

## **Peter T. Ginaitt**

***“Dealing with Elected Officials” Is it better to work around them or partner with them?***

### ***Biography***

Peter Ginaitt was first elected to public office in a special election in March of 1992. As an elected Democrat, Peter represented his district of Warwick, R.I. in the R.I. House of Representatives.

Rep. Ginaitt is currently Chairman of the Committee on Environment and serves as Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare. Rep. Ginaitt has chaired numerous committees dealing with cancer control, open records, Long Term Care, pharmaceutical assistance and others. He most recently chaired the legislative committee that examined and changed the fire laws in R.I. in response to the Station Nightclub fire in West Warwick, R.I. on Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>.

As a firefighter since 1984 in the City of Warwick, Captain Ginaitt commanded the EMS division during his tour and is responsible for the four EMS vehicles that protect the city of Warwick. The 100,000 population city is protected by a 235 firefighter department that responds to nearly 13,000 runs annually, 10,000 of which are EMS responses. Peter retired after 21 years of service in March 2005.

As Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at the states largest Level 1 Trauma Center, Peter has been charged with addressing hospital emergency preparedness among the states 14 acute care facilities. Current deliverables are the expansion of decon capabilities, surge capacity increases, statewide communication upgrades, PPE training and the development of a rapidly deployable Hospital Emergency Response Team (HERT) that can be requested at the site of a mass casualty or an incident requiring a surgical/trauma team by an incident commander.

When not working, Peter enjoys a really bad game of golf, photography or sitting by the water at his getaway in New Hampshire. But, as expected, he can't remember where he last put his clubs, the batteries in the camera have long since died and the Old Man in the Mountain got tired of waiting for him and fell off!!!

**Abstract**

- The legislative process:
  1. Familiarize yourself with the process.
  2. Know the time barriers (pre-filing, hearing deadlines, etc.)
  3. Pre-plan your proposition
  
- The committee process:
  1. Be familiar with the members (what are their specialties, concerns, districts?)
  2. Remember that the committee needs to be well informed
  3. NEVER miss a hearing! (good excuses have some merit but add on hearings may not be realistic)
  
- Convince your boss:
  1. Convince your supervisor that you can handle this process and feel comfortable.
  2. Does your agency have a legislative liaison in government? If so, do they know the issues?
  
- Contacting your legislative point person(s):
  1. Introduce yourself to legislators as a valuable resource for them to utilize
  2. NEVER make something up or deceive staff or legislators.
  
- Know the facts:
  1. None knows all the issues, be candid but be prepared. Frequent needs to go back to the office for simple answers instill doubt in a legislator.
  2. Be prepared to answer questions at committee hearings. If you or staff is prepared, you will be recognized as a key contact on issues.