

# Northern Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.

## Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

4081 University Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Fairfax, VA 22030

(Zoom option ONLY for members with special circumstances)



### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday August 20, 2024

---

#### ***DIRECTORS PRESENT (Listed by Agency)***

See the list at the end of the minutes.

#### ***GUESTS***

Kristin Nickerson, Northern Virginia Emergency Response System

Andrew Slater, Northern Virginia Emergency Response System

Chief Joseph Cardello, Stafford County Fire Department

#### ***Call to Order***

Council President Nate Strong welcomed all in attendance and called the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 10:03 am.

- No representatives from the public were present to address the Board.

#### ***Purpose of Special Meeting***

This is a Special Meeting of the NVEMSC Board of Directors to discuss the merger between the Northern Virginia EMS Council (NVEMSC) and the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System (NVERS).

#### ***Discussion***

- President Strong advised that the Fire Chiefs have supported a merger between NVEMSC and NVERS and have directed NVEMSC to move forward with it, as they feel it is in the best interest of the Northern Virginia region.
- President Strong stated that a PowerPoint document of the legal roadmap was sent out with the invitation to this meeting, which should answer all the questions from our previous meeting in May.
- Chief Cooper expressed concerns about the AHA Training Center and how the merger would affect Loudoun County's Training Academy staff
  - President Strong advised that NVEMSC has been in contact with the AHA and was presented with two scenarios. He is awaiting a final decision from the AHA contract.
    - The first is for AHA to consider this a name change, in which the merger documents will be sufficient to change everything over
    - The second is that AHA will require NVEMSC to terminate their AHA agreement, and NVERS will have to reapply and start over as a new training center
  - The AHA is interested in working with NVEMSC and NVERS to make this transition easy and not lose our Training Center. We are hopeful there will be something in writing soon with a definitive answer.
  - Michelle Ludeman added that in her discussions with AHA, they indicated that she must stay as the Training Center Coordinator throughout the transition to NVERS.
  - Chief Cooper asked what would happen if Michelle chose not to apply for a position with NVERS and remained the Training Center Coordinator.
    - President Strong advised that they work with the AHA directly to ensure a smooth transition and no loss of services for AHA members.

- Chief Cooper asked if there was a timeframe for the merger to be completed and if there were potential complications along the way.
  - President Strong said there isn't a way to put an exact timeframe on it now. Some portions of this may take longer than expected, such as contracts with the state and other entities. However, the Board will do their due diligence and ensure everything is adequately addressed.
  - President Strong also promised better communication, which has been lax lately. We will communicate with the Board regularly to keep everyone apprised of the progress since this Board will become a steering committee once under NVERS.
  - Kristin Nickerson from NVERS assured the group that as the entities are merged, they want to ensure that nothing is lost and that every service received today will continue under NVERS.
- Chief Cooper asked about what happens with agencies that are not part of NVEMSC but are part of NVERS, such as Stafford and Fauquier Counties. Will they remain with their EMS Council or become part of NVEMSC once they merge with NVERS?
  - Kristin advised they will not change, only the agencies currently within the NVEMSC borders.
- Chief Cooper asked about the invoice received for NVEMSC Annual Membership dues and whether those should be paid if NVEMSC is merging.
  - Laura Vandegrift advised that annual membership dues will continue to be collected, even once NVEMSC merges with NVERS. There may be a change in the fee at some point; however, at this time, it remains billed using the same formula it has in the past.
- Chief Cooper asked about the funding the NVEMSC receives from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the standing assets of the Council, and how those will transfer or transition to NVERS in the event of a merger.
  - Kristin advised that the NVEMSC Bylaws dictate where assets are disbursed if the organization dissolves. Since this is a true merger situation, they would still be used for EMS purposes, just transferred to NVERS, and the legal documents would codify that as part of the merger, just as they did with NVHA during their acquisition.
- A Board member asked whether NVERS will automatically employ the NVEMSC staff or if they'll need to apply for the positions at NVERS after the merger.
  - Kristin advised that they apply for the positions available with any merger or acquisition at NVERS. She has had to apply for her position four or more times, but it's to ensure a competitive process for that organization. Certainly, individuals who have been with the organization for a long time are likely to be highly skilled employees for a given position, which is the business way of handling that process. There isn't much desire to stray, especially with County Executives on their Board of Directors.
- Rick Cohen asked if there would be any representatives from the EMS council on the NVERS Board for representation after the merger.
  - Kristin stated that the CAOs represent Fire and EMS by way of their position for the localities, and the Advisory Committee for this body would report to that just like the current Steering Committee. Those who don't have fire chiefs, such as private EMS, HEMS, etc., would be part of the advisory Committee, and there are opportunities for the chairs of those groups to brief the Board periodically.
  - For clarification, the current NVEMSC Board of Directors will become an Advisory Committee for EMS under NVERS after the merger.
- Chief Granger asked how the OMDs and EMS would continue to operate under the new structure and if it would involve the NVERS Board reporting to County Executives, etc.
  - Kristin stated that the structure would not change, and they would still be an entity falling under the EMS Council structure today.

- Vice President Orndoff asked to clarify that the new EMS Council under NVERS would be separate entities like the Hospital Alliance or Emergency Management and not specifically under Public Safety.
  - Kristin confirmed that this is correct.
- Dr. Morgan commented that OEMS and VDH would have to inspect our new structure, new bylaws, and organization chart during the Council Designation process to see a level of independence and autonomy. He has confidence that we'll maintain the ability to function reasonably autonomously. If we don't meet the mark, we'll have to reorganize or change and reapply, but there is an outside process to protect our future independence in the region, and we'll have to let that play out.
- Paul DeHaven stated that in this and previous meetings, a concern is the Council's assets, specifically monetary ones. The decision is up to the Board of Directors if the Council Board or staff wants to make a purchase. With NVERS, is there a higher entity that we would have to go to request to make that purchase and await their approval?
  - Kristin stated that the steering committee represents EMS, but the Council would have its Advisory Committee determine how best to utilize its contract funding.
- Tony Barone asked how private entities that have not been allowed to be part of NVERS can be viewed after the merger.
  - Kristin advised that any agency or entity under NVEMSC now would remain part of it after the merger through the EMS Council.
- Rick Cohen asked about the cost savings for each entity if the merger were completed. For example, will each county pay less since they are funding NVERS, and how will that change for non-county-based entities like private EMS?
  - Kristin stated that as of today, she doesn't see that change because it's an important part of funding the work the Council is undertaking, but it may change in the future. If there is an opportunity for cost-savings, they would do that and may be able to realize that by leveraging economies of scale and those types of things.
  - Andrew Slater added that there will be additional cost savings to the Council with a single audit, accounting, and other processes that are paid separately now.
  - Laura Vandegrift asked to clarify that all of the funds the NVEMSC brings will be brought into a single bank account under NVERS, but funds will be earmarked for specific projects as outlined in the contract with VDH.
    - Kristin confirmed that this is correct.
- Byron Andrews said he wants to ensure we don't lose our voice. The EMS Council has been the voice of EMS for over 40 years, and we mustn't lose that opportunity during and after this merger. Regardless of our name, we need the voice of EMS to remain relevant.
  - Kristin introduced Andrew Slater, the Deputy Executive Director of NVERS because he is an active paramedic in Virginia and has extensive experience with the Healthcare Coalition and EMS in Virginia. He advised that he and Kristin have committed to seeing that the EMS Council remains a voice for EMS and continues to provide the services and expertise they have previously.
  - Beth Adams said she endorses Andrew's commitment to EMS because they are both on the EMS Next Steps Workgroup, and they take turns asking the hard questions about EMS and the impacts of what has been occurring locally, regionally, and across the Commonwealth. No one is attempting to undo all the good that we have done. We're trying to move forward in a way that gives us longevity, durability, and clout because we don't typically have County Executives coming to our meetings.
- Paul DeHaven stated that many positives have been brought forth, but what are the negatives?

## Northern Virginia EMS Council

Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2024

- President Strong stated that the only negative aspect is finalizing the merger between the contract and AHA considerations. A lot of legwork and hurdles will be needed to complete it, but it's only positive afterward.
- Vice President Orndoff stated it's the fear of change and how things will look in the future because many things are happening in EMS, and there will be more in the future, and there are challenges we'll always have in EMS as a profession. There is the fear of the loss of autonomy as well. Additionally, there is the stress on the staff of new work locations.

### Motion

Brian Orndoff made a motion "To authorize the Northern Virginia EMS Council Executive Committee to complete the merger with Northern Virginia Emergency Response System and to authorize, empower, and direct the Executive Committee to execute and deliver the merger documents on behalf of the Northern Virginia EMS Council."

- The motion was seconded by Rocco Alvaro
- Discussion
  - Byron Andrews asked what documents we are agreeing to in this motion.
    - President Strong advised that it is the merger documents
    - Kristin Nickerson stated that it would include all the specifics about how the Council money is used according to the Code of Virginia.
    - Byron asked if there would be an opportunity for the Board to see those documents before they are finalized.
      - President Strong responded that as the Executive Board works with Kristin and NVERS, they will bring back and/or communicate any needs they determine the Board should be aware of and communicate their progress along the way.
  - Tony Barone asked if there are funds within the EMS Council to retain legal counsel to negotiate fairly on behalf of the Council. Typically, you wouldn't use the acquiring entity's legal counsel to negotiate a merger or acquisition.
    - Keith Morrison states that they have decided to use NVERS's legal counsel because they have experience with this and have answered our questions. So, the plan is to move forward without paying legal counsel.
- Vote
  - Yes 22
  - No 3
  - **The motion carries** "To authorize the Northern Virginia EMS Council Executive Committee to complete the merger with Northern Virginia Emergency Response System and to authorize, empower, and direct the Executive Committee to execute and deliver the merger documents on behalf of the Northern Virginia EMS Council."

Justin Nelson made a motion for "NVEMS Council to obtain legal representation during the merger between them and NVERS."

- Brian Orndoff seconded the motion.
- Discussion
  - Paul DeHaven asked if we should put parameters on the motion, such as spending funds.
  - Tony Barone stated he doesn't understand how we can use the same attorney as NVERS to complete a merger with their corporation.

## Northern Virginia EMS Council

Board of Directors Special Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2024

- Kristin explained that NVERS and NVHA were known entities to each other; they knew the financials and business model and were able to enter into a merger. When they looked for attorneys to represent them and negotiate on their behalf, it was upwards of \$50,000 to do so. Instead of burdening those organizations with finite resources, they hired a smaller nonprofit attorney to handle the merger at around \$5000. It is the Council's prerogative to proceed as they choose, but the Executive Board decided this route because it doesn't take away any of the due diligence for either party and will cost all parties less.
- Vice President Orndoff stated that even if we use their legal counsel, that information would be presented to the Executive Board for review and use, and they're empowered to use that at their discretion. We will still have input into the process and can use that information in moving forward.
- **Vote**
  - Yes 12
  - No 8
  - Abstain 5
  - **The motion carries** "for NVEMS Council to obtain legal representation during the merger between them and NVERS."

### MOTION TO ADJOURN

There was a motion to adjourn at 11:30 am.

### **Board meetings for 2024 are as follows.**

September 19, 2024

October 17, 2024

December 19, 2024



**Northern Virginia EMS Council, Inc.  
Board of Directors Meeting Attendance**

**Meeting Date:**  
8/20/2024  
Special Call Mtg

First Name	Last Name	Agency/Hospital Affiliation	Email Address	Attendance
Andrew	Duke	Alexandria Fire Department	<a href="mailto:andrew.duke@alexandriava.gov">andrew.duke@alexandriava.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Erin	Mustian	Alexandria Fire Department	<a href="mailto:erin.mustian@alexandriava.gov">erin.mustian@alexandriava.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Joseph	Marfori, MD	Alexandria Fire Department	<a href="mailto:joseph.marfori@alexandriava.gov">joseph.marfori@alexandriava.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Kelsea	Bonkoski	Alexandria Fire Department	<a href="mailto:Kelsea.bonkoski@alexandriava.gov">Kelsea.bonkoski@alexandriava.gov</a>	Attended
Ramiro	Galvez	Alexandria Fire Department	<a href="mailto:ramiro.galvez@alexandriava.gov">ramiro.galvez@alexandriava.gov</a>	Attended
E. Reed	Smith, MD	Arlington County Fire Department	<a href="mailto:rsmith@arlingtonva.us">rsmith@arlingtonva.us</a>	Did Not Attend
Ibrahim	Abdul-Jawad	Arlington County Fire Department	<a href="mailto:iabdul-jawad@arlingtonva.us">iabdul-jawad@arlingtonva.us</a>	Did Not Attend
Jason	Jenkins	Arlington County Fire Department	<a href="mailto:jjenkins3@arlingtonva.us">jjenkins3@arlingtonva.us</a>	Did Not Attend
Kate	Kramer, PA-C	Arlington County Fire Department	<a href="mailto:kkramer@arlingtonva.us">kkramer@arlingtonva.us</a>	Did Not Attend
Kevin	Troiano	Arlington County Fire Department	<a href="mailto:ktroiano@arlingtonva.us">ktroiano@arlingtonva.us</a>	Attended
Brian	Orndoff	City of Fairfax Fire Department	<a href="mailto:brian.orndoff@fairfaxva.gov">brian.orndoff@fairfaxva.gov</a>	Attended
David	Arrington	City of Fairfax Fire Department	<a href="mailto:david.arrington@fairfaxva.gov">david.arrington@fairfaxva.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
John	O'Neal	City of Fairfax Fire Department	<a href="mailto:john.o'neal@fairfaxva.gov">john.o'neal@fairfaxva.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Nicholas	Sutingco, MD	City of Fairfax Fire Department	<a href="mailto:nicholas.sutingco@inova.org">nicholas.sutingco@inova.org</a>	Did Not Attend
Tom	Olander	City of Fairfax Fire Department	<a href="mailto:olander@verizon.net">olander@verizon.net</a>	Attended
Danielle	Pesce, MD	City of Manassas Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:dpesce@manassasva.gov">dpesce@manassasva.gov</a>	Attended
Edward	Mills	City of Manassas Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:emills@manassasva.gov">emills@manassasva.gov</a>	Attended
Justin	Jenkins	City of Manassas Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:jjenkins@manassasva.gov">jjenkins@manassasva.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Kevin	Franzello	City of Manassas Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:kfranzello@manassasva.gov">kfranzello@manassasva.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Rebecca	Wilson	City of Manassas Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:rwilson@manassasva.gov">rwilson@manassasva.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
William	Barton	City of Manassas Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:wbarton@manassasva.gov">wbarton@manassasva.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Aaron	Schutt	City of Manassas Park Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:a.schutt@Manassasparkva.gov">a.schutt@Manassasparkva.gov</a>	Attended
Adam	Jones	City of Manassas Park Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:a.jones@manassasparkva.gov">a.jones@manassasparkva.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
James	Soaper	City of Manassas Park Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:j.soaper@manassasparkva.gov">j.soaper@manassasparkva.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
James	Tharp	City of Manassas Park Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:j.tharp@manassasparkva.gov">j.tharp@manassasparkva.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Josh	Brandon	City of Manassas Park Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:j.brandon@manassasparkva.gov">j.brandon@manassasparkva.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Tom	Oliver	City of Manassas Park Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:t.oliver@manassasparkva.gov">t.oliver@manassasparkva.gov</a>	Attended
Tony	Barone	Emergility	<a href="mailto:Tony@emergility.com">Tony@emergility.com</a>	Attended
Beth	Adams	Fairfax County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:beth.adams@fairfaxcounty.gov">beth.adams@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>	Attended
Steve	Hartman	Fairfax County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:steven.hartman@fairfaxcounty.gov">steven.hartman@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Christopher	Warner	Fairfax County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:christopher.warner@fairfaxcounty.gov">christopher.warner@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Rocco	Alvaro	Fairfax County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:rocco.alvaro@fairfaxcounty.gov">rocco.alvaro@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>	Attended
Scott	Weir, MD	Fairfax County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:scott.weir@fairfaxcounty.gov">scott.weir@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>	Attended
Todd	Barb	Fairfax County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:todd.barb@fairfaxcounty.gov">todd.barb@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>	Attended
Dan	Avstreich, MD	Fairfax County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:dan.avstreich@fairfaxcounty.gov">dan.avstreich@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Kari	Scantlebury, MD	Fairfax County Police - Helicopter Division	<a href="mailto:karibury@gmail.com">karibury@gmail.com</a>	Did Not Attend
Paul	DeHaven	Fairfax County Police - Helicopter Division	<a href="mailto:paul.dehaven@fairfaxcounty.gov">paul.dehaven@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>	Attended
R. J.	Arft	Fauquier County DFREM	<a href="mailto:r.j.arft@fauquiercounty.gov">r.j.arft@fauquiercounty.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Rich	Cluff	Fauquier County DFREM	<a href="mailto:rich.cluff@fauquiercounty.gov">rich.cluff@fauquiercounty.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Craig	French	Inova Health System	<a href="mailto:craig.french@inova.org">craig.french@inova.org</a>	Did Not Attend
Steve	Kling	Inova Health System	<a href="mailto:steven.kling@inova.org">steven.kling@inova.org</a>	Did Not Attend
Gary	Riggan, Jr.	LifeCare Medical Transports	<a href="mailto:griggan@lifecare94.com">griggan@lifecare94.com</a>	Did Not Attend
Al	Pacifico, PA-C	Loudoun County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:alfred.pacifico@loudoun.gov">alfred.pacifico@loudoun.gov</a>	Attended
Andrew	Hopkins	Loudoun County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:andrew.hopkins@loudoun.gov">andrew.hopkins@loudoun.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Jamie	Cooper	Loudoun County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:jamie.cooper@loudoun.gov">jamie.cooper@loudoun.gov</a>	Attended
John	Morgan, MD	Loudoun County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:john.morgan@loudoun.gov">john.morgan@loudoun.gov</a>	Attended
Kathleen	Harasek	Loudoun County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:kharasek@sterlingrescue.org">kharasek@sterlingrescue.org</a>	Did Not Attend
Michelle	Beatty	Loudoun County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:michelle.beatty@loudoun.gov">michelle.beatty@loudoun.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
David	Wielgosz	Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority	<a href="mailto:david.wielgosz@mwa.com">david.wielgosz@mwa.com</a>	Attended
Gary	Hubble	Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority	<a href="mailto:gary.hubble@mwa.com">gary.hubble@mwa.com</a>	Attended
Michael	Semchyshyn, MD	Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority	<a href="mailto:mikesem@hotmail.com">mikesem@hotmail.com</a>	Did Not Attend
Richard	Bonnett	Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority	<a href="mailto:richard.bonnett@mwa.com">richard.bonnett@mwa.com</a>	Did Not Attend

Kathleen	Camp-Deal	Northern Virginia Community College	<a href="mailto:kcdrn@cox.net">kcdrn@cox.net</a>	Did Not Attend
Mark	Franke, MD	Northern Virginia Community College	<a href="mailto:mfranke@nvcc.edu">mfranke@nvcc.edu</a>	Did Not Attend
Wanda	Gardner	Northern Virginia Community College	<a href="mailto:wgardner@nvcc.edu">wgardner@nvcc.edu</a>	Did Not Attend
Estee	Warring	Northern Virginia EMS Council	<a href="mailto:estee@vaems.org">estee@vaems.org</a>	Attended
Laura	Vandegrift	Northern Virginia EMS Council	<a href="mailto:laura@vaems.org">laura@vaems.org</a>	Attended
Michelle	Ludeman	Northern Virginia EMS Council	<a href="mailto:michelle@vaems.org">michelle@vaems.org</a>	Attended
Karen	Owens	OEMS Deputy Director of Operations	<a href="mailto:karen.owens@vdh.virginia.gov">karen.owens@vdh.virginia.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Chris	Vernovai	OEMS Systems Planner	<a href="mailto:chris.vernovai@vdh.virginia.gov">chris.vernovai@vdh.virginia.gov</a>	Did Not Attend
Laura	Diegelmann, MD	PHI Air Medical	<a href="mailto:ldiegelmann@phiairmedical.com">ldiegelmann@phiairmedical.com</a>	Did Not Attend
Rick	Cohen	PHI Air Medical	<a href="mailto:rcohen@phiairmedical.com">rcohen@phiairmedical.com</a>	Attended
Serdar	Serttas	PHI Air Medical	<a href="mailto:sserttas@phiairmedical.com">sserttas@phiairmedical.com</a>	Did Not Attend
Dave	Coullahan	Physicians Transport Service	<a href="mailto:dcoullahan@gmr.net">dcoullahan@gmr.net</a>	Did Not Attend
Kate	Passow	Physicians Transport Service	<a href="mailto:kate.passow@gmr.net">kate.passow@gmr.net</a>	Did Not Attend
Ken	Lavelle, MD	Physicians Transport Service	<a href="mailto:ken.lavelle@gmr.net">ken.lavelle@gmr.net</a>	Did Not Attend
Andrew	Sanders	Prince William County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:asanders@pwcgov.org">asanders@pwcgov.org</a>	Did Not Attend
Chris	Granger	Prince William County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:cgranger@pwcgov.org">cgranger@pwcgov.org</a>	Attended
Jason	Knight	Prince William County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:jwknight@pwcgov.org">jwknight@pwcgov.org</a>	Did Not Attend
Kevin	Campbell, MD	Prince William County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:kccampbell26@gmail.com">kccampbell26@gmail.com</a>	Did Not Attend
Nathan	Strong	Prince William County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:nstrong@pwcgov.org">nstrong@pwcgov.org</a>	Attended
Tom	Arnoto	Prince William County Fire & Rescue	<a href="mailto:tarnoto@pwcgov.org">tarnoto@pwcgov.org</a>	Attended
Keith	Morrison	Reston Hospital Center	<a href="mailto:keith.morrison@hcahealthcare.com">keith.morrison@hcahealthcare.com</a>	Attended
Tracey	Taylor	Reston Hospital Center	<a href="mailto:tracey.taylor@hcahealthcare.com">tracey.taylor@hcahealthcare.com</a>	Did Not Attend
John	Wanamaker	StoneSprings Hospital Center	<a href="mailto:john.wanamaker@hcahealthcare.com">john.wanamaker@hcahealthcare.com</a>	Attended
Justin	Nelson	VHC Health	<a href="mailto:jnelson@vhchealth.org">jnelson@vhchealth.org</a>	Attended
Courtney	Caton	VHC Health	<a href="mailto:ccaton@vhchealth.org">ccaton@vhchealth.org</a>	Did Not Attend
Byron	Andrews		<a href="mailto:bandrews@sterlingrescue.org">bandrews@sterlingrescue.org</a>	Attended