

THE PSNEWS

Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care

Volume IV, Issue II
FALL 2002

Inside this issue:

Editorial	3
Stop the Insanity!	5
AARC Application	7-8
2003 PSRC Budget	9
Delegates Report	10
District News	14
2002 PSRC Officiary	15

Go to www.psrc.net
for information on:

- Job Postings
- Credentialing
- Seminar Information
- Calendar of Events
- Important Links & more

Celebrate Respiratory
Care Week!

October 20-26, 2002

PSRC President's Report



2002 PSRC President,
Vicki Harter

It is hard to imagine that the fall of 2002 is rapidly approaching. It is far too soon to call it the end of the year ..yet far enough into the year to reflect on what has been accomplished and the goals still ahead. For the PSRC, the year has been active and successful. Yet, some great opportunities lie ahead.

What's been done?

In March of this year Pennsylvania Medical Assistance agreed to recognize respiratory therapists as an appropriate provider for tobacco cessation. This resulted from team efforts: first to recognize an opportunity, then a voice to request consideration. Some times it is as simple as asking for consideration. The PSRC and AARC have elected, appointed and employed representatives, as well as members -at- large, who help to identify these opportunities to promote our profession. Letters have also been sent to insurers and legislators to remind them that respiratory therapists are well qualified and willing to serve pulmonary patients in all sites of care.

The AARC has contacted over 600 consumer groups regarding legislative language on home health. The AARC is in support of budget-neutral language that would allow homebound respiratory patients on Medicare to receive the care from RT's without incurring any additional

(Continued on page 4)

PSRC Lifetime Membership Awards

It was discussed at the Board of Directors meeting held earlier this year, that there were a significant number of individuals across the state that have been actively supporting the PSRC for a very long time.

It was decided by unanimous vote to recognize two individuals at the Eastern Regional Conference and Exhibition, in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania this past April. The PSRC BOD felt that the two candidates for this first time honor would be **Mr. Allan Saposnick** and **Mr. George Jester**. Both of these individuals have served actively within the AARC and the PSRC for over thirty years!

Congratulations are again extended to Mr. Saposnick and Mr. Jester for their devotion to their chosen profession and to the society. We look forward to many more years of help!

PSRC Literary Awards

The PSRC is seeking current article reviews for the 2002-2003 session. Since there is a strong emphasis on current research in the clinical areas, the program is open to the entire respiratory family including student's and practitioner's. (2 student awards - 2 practitioner awards)
One award per applicant. PSRC Board members may not apply.



PSRC Literary Awards program is open to all RC students & practitioners

Below is the inclusion criteria and should be submitted by mail/e-mail no later than Feb 28 2003

Format: Title, author, journal, vol., year, page.

1. State hypothesis
2. Describe the method
3. Sample
4. Results
5. Authors Conclusions
6. Do you see problems with the study?
7. What is the value to your profession?

Send to: Chip Malloy BS, RRT

Pulmonary Care Department/TJUH
1935 Gibbon Bldg.
11 S. 11th Street
Philadelphia, Pa 19107
Phone: 215-955-6490
E-mail: Raymond.Malloy@mail.tju.edu

Articles must be from a current (2000 to present) pulmonary related study. Please include your name, address, hospital/school affiliate, and phone number with your entry. The winners will be notified by **March 28, 2003** and presented at the **April 2003 Eastern Regional Conference in Philadelphia.**

PSRC Mission Statement

The Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care (PSRC) is an organization that represents the ethics and practice of the profession of Respiratory Care to both the medical and professional community. The PSRC provides support for both professional and public health educational programs concerning pulmonary disease recognition, treatment, and prevention.

In addition, the PSRC serves to advance the science, technology, ethics, and art of Respiratory Care through meetings, lectures, and the preparation and distribution of various publications and material. It also serves the membership of the state (affiliate).

The PSRC serves to advance the science, technology, ethics, and art of Respiratory Care.

THE PSNEWS



The PSNEWS will gladly accept all manuscripts, photos, and others items of interest for review

The PSNEWS the official bi-annual newsletter of the PSRC, an affiliate of the American Association for Respiratory Care.

Editor

Ann Cusano, MEd, RRT, CPFT

Editorial Policy

The PSNEWS will accept all manuscripts, photos, and other items of interest for review. Articles and photos published become the sole property of the PSRC. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and space requirements. Opinions expressed by the authors are not necessarily those of the PSNEWS editor, the PSRC, or the AARC.

Deadlines for 2003

SPRING 2003 - JAN 31, 2003
FALL 2003 - JULY 31, 2003

Address

Ann Cusano-RC Program
Gwynedd Mercy College
Sumneytown Pike
Gwynedd Valley, PA 19437

E-Mail

psnews@psrc.net

Phone

215-646-7300 ext-428

Fax

215-641-5559

Editorial: Responsibility to your Profession

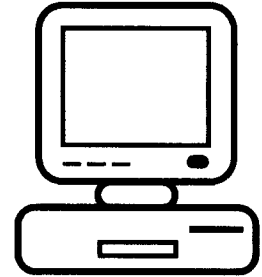
By - Gail Varcelotti, SW District Director

One thing that has repeatedly entered my life as a "professional" in health care is that of responsibility. Most important is the responsibility for your own destiny. Why am I writing an editorial about this?

Well, over the past 29 years that I have been involved in respiratory care either as a student or actually credentialed, I have repeatedly heard the moans of individuals who feel that once they achieve their credential that they no longer have to do anything. Oh yes, these individuals go out and find jobs and show up daily at their scheduled hours and I do not doubt that they provide excellent care to all the patients under their charge. Understand that I am not criticizing the ability of a respiratory care practitioner but I am concerned that many out there do not contribute to their profession. Remember I just said MANY, NOT ALL but rather many. Contributing to your profession could include any of the following:

- ✓ **Keep Informed.** Being a member of the American Association for Respiratory Care, therefore a member of the Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care promotes your profession and yourself. Your membership supports your profession, and in turn supporting your profession makes sure that we have the ability to be heard as a profession. Remember strength comes in numbers and the PSRC membership numbers are unfortunately much lower than the number of practitioners we have in Pennsylvania! Yes, I know it costs \$102.50 initially to join and renewal fees are \$90 but, lets face it when you continue to have a job because the AARC and PSRC has helped regulators and others to understand the value of our profession, that cost will seem pretty inexpensive. Check out www.aarc.org to see what membership offers you or contact someone at www.psrc.net to see what the PSRC is doing for you.
- ✓ **Be Active.** Help out in your District of the PSRC. It seems like the same ol' faces keep coming around to be the volunteers. All it takes is a few hours a year to help out at some activity of the PSRC. The PSRC needs new faces, new ideas, and new avenues for growth. Out of my 29 years in Respiratory Care I have contributed something to the PSRC and/or the AARC each and every year. Trust me I am not looking for a pat on the back, I enjoy and feel it is my responsibility to my profession to do volunteering. I just would rather see more people doing the same.
- ✓ **Educate Yourself.** Unfortunately hospitals, home care companies and other venues of work don't have the budgets that they had years ago. So how do you increase your education? My favorite saying is from Robert Frost and he said, "Education is hanging around till you catch on". A lot of that saying is true but...how do you catch on to the new stuff and make sure you are as well informed as you should be. The AARC and the state affiliates offer journals, magazines, teleconferences and seminars. All of these are available for a reasonable price, yet I see the numbers using these resources going steadily down.
- ✓ **Be Responsible.** You chose a profession, not just a job. We need to gather a voice and state this. Join in, be part of the excitement, make our profession known. The educational programs in this state and others are suffering and the Respiratory Care Program admissions numbers are dwindling. If you check out the want ads and the workloads I bet most of you agree there aren't enough people around to hire. How can you help? Mentor a prospective student, talk to your newspaper and radio personnel, or how about giving a profession day speech at the local high school. Just about anything you do can promote the profession of respiratory care, it just depends upon whether you take the responsibility.

The PSRC BOD welcome communication about this and problems faced by those in the Respiratory Care profession. We have Board meetings quarterly where everyone is welcome. Why not contact someone in you area and see where you can join in and become responsible.



*Check out
www.psrc.net
to see what the
PSRC is doing
for you!*



The PSRC needs
new faces, new
ideas, and new
avenues for
growth.

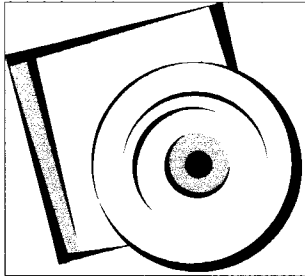


*Talk to your newspaper
and radio personnel
to promote the
RC profession*

PSRC President's Report continued...

(Continued from page 1)

expense. This recognition is an important step, not only for homebound respiratory patients, but also for professional recognition for respiratory therapists as the provider of choice for respiratory disease in all settings. For more information go to <http://www.aarc.org/headlines/consumersonhomehealth.asp>



To obtain a PSRC activities CD contact the PSRC office manager at officeman@psrc.net

The PSRC reviewed and revised its' by-laws. Public review by PSRC members led to passage of the new by-laws which can be found at psrc.net.

A CD was created to update respiratory therapists in Pennsylvania about PSRC activities. A CD is also planned to introduce prospective students to respiratory care educational opportunities. To obtain a CD or for more information contact the PSRC office manager: OfficeMan@psrc.net

The PSRC teamed with PAMS (Pennsylvania Association of Medical Suppliers) to address concerns with the proposed competitive bidding legislation for home medical equipment. More info is available in this issue or through the Alternate Care Committee Chair at altcare@psrc.net

What's Yet To Come in the Remainder of 2002?

Two more PSRC Board of Directors meetings are scheduled in 2003. Please check the event calendar in this issue and contact the district director for specific information about the time and location. Your participation, whether student or practitioner, is welcomed!

Educational and Networking Opportunities exist at the PSRC-IUP/WPH program in Pittsburgh September 12-13 and at the AARC international Congress in Tampa, Florida October 5-8, 2002.

Respiratory Care Week will be celebrated October 20-26. Join the PSRC in Harrisburg or plan a fun event or public health screening to let your part of the state know about respiratory therapists. Invite a local newspaper or TV station to document your event. Visit a local high school and tell them about respiratory care. The health care shortage is not only in nursing, yet the public does not know it unless we tell them! Let us know what you did to mark RC week via psnews@psrc.net

Your support will be needed to recruit new PSRC members, recruit students into respiratory care programs, send letters to or visit legislators. Stay in touch via psrc.net and aarc.org. Most of all, continue the great work you do each and every day that lets patients, their families and others know the compassion, knowledge and professionalism of a respiratory therapist.

“Happy
Respiratory Care
Week to each and
every one of you!”

- Vicki Harter
PSRC President



Scott Conner
Dec 26, 2001

Scott Conner Memorial Scholarship

Scott Conner, 37, died December 26, 2001 at Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, from cancer.

Scott worked for the Mercy Special Care Hospital, Nanticoke, and formerly for the Mercy Hospital, Wilkes-Barre. He was a great guy, showed compassion for his patients and fellow workers, and was devoted to his family.

A memorial scholarship has been set up for a Respiratory Care student at Luzerne County Community College, where Scott graduated with his degree in Respiratory Therapy. Donations may be made to LCCC Foundation, 1333 South Prospect, Nanticoke, PA 18934.

Stop the Insanity!

Despite the Home Medical Equipment Industry's lobbying efforts to stop H.R. 4954, the Medicare Modernization and Prescription Drug Act, which contains a provision to authorize competitive bidding for DME (Durable Medical Equipment), it did pass the House and is now in the Senate. However, it is not too late to contact your Senators to stress how you, as a healthcare provider, are strongly opposed to competitive bidding. There is room to pass a prescription bill without including competitive bidding on medical equipment. We need your help!

Why should you, as respiratory therapists, care about competitive bidding?

If a national competitive bidding system is implemented, companies providing home respiratory care would have to submit a bid to the government in order to supply equipment to Medicare beneficiaries. The government would then choose the suppliers that would provide the equipment at the lowest price to all the Medicare beneficiaries in that region. Ultimately, Medicare beneficiaries would only be able to choose from one of the government designated suppliers to provide their respiratory products or services.

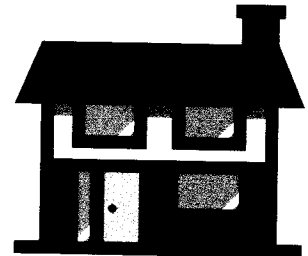
My company, as do many homecare companies, employs respiratory therapists to provide quality respiratory care in the home. It is something we provide without billing Medicare. If competitive bidding is implemented, this practice would most likely stop. A company trying to win a bid is not going to add services that they can't bill for. We also pride ourselves in offering our oxygen patients the latest technology in portable oxygen therapy. This also is done without being reimbursed by Medicare. Again a company trying to win a bid is going to provide the bare minimum in equipment and services. Forget conserving devices, portable concentrators, or liquid oxygen, we are heading back to the days of 'H' cylinders in the home! We have come too far to let this happen.

We need to call, write, and/or fax our representatives immediately! Senators are back in there DC offices after Labor Day and this will be their "highest priority". To find out more information and the best way to contact your Senator go to www.medgroup.com and click on Capital Connection. Please Cc me any letters or faxes, I would appreciate it. You can contact me at 610-364-3160 x 11. Or email me at j.regester@burmanshomehealthcare.com. Let's take a stand together!

John Regester, BS, RRT
Alternate Care Committee Chair
Burman's Home Health Care, Inc

Bullet Points against Competitive Billing

1. Quality of products and services is going to suffer tremendously.
2. Patients will no longer have choice of provider.
3. Clinical visits, physical assessments by RTs will stop.
4. Patients will end up back in the ER or Hospital because a RT was not in the home to intervene and this will end up costing more \$ in the long term.
5. Bid winners will not be accountable for their lack of service.
6. Special portable oxygen systems, liquid systems, portable concentrators will be under utilized to save costs.
7. Will cost Medicare millions of dollars to implement such a system.



*Many homecare
companies employ RT's
to provide quality care
in the home*



*"We need to call,
write and/or fax our
representatives
immediately!"*

FYI:

This is the last issue of the PSNews that all RCP's in the state of PA will receive.

Future issues will be sent to AARC/PSRC members only.

JOIN TODAY!

In Memory of Robert Weaver

Robert M. Weaver, 55 of Mill Hall, Pennsylvania died Wednesday July 17, 2002 after being diagnosed with leukemia in April. He was recently admitted to Geisinger Medical Center then discharged and spent a peaceful eight days at home before passing away.

Bob started his career in respiratory care in 1969 at the University of Rochester Medical Center and earned his certification and registry in RC as well as his CPFT and was also a certified cardiopulmonary technologist. From 1976 through 1990, Bob was employed at Geisinger Medical Center and left the department in 1990 after fulfilling a year as their department manager. Bob had been with HealthSouth Nittany Valley Rehabilitation Hospital up to the time of his death as manager of respiratory services. Bob was also an adjunct instructor at Harrisburg Area Community College where he taught hemodynamic monitoring in the respiratory therapist program.

Contributions may be made to HealthSouth Nittany Valley Rehabilitation Hospital, 500 West College Avenue, Pleasant Gap, PA 16823, in his memory.

Bob was a good friend and colleague and will be missed.

AARC's 2002 International Fellowship Program

I am pleasantly surprised and proud to announce that York Hospital has been selected as a City Host for the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) 2002 International Fellowship Program (IFP). If all goes as planned, Paulo Moreira Caseiro will be traveling from Portugal to York on September 22, 2002.

Each selected participant will visit two cities in the U.S. for one week each, culminating with their attendance at the 48th International Respiratory Congress in Tampa, Florida, which is scheduled for October 5-8. As the 1st City Host, we're slated to partner with Lapeer Regional Hospital (Michigan) as the 2nd City Host.

The AARC IFP has been sponsored by the AARC since 1990. From the program's inception, 87 professionals from more than 41 countries have been chosen to participate in the program. International Fellows travel to the U.S. at their expense to observe respiratory care in a variety of settings. The AARC covers expenses incurred within the U.S. related to the planned visit sites.

On average, about 50+ applications for City Hosts are received annually with 5-10 fellowships awarded. At the request of several colleagues, I submitted an application in May thinking we would likely be overlooked for the first year. Clearly the 1st year selection speaks volumes of our department and hospital!

Drew Walker
 Director -
 Pulmonary-Critical Care & EEG Services
 York Hospital - WellSpan Health

EDITORS NOTE: *If you'd like to see your hospital/program featured in an upcoming issue of the PSNews please send your article to psnews@psrc.net*



*The AARC IFP
 has been sponsored
 by the AARC
 since 1990*



*Over the years,
 87 professionals from
 more than 41 countries
 have participated
 in the program*

AARC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please read the eligibility requirements for each of the classifications in the right-hand column, then complete the applicable section. All information requested below must be provided, except where indicated as optional. See other side for more information and fee schedule. Please sign and date application on reverse side and type or print clearly. Processing of application takes approximately 15 days.

Active

Associate:

- Foreign
- Physician
- Industrial
- Special

Student

Primary Job Responsibility (Check one only)

- Technical Director
- Assistant Technical Director
- Pulmonary Function Specialist
- Instructor/Educator
- Supervisor

- Staff Therapist
- Staff Technician
- Rehabilitation/Home Care
- Medical Director
- Sales
- Student
- Other, specify _____

Type of Business

- Hospital
- Skilled Nursing Facility
- DME/HME
- Home Health Agency
- Educational Institution
- Manufacturer or supplier
- Other, specify _____

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Social Security No. _____

Home Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone No. (____) _____

Email address _____

US Citizen Yes No

Have you ever been a member of the AARC? _____

If so, when? From _____ to _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____ Home
 _____ Business

FOR ACTIVE MEMBER

An individual is eligible if he/she lives in the US or its territories or was an Active Member prior to moving outside its borders or territories, and meets ONE of the following criteria: (1) is legally credentialed as a respiratory care professional if employed in a state that mandates such, OR (2) is a graduate of an accredited educational program in respiratory care, OR (3) holds a credential issued by the NBRC. An individual who is an AARC Active Member in good standing on December 8, 1994, will continue as such provided his/her membership remains in good standing.

PLEASE USE THE ADDRESS OF THE LOCATION WHERE YOU PERFORM YOUR JOB, NOT THE CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS IF IT IS LOCATED ELSEWHERE.

Place of Employment _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone No. (____) _____

Medical Director/Medical Sponsor _____

FOR ASSOCIATE OR SPECIAL MEMBER

Individuals who hold a position related to respiratory care but do not meet the requirements of Active Member shall be Associate Members. They have all the rights and benefits of the Association except to hold office, vote, or serve as chair of a standing committee. The following subclasses of Associate membership are available: Foreign, Physician, and Industrial (Individuals whose primary occupation is directly or indirectly devoted to the manufacture, sale, or distribution of respiratory care equipment) **Special Members are those not working in a respiratory care field.**

PLEASE USE THE ADDRESS OF THE LOCATION WHERE YOU PERFORM YOUR JOB, NOT THE CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS IF IT IS LOCATED ELSEWHERE.

Place of Employment _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone No. (____) _____

FOR STUDENT MEMBER

Individuals will be classified as Student Members if they meet all the requirements for Associate Membership & are enrolled in an educational program in respiratory care accredited by, or in the process of seeking accreditation from, an AARC-recognized agency.

SPECIAL NOTICE: Student Members do not receive CRCE transcripts.

School/RC Program _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone No. (____) _____

Expected Date of Graduation: Month _____ Year _____

Length of Program: _____ years

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS:

We request that you answer these questions in order to help us design services and programs to meet your needs

Check the Highest Degree Earned

- High School
- RC Graduate Technician
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Master's Degree
- Doctorate Degree

Number of Years in Respiratory Care

- 0-2 years 11-15 years
- 3-5 years 16 yrs or more
- 6-10 years

Credentials

- RRT LVN/LPN
- CRT CPFT
- Physician RPFT
- CRNA Perinatal/Pediatric
- RN

Salary

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,001-\$20,000
- \$20,001-\$30,000
- \$30,001-\$40,000
- \$40,000 or more

PLEASE SIGN:

I hereby apply for membership in the American Association for Respiratory Care and have enclosed my dues. If approved for membership in the AARC, I will abide by its bylaws and professional code of ethics. I authorize investigation of all statements contained herein and understand that misrepresentations or omissions of facts called for is cause for rejection or expulsion.

A yearly subscription to RESPIRATORY CARE journal and AARC TIMES magazine includes an allocation of \$11.50 from my dues for each publication.

NOTE: Contributions or gifts to the AARC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. However, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses subject to restrictions imposed as a result of association lobbying activities. The AARC estimates that the non-deductible portion of your dues-the portion which is allocable to lobbying- is 26%

Signature _____

Date _____

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Payment must accompany your application to the AARC. Fees are for 12 months. (NOTE: Renewal fees are \$90.00 Active, Associate-Industrial or Associate-Physician, or Special status; \$105.00 for Associate-Foreign status; and \$50.00 for Student status)

	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Plus</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Active	\$ 102.50	\$137.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate (Industrial or Physician)	\$ 102.50	\$137.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate (Foreign)	\$ 117.50	\$177.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Special	\$ 102.50	\$137.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 50.00	\$125.00

TOTAL \$ _____

SPECIALTY SECTIONS

Established to recognize the specialty areas of respiratory care, these sections publish a bi-monthly newsletter that focuses on issues of specific concern to that specialty. The sections also design the specialty programming at the national AARC meetings.

<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Acute Care Section	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Education Section	\$ 20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Perinatal-Pediatric Section	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Diagnostics Section	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Continuing Care-Rehabilitation	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Management Section	\$ 20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Transport Section	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Home Care Section	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Subacute Care Section	\$ 15.00

TOTAL \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL =

Membership Fee plus optional sections \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed/Charged \$ _____

Please charge my dues (see below)

To charge, complete the following:

MasterCard

Visa

Card Number: _____

Card Expires _____ / _____

Signature _____

Mail Application and appropriate fees to:

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE
 11030 Ables Lane
 Dallas, TX 75229-4593

Phone: (972) 243-2272
 Fax: (972) 484-2720
 Email: info@aarc.org

Application Side 2

Projected Revenue

Account	Subaccount	Budgeted Subaccounts	Budgeted Totals
AARC Dues			\$ 12,000
Publications			\$ 3,000
	Advance	\$ 3,000	
	PS News/Web	\$ 2,000	
Seminars			\$ 81,000
	East Region	\$ 43,000	
	Northwest	\$ 4,500	
	South Central	\$ 500	
	Southwest	\$ 33,000	
Awards Banquet			\$ 7,500
Legislative DC Trip			\$ 6,000
Districts (5)			\$ 12,835
Internet(CEU's)			\$ 500
Advertisement			\$ 2,500
Interest			\$ 11,000
		Totals	\$ 136,335

Projected Expenses

Account	Subaccount	Budgeted Subaccounts	Budgeted Totals
Administration			\$ 7,050
	Insurance	\$ 3,000	
	Office Supplies	\$ 500	
	Phone	\$ 150	
	Photocopy	\$ 100	
	Postage	\$ 300	
	Travel	\$ 3,000	
	Pres & Pres Elect	\$ 2,300	
	PACT	\$ 700	
Publications			\$ 10,400
Board of Directors			\$ 3,000
House of Delegates			\$ 200
Seminars			\$ 59,750
	East	\$ 28,000	
	Northwest	\$ 3,750	
	Southcentral		
	Southwest	\$ 28,000	
Legislative			\$ 16,700
	Committee	\$ 700	
	Salerno Services	\$ 10,000	
Sputum Bowl			\$ 3,275
	Nationals	\$ 3,100	
	State Finals	\$ 175	
Audit			\$ 5,000
Awards Banquet			\$ 6,000
District Expenses			\$ 12,800
Elections			\$ 800
Internet Fee			\$ 200
Literary Awards			\$ 160
Member/Public Relations			\$ 2,000
Office Manager			\$ 5,200
Recruitment			\$ 2,000
Student Recognition Awards			\$ 1,800
		Totals	\$ 136,335



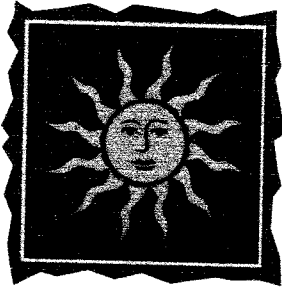
2003 PSRC BUDGET

The PSRC Board of Directors has passed the 2003 PSRC Operating Budget and presents it for your review.

All PSRC members should send comments to the PSRC Office Manager at:
officeman@psrc.net

Delegates Report - Summer 2002

*Bradley A. Leidich, MEd, RRT
PSRC Delegate*



The House of Delegates meeting was held at the AARC Summer Forum at Vail, Colorado

AARC EXECUTIVE OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Management

Online surveys were conducted concerning market demand for examination preparation courses. Almost 55% of the respondents were interested in attending a polysomnography prep course, and 80% of respondents were interested in attending an asthma educator certification prep course.

Education

A record number of programs have been approved for CRCE so far this year (806). A significant number of these programs are internet-based.

The AARC developed the CRCE transcribing service as a member benefit several years ago. Now that so many states have had licensure for respiratory therapists operational for several years, many members are coming to appreciate the value of having AARC keep a record of their continuing education activities.

Conventions and Meetings

A second Asthma Disease Management course is planned for later this year, most likely in the Midwest. The AARC is investigating the possibility of expanding the course to include a prototype prep course for attendees interested in becoming certified as asthma educators.

Membership

Retention and recruitment of members continues to be a challenge. Even though many organizations are experiencing the same difficulties, we find little comfort in that fact. Unfortunately, we have not seen an increase in members, which we must do if we are to have the human and financial resources necessary to move the profession forward and realize the goals of AARC. Several recruitment and retention activities are underway.

Public Relations

The AARC has been working on media coverage surrounding COPD. They are currently working with comedian Robert Klein on a public relations campaign to raise COPD awareness. Mr. Klein, along with Dr. Kelly Green, have been interviewed by more than a dozen media outlets to talk about COPD. AARC has been mentioned in every interview as the organization responsible for the National COPD Awareness campaign.

The AARC is working with the US COPD Coalition regarding COPD Awareness Month. It has been decided that November will be targeted.

CPGs

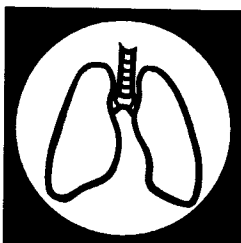
A new CPG on Pulmonary Rehab has been published in the May issue of *RESPIRATORY CARE*. Three updated CPGs will be published in the June issue.

National Emphysema COPD Association (NECA)

NECA is now a reality. It is a national patient driven organization for COPD patients, their families, and persons who provide their care. The organization will provide an opportunity for RCPs to interface with consumers. NECA will network with local COPD groups and act as a clearinghouse for information.



Complete AARC Executive Director, State Government Affairs and Federal Government Affairs Reports may be found on the web at www.psrc.net.



The AARC is working with the US COPD Coalition regarding COPD Awareness Month

US COPD Coalition

The Coalition consists of organizations interested in networking in order to build COPD awareness and action. This will include increasing awareness of COPD reaching undiagnosed patients, educating key audiences, and eliminating barriers to successful COPD programs. AARC is one of the founding members of the Coalition

The Coalition is currently working on a comprehensive COPD conference, which will be held in November of 2003. Sam Giordiano, Executive Director of the AARC, has been appointed co-chair of the Abstracts Committee, as well as a member of the Executive Committee. This will assure that respiratory therapists are included.

National Lung Health Education Program (NLHEP)

The AARC continues to work with NLHEP to promote early detection of COPD and coordinate screening events around the country. Because therapists are knowledgeable about COPD and spirometry, they are well positioned to conduct public screenings.

Student Recruitment

Recruitment of students into virtually all health professions continues to be a problem. The AARC will attend a meeting with other association leaders in allied health in mid July in order to discuss a legislative strategy to cause introduction of an allied health student recruitment bill similar to the congressional initiatives for nursing.

The AARC is currently making contact with the National Science Teachers Association to build a relationship that would result in their constituents allowing respiratory therapists to come to the classrooms to teach about breathing and the respiratory system. The AARC is also investigating the feasibility of exhibiting at the National Science Teachers Convention in March of 2003.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

American Hospital Association

The American Hospital Association (AHA) is supporting the Medicare Hospital Outpatient Fair Payment Act of 2002. The bill addresses hospitals' concerns with the outpatient prospective payment system (OPPS).

Asthma Awareness Day on Capitol Hill

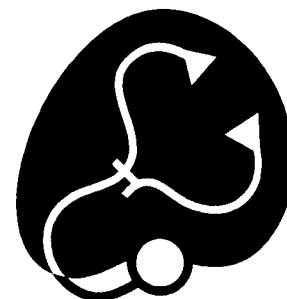
For the fifth consecutive year, the AARC participated in Asthma Awareness Day on Capitol Hill. This is a day-long event that educates policymakers and the public on the impact of asthma. AARC BOD member Tim Meyers, BS, RRT, testified on behalf of the AARC before a panel of congressional leaders on the role of RCP in treating asthma.

Coding

The AARC continues to receive numerous requests for information on coding. A letter is being prepared to request AARC representation on the American Medical Association's (AMA) Health Care Professional Advisory Committee (HCPAC). The HCPAC includes 11 organizations representing physical therapy, occupation therapy, nursing, physician assistants and others who provide advice regarding the AMA's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) coding system.

EFFORTS Rally

For the fourth consecutive year, the AARC participated in a rally on Capitol Hill sponsored by the patient group Emphysema Foundation for our Right to Survive (EFFORTS). Several respiratory therapists were present at this rally and had invited staff from their congressional representatives' offices.



The AARC continues to work with NLHEP to promote early detection of COPD



"Recruitment of students into virtually all health professions continues to be a problem."



The AARC participated in Asthma Awareness Day on Capitol Hill

(Continued on page 12)

Delegates Report continued.....

(Continued from page 11)

Environmental Protection Agency

By special invitation, the AARC participated in a discussion with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Christine Todd Whitman on the EPA's "Clear Skies" proposal. This proposal would reduce power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and mercury.

Home Health Care

The AARC continues its efforts to identify a key House and Senate member who will spearhead the effort to recognize respiratory therapists under the Medicare home health services benefit.

Outpatient Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Under the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Beneficiary Improvement Act (BIPA) of 2000, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) was required to study Medicare's coverage of cardiac rehabilitation and pulmonary rehabilitation services and report back to Congress by June 2002. The BIPA language specified that MedPAC focus on qualifying diagnoses required for coverage of cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation therapy; the level of physician direct involvement and supervision in furnishing such services, and the level of reimbursement for such services.

Political Advocacy Contact Team (PACT) Meeting

The AARC held its fourth political advocacy contact team (PACT) meeting in Washington, D.C., in April. Fifty-seven PACT representatives from 41 states scheduled over 120 visits with congressional members. The purpose of each meeting was to discuss recognition of respiratory therapists under the Medicare home health services benefit.

Skilled Nursing Facility Prospective Payment System (PPS)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that it will not make any refinements to the current skilled nursing facility (SNF) prospective payment system (PPS). As a result, SNFs will continue to receive an estimated \$1 billion in temporary add-on payments in fiscal year (FY) 2003. The add-on is intended to provide SNFs with sufficient funding while CMS develops a system to accurately reimburse for medically complex patients (including many respiratory therapy patients).

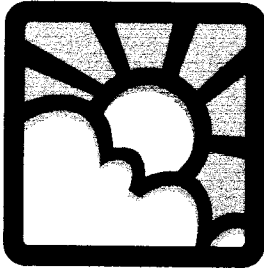
STATE RESPIRATORY THERAPY LICENSURE

There are 42 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico with licensure laws, one state (Illinois) with certification, and one state (Minnesota) with registration. Six states (Alaska, Alabama, Hawaii, Michigan, Vermont and Wyoming) are not regulated by the states.

The PSRC has cause to celebrate. Our efforts have paid off with the Commonwealth officially including respiratory therapists as providers of Medicaid sponsored smoking cessation programs. Certain health-care facilities will be designated as being able to provide and be reimbursed for smoking cessation programs. Respiratory therapists were initially left out of the list of those employees of these facilities that could actually provide the services. Now, respiratory therapists are among those official "providers".

State Emergency Preparedness Legislation

In the wake of September 11th and the anthrax event, many states have introduced extensive legislation, which would increase state authority and power to quickly react and respond if such situations occur again. Because of the controversial nature of this type of legislation only one state thus far, Maine, has actually enacted legislation into law. Many of the bills include a listing of critical health-care providers, most of which do not include respiratory therapists. The PSRC will monitor legislation that may appear and lobby for inclusion of the respiratory therapist in any definition of critical health-care providers.



The AARC participated in a discussion on the EPA's "Clear Skies" proposal



"The AARC continues its efforts to obtain recognition for RT's under the Medicare home health services benefit."



RT's are now officially designated as providers of Medicaid sponsored smoking cessation programs

York, Pennsylvania's Pulmonary Rehab Program is Cruisin'

By - Sue Zimmerman, BS, RRT
Barb Shultz, RRT

The need for medically supported vacations for those with COPD and other related health problems was recognized by the Wellspan York Hospital Outpatient Pulmonary Rehab therapists. Since many of these patients require oxygen, Barb Shultz and Lorri Snyder felt a cruise seemed to be the most practical option.

In the spring of 1999, five staff members (a nurse, a physician, & three respiratory therapists), ten patients, and thirteen family members left New York for Bermuda. The trip went well and was very beneficial to the patients and their families so the hospital approved a trip every two years.

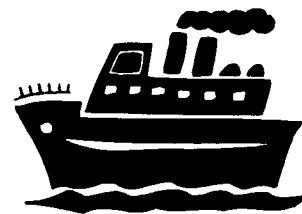
In the spring of 2001, Michael Kauffman of Wasserott's Medical Company, wanted to get involved. He got sponsors and rode his bicycle for ninety miles over two days. He raised over \$1,000! This helped to defray some of the costs of the cruise planned for the fall of 2001.

In September of 2001, seventeen patients, sixteen family members, and six staff members left the port of New York and headed north to New England and Canada. As the cruise departed New York City September 9th, everyone snapped photographs of the harbor's landmarks, including the World Trade Center. No one expected that in two days the harbor landscape would be changed forever! The group was safely in Halifax, Nova Scotia when the terrorist struck. The cruise continued as planned with some time schedule changes and Boston as a new port of disembarkment. The staff learned to be prepared for not only health emergencies, but national emergencies also. Norwegian Cruise Line, patients, staff, and other passengers rallied to the cause! Fortunately, the second cruise was a success in spite of the events of September 11th.

The next trip will be in the spring of 2003 to the Florida Keys, Mexico, and the Bahamas. It is anticipated that more patients will be attending so Mike decided to ride again to raise funds, but this time he was enlisting the help of others!

On April 27 - 28, 2002, the Bike to Breathe Ride took place. Mike recruited eleven riders that obtained sponsors and four youthful riders rode along for moral support. Some of the patients got up early to encourage and send off the group. Saturday was a beautiful day for riding from York, PA to Hunt Valley, MD, a mere forty five miles! They have raised about \$4,000. This was something they wanted to do for their patients...to help them have a vacation that they wouldn't be able to take without medical supervision.

After September 11th, this group can handle anything!



York Pulmonary Rehab Program cruises to many ports-of-call



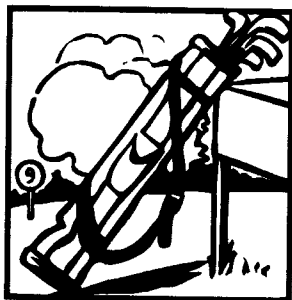
"The next trip will be in the spring of 2003 to the Florida Keys, Mexico, and the Bahamas."



On April 27-28, 2002 the Bike to Breathe Ride took place

News From The Southwest District

By - Gail Varcelotti
SW District Director



The SW PSRC golf outing was held on August 12th in Freeport, PA

Things have been busy in the district with golf outings and the seminar plans. The 29th Annual Seminar in Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Disorders will be held on September 12 and 13, 2002 at The Sheraton at Station Square, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is a two-day conference and exhibition to update the physician, respiratory care practitioner, sleep professional and nurse in the field of pulmonary medicine and sleep disorders.

The SW PSRC golf outing was held on August 12. 96 individuals took place in the event which was held at the Buffalo Valley Country Club in Freeport, Pa. A great time was had by all. Many thanks to sponsors and participants. See you next year

In addition the SW District is hoping to combine efforts with the local group "Promoters of Respiratory Care" to assist in recruitment of individuals into the profession. Ideas include a billboard in the local area, additional recruitment to high-schools & local community T.V. spots. Interested in helping? Want to help out your profession....then contact the SW District Director!

Northwest District Report

By - Gina Menz
NW District Director

The NW District held the 21st Annual Educational Seminar & Equipment Exhibition on May 3, 2002 at the new Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center in Erie PA. A total of 53 practitioners and 17 vendors attended. Topics ranged from "ARDS: From PIGS to PEOPLE Or "New Paradigms for Passing Gas in the ICU" to *Mucus, Memories, and the New Millennium*" presented by Bill Malley from West Penn Hospital & RT program.

A big "thank you" to the members of the seminar committee for all their hard work and patience. Members are: Sue Sheakley, St. Vincent Health Center, Charles Cornfield, Gannon University RT Program, Bob Tarkowski, Gannon University RT program, Marietta Kuehn, Hamot Health Center, Steve Easley, Health Care Solutions, Karen Mazzone, Ken Kraut, St. Vincent Health Center, Chris Ciavarella, Apria, Vicki McAninch & Jennifer Kopacz, ARA.

Through the generosity of Dr. John T. Schaaf, the Northwest now has the "John T. Schaaf Memorial Fund" to be used for social occasions to benefit the Respiratory Therapists in the NW District. Dr. Schaaf stated he feels rewarded by the talents of respiratory therapists everyday and he wanted to do something entertaining. The fund will be put to good use.

Anyone wanting to become involved in other good causes can help the American Lung Association of PA by becoming a walker for the Fall 2002 "Blow The Whistle on Asthma" walks. There are sites across the state. Visit: www.asthmawalk.com to find a site near you or call 1-800-LUNGUSA for the American Lung Association office near you.

Northeast District Update

By - Michele Comes
NE District Director

Our thoughts are with the Mercy Hospital staff as this past December they lost a friend and colleague, Scott Conner, to cancer. (Story on page 4)

I am working to plan 2 educational meeting/get-togethers in September and October. One will be in the Wellsboro area and the second will be in the Danville/Bloomsburg area. Flyers will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. Hope you will be able to attend.



The NE District will hold 2 get-togethers this Fall

"The NW District has established the John T. Schaaf Memorial Fund."

- Gina Menz,
NW District Director

PSRC 2002 OFFICIARY

Officers

Vicki Harter-President
GCHS
100 North Academy Ave
Danville, PA 17822
Work 570-271-5897
Email: President@psrc.net

Edward D. Fox-Vice President
Homecare Products
Weis Plaza, Suite 6
Lewisburg, PA 17837
Work 570-522-2185
Email: VicePres@psrc.net

Bradley Leidich-Delegate
RC Program - HACC
1 HACC Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Work 1-800-222-4222
Email: Delegate@psrc.net

District Directors

Drew Walker-Capital District
York Hospital - Pulmonary Services
1001 South George St
York, PA 17505
Work 717-851-2345
Email: CapDistrict@psrc.net

Michele Comes-Northeast District
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hosp-RC Dept
36 Central Ave
Wellsboro, PA 16901
Work 570-724-1707
Email: NEDistrict@psrc.net

Gail Varcelotti-Southwest District
Education on the GO
110 Horizon Drive
Ventia, PA 15367
Work 724-941-8792
Email: SWDistrict@psrc.net

Yvonne Lamme-Immediate Past President
Main Line Hospital - Resp Care
130 South Bryn Mawr Ave
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
Work 610-526-3341
Email: ImedPastPres@psrc.net

Cathy Hurley-Treasurer
Grand View Hospital - RC Director
700 Lawn Ave
Sellersville, PA 18960
Work 215-453-4185
Email: Treasurer@psrc.net

John Hughes-Alternate Delegate
RC Program-Millersville University
143 East Lemon St
Lancaster, PA 17601
Work 717-290-5511 x-7105
Email: AltDelegate@psrc.net

Patti Curran-Southeast District
CCMC/DCCC- RC Program
1 Medical Center Blvd
Upland, PA 19013
Work 610-447-2442
Email: SEDistrict@psrc.net

Gina Menz-Northwest District
American Lung Association of PA
3524 W 26th Street
Erie, PA 16506
Work 814-833-2882
Email: NWDistrict@psrc.net

Karen Pfister-East District
Health Spectrum-Clinical Coordinator
964 Marcon Blvd
Allentown, PA 18109
Work 610-264-7550 x-134
Email: EastDistrict@psrc.net

Douglas Albright-President Elect
St Joseph Medical Center-Resp Care Dept
PO Box 316
Reading, PA 19603
Work 610-378-2156
Email: PresElect@psrc.net

Angela Damiani Wrolstad-Secretary
7 Madonna Lane
Broomall, PA 19008
Email: Secretary@psrc.net

Medical Advisor - Vacant



Check out additional
contacts &
information at
www.psrc.net

Bill Altimus-Southcentral District
385 Rodgers Street
Nanty-Glo, PA 15943
Work 814-749-9886
Email: SCDistrict@psrc.net

Committee Chairs/Consultants

Angela Wrolstad-Audit
Kathy Yandle-ByLaws/Judicial
Brian Keller-Nominations
Kathleen Day-Internet Coordinator
Ann Cusano-Publications/Seminars
John Register-Alternate Care
John Conrad-Parliamentarian
Angela Damiani-Development
Bette Grey - Membership

Bob Shellenberger-Legislative Affairs
Diane Salerno-Legislative Consultant
Raymond Malloy-Literary Awards
Barbara Schuster-Sputum Bowl
Vacant-Summit Award Coordinator
Ron Sherman - Elections
Bette Gray-Public Relations/Recruitment
Tom Lamphere - Office Manager
Cathy Hurley-Budget



PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY
FOR RESPIRATORY CARE



THE PSNEWS

PSRC
PO Box 279
Willow Grove, PA 19090-0279

Phone: 215-646-7300 ext428
Fax: 215-641-5559
Email: psnews@psrc.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.PSRC.NET

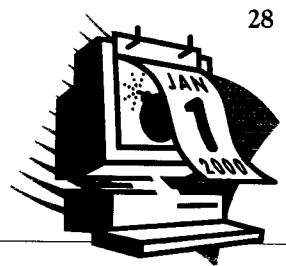
PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SELLERSVILLE, PA
PERMIT NO. 50

*****AUTO**5-DIGIT 19090
[Redacted] 17
[Redacted] 156
[Redacted]

Calendar of Events - Fall/Winter 2002-2003

Sept
6 3rd Quarter - PSRC BOD Meeting
Harrisburg Area Community College
12-13 SW District 29th Annual Seminar
Station Square, Pittsburgh
Info: 412-370-1749
25 Capital District Education Meeting
Comfort Inn, North York
Info: Drew Walker 717-851-2803
Oct
5-8 AARC International Congress
Tampa, FL

Oct
20-26 Respiratory Care Week
22 PSRC Day in Harrisburg
Dec
6 4th Quarter - PSRC BOD Meeting
Millersville University
Feb
28 PSRC Literary Awards - Deadline
Info: Raymond Malloy 215-955-6490



Check the PSRC website for the most
up-to-date calendar @ www.psrc.net