailto:sponsorships-grants@operationhammond.com)



## OPERATION HAMMOND & COVID-19



As you can imagine Covid 19 has impacted our community greatly. It has canceled most, if not all, the shows OH was scheduled to serve and we have had to find new ways to stay visible.

We have been busily preparing for when shows resume so that we can do what we love while ensuring the safety and health of both our responders and community.

Operation Hammond understands the necessity of quarantine and recognizes that it may be a while before gatherings can proceed. We expect that when events do proceed, everyone will need to take action to stay as safe as possible.

To learn more about what you can do, please read our COVID-19 Convention Wellness Guide at: <https://www.operationhammond.com/covid-19-convention-wellness-guide/>



# o u r FOUNDER

## James FEDORA Mandeville

Before he was “Fedora,” James Mandeville served in the United States Air Force as an aircraft mechanic and medical first responder. He traveled the world and attended conventions, first as a fan and then as a staff member filling various roles including photography and operations. Upon seeing the unique needs of the pop culture and anime communities, Fedora founded Operation Hammond.

The goal of Operation Hammond in Fedora’s vision was to serve the safety and medical concerns related to the fandom community. Even after his passing, it is the determination of the volunteers to operate Operation Hammond as the continuation of Fedora’s lasting legacy.



James “Fedora” Mandeville,  
Founder, NREMT

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

Many of our members have recently completed different educational activities and these achievements deserve a round of applause!

Some of the recent graduates include:

Sakile Ada-Yejide, Kiara Estrada, Lisa Hayes, Desiree Hykes,  
Alexander Mecca, Zö Pezzano, and Scheheryar Rizwan.

If you have recently had a milestone that you’d like included in an upcoming issue, please email: [Tj.Feldman@operationhammond.com](mailto:Tj.Feldman@operationhammond.com)



## WHAT’S NEXT?

That is the question we are all wondering as we navigate the world of COVID-19. Our hope is that 2021 will bring a return to conventions and shows that we previously served and some new events. It is likely that social distancing will continue and some events will end up having a lower capacity

of attendees. Regardless, we will continue to serve in the communities we love and are needed in. What can you, as a person do? You can stay healthy and follow event guidelines to maintain personal safety. We look forward to seeing all our friends and fans soon.





# POLL



## What's YOUR Favorite Medical Show?

Operation Hammond has members of all ages, so this editor is curious: What's YOUR favorite medical show?

Please take a moment to vote below and if nothing in the list speaks to you write in your favorite!  
The poll does not distinguish between comedy or drama.

To vote: [visit: operationhammond.com/vote](https://operationhammond.com/vote)

1

M\*A\*S\*H

9

Saving Hope

2

Emergency!

10

Good Doctor

3

Chicago Med

11

New Amsterdam

4

St. Elsewhere

12

The Resident

5

Scrubs

13

The Night Shift

6

ER

7

Grey's Anatomy

8

House. MD



8







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