

THE PSNEWS

Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care

Volume IV, Issue I
SPRING 2002

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www.psrc.net
for:

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

Help keep the PSRC an important resource by submitting items to Internet@psrc.net

President's Message

I've been a Respiratory Therapist for quite a few years...I've enjoyed my work, took pride in my credentials and felt I represented a professional attitude. Over the years, I was distantly aware of our professional organization. As a respiratory therapy student (*more years ago than I'd like to admit*), I had attended PSRC sponsored educational sessions within my home district. After graduation, I went about establishing my new career, marriage and family. On occasion, I got to a district educational offering. I maintained AARC membership status to maintain my continuing education.

Years after graduation, I attended a series of national conferences and was impressed by what our national organization was doing to increase public and political recognition of our profession.

Although I maintained AARC membership, I never took time to reflect on the work being done at a state level. Then I received an invitation to attend a meeting of the PSRC. That meeting was an incredible eye opener! Suddenly the efforts of dedicated therapists, some through as many as 25-30 years of volunteering, became evident.

That was the beginning that progressed to this office...and this article. The past four years have allowed for greeting old friends and meeting new ones. From mundane meetings to



2002 PSRC President,
Vicki Harter

(Continued on page 4)

September 11th RC Hero: Johnstown Therapist Helps New Yorkers

On September 16th, Glenn Spickler, RRT, of Memorial Medical Center, Johnstown, Pa. hand delivered 100 respirator masks and 200 replacement filters to the Ground Zero work site in New York City.

The Respiratory Care Department and hospital employees and physicians raised money to supply the much needed devices. The department wanted to do something special this year for Respiratory Care Week and decided that the prevention of breathing problems and future lung disease is what respiratory therapists are all about.

Glenn also made another trip to Ground Zero several weeks later with again more masks and filters. He is truly a Respiratory Care hero!

Submitted by: Pat Monk, RRT
Director of the South Central District

Notes on the 2002 AARC Budget

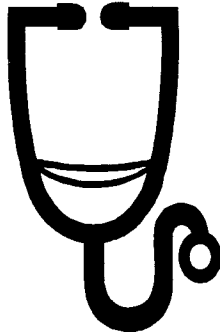
By - John Hughes
PSRC Alternate Delegate

The 2002 budget for AARC was reviewed and approved on November 29, 2001

Major projects of interest to the Chartered Affiliates include:

- Over \$540,000 is being expended for State Society support
- \$266,000 is being expended for Public Relations to promote the Respiratory Care Profession
- \$158,000 is being expended for advocacy for our profession
- \$50,000 of the \$1 million research fund is budgeted for this year to support research that demonstrates the cost saving and quality impact of Respiratory Therapists on patient care
- \$25,000 contribution to the ARCF for the research endowment

In Accordance with our Bylaws, a balanced budget has been approved. In order to accomplish all that we have set out to do this year, we must generate adequate resources. It is imperative that we increase our membership level. We must have individual assistance with this, as we need to recruit one member at a time.



\$266,000 is being expended for PR to promote the Respiratory Care Profession



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

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 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, BS, 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 2002-2003

FALL 2002 - July 31, 2002

SPRING 2003 - Jan 31, 2003

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“In a nutshell”

What the PSRC Did On Your Behalf in 2001

Legislative activity and patient advocacy

We sponsored a PSRC day in Harrisburg. We had displays in the Capital Building and pulmonary function testing was done in the mini rotunda by Pennsylvania RC students. Four representatives of the PSRC visited with legislators to discuss our bills and adding continuing education credits.

We sponsored PSRC days in Washington DC. A chartered bus carried 32 therapists, students and patients to DC. We met with many representatives to discuss reimbursement for therapists in the home and national reimbursement guidelines for pulmonary rehab. We received press for this in Advance and AARC Times.

Multiple letters were written to legislators and the governor concerning issues and bills of importance to pulmonary health, such as the use of tobacco settlement money, the ability for kids to carry inhalers in school and the use of unlicensed assistive personnel.

We opened bills in both the Senate and the House to insert CEU requirements and to insert disciplinary action language.

Educational activities

- A two-day regional seminar was held in Philadelphia.
- A two day regional seminar was held in Pittsburgh
- A two-day seminar was held at Seven Springs Resort.
- A one-day seminar was held in Erie, Pa.
- A one-day seminar was held in Harrisburg, Pa.
- Several additional seminars were endorsed by the PSRC.
- Knowledge Link offers selected seminar courses on line.
- An AARC International Fellow was hosted in Pittsburgh.
- Two literary awards were given for best articles.
- Student awards were given at each program in the state to the student most likely to have a positive impact on the profession.
- A student and a practitioner sputum bowl were held, with the winner of the practitioner competition going on to the national competition.

Professional and “just for fun” activities

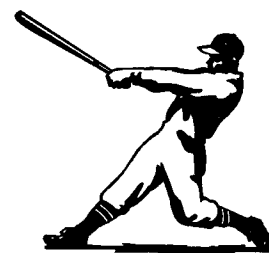
- A golf tournament was held by the South East (Philly) and East (Allentown) Districts.
- A golf tournament was held by the South West (Pittsburgh) District.
- The South East and East Districts held a therapist recognition dinner.
- 76 people attended the PSRC night at the Phillies.
- The PSRC web page was updated and given a new look.
- We sponsored a trip to see Les Miserables.
- Welcome post cards were sent to all new members.
- Reminder post cards were sent to all expired members
- A social was held during Respiratory Care Week at the Corinthian Yacht Club in Philadelphia.
- A social was held over the holidays at Dave and Busters.



*We sponsored PSRC
day in Washington,
DC*



**PLEASE JOIN
US IN 2002 AS
WE ADVOCATE
FOR PATIENTS
AND OUR
PROFESSION.**



*We celebrated PSRC
night at the Phillies*

2002 PSRC Board Members Installed



*Lisa Welsh
2001 PSRC Treasurer
receives President's award*

At the fourth quarter board meeting of the PSRC, newly elected officers and board members were sworn in. Vicki Harter was sworn in as the new President after spending 2001 as President-Elect. Doug Albright was elected to the position of President-Elect. Doug will spend this year watching and learning from Vicki as he prepares for his year as President. Ed Fox will be Vicki's right hand man as Vice President. Angela Wrolstad won the election for Secretary and Cathy Hurley will spend the year writing checks as the new Treasurer.

All PSRC Board members are available to speak at staff meetings or educational meetings on the activities that the PSRC is involved in. We always hear "What does the PSRC do for me?" Let us come and tell you! Board members can also speak about the importance of membership and professional involvement.

Lisa Welsh, 2001 PSRC Treasurer, was presented with a special award at the fourth quarter BOD meeting. Then President, Yvonne Lamme honored Lisa with a plaque for going above and beyond the expectations of her positions. Thanks again Lisa!

Congratulations to all of the new board members! Contact them at www.psrc.net.



President's Message continued...

*"Please take the time
to see what the
PSRC offers."*

*- Vicki Harter
PSRC President*

(Continued from page 1)

educational sessions, dinners, receptions, international visits and visits to our state/national capitols...the years have been filled with a wonderful balance of hard work and fun times. I've seen a handful of others catch the same "bug"...it's contagious. Please take the time to see what the PSRC offers. Contact your District Director, attend an educational offering, participate on a committee and join the AARC (or renew your AARC membership). That is how our state and national organizations meet expenses and represent therapists throughout the state and at a national level. You can choose how involved you'd like to be...

Hubert H. Humphrey said "This, then, is the test we must set for ourselves: not to march alone, but to march in such a way that others will want to join us." This is the goal for our 2002 Board of Directors...we'll serve in a way that will make others want to join us.



*Luzerne Community College
scholarship recipient*

\$500 Scholarship Awarded

Mercy Healthcare Partners of the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Area recently awarded a \$500.00 scholarship from the proceeds of their 2nd Annual Seminar held at Luzerne County Community College in November 2001 to Judy Sterner, a respiratory student at Luzerne County Community College.

(The pictured people are: Ken Listansky, Manager -Respiratory Care Department, Mercy Wilkes-Barre, Judy Sterner, and Cynthia Mahalick, Clinical Director-Luzerne County Community College).

NBRC Credentialing Changes

By - Brian Kellar, MS, RRT, RPFT

Change?

This is just a reminder that the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) recently adopted a Continuing Competency Program. This official policy affects all credentials to be issued by the NBRC beginning July 1, 2002. Any practitioner credentialed prior to July 1, 2002 will NOT be affected but has the option to voluntarily participate.

What Does This Mean?

After July 1, 2002, all credentials issued by the NBRC will be awarded for a term of five years. This time will be calculated from the end of the calendar month in which the credential was issued. At that time, the individual will have three (3) options for renewal of their credential, which will extend another five years. These options include:

1. Completion of a minimum of 30 hours of Category I Continuing Education (CE) acceptable to the NBRC.
2. Retake the respective examination(s) for the credential being renewed and achieve a passing score.
3. Pass another NBRC credentialing examination, not previously completed.

Important Reminder...

Please remember that this applies to **all** credentials, even the specialty examinations. For example, if you currently hold the RRT credential and desire to obtain the CPFT credential, after July 1, 2002, the CPFT credential will only be issued for five years; the RRT credential will not be affected.

More Information?

For more details, questions, or additional information, please visit the NBRC Web Site at www.nbrc.org



Time to check out the NBRC credentialing changes coming soon



Any practitioner credentialed prior to July 1, 2002 will NOT be affected by the credentialing changes!

April 11 - 12, 2002 - The Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care

PSRC 5th ANNUAL EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

"Unlock the Possibilities"

at the Holiday Inn, King of Prussia, PA

Guest speakers to include

Frederic Hellman, MD, Medical Examiner, Delaware County, PA

Rodolfo I. Godinez, MD, PhD

Belinda Gutwein, EdD

Congressman Joe Hoeffel, Democratic Member of the 13th Congressional District of PA

10-11 CRCEs Pending

Contact: Ann Cusano at (215) 646-7300 ext. 428 or cusano.a@gmc.edu (Registrations)

Cathy Hurley at (215) 453-4185 or churley@gvh.org (Exhibits)

Barbara Schuster at (215) 646-7300 ext. 471 or schuster.b@gmc.edu (Sputum Bowl)

What Does the AARC Do For Me?

By - *Bradley A. Leidich*
PSRC Delegate



The reports are
posted in full at
www.psrc.net

Part of being a professional is supporting your professional organization. If you are reading this article, you are also benefiting from the AARC's diligence in protecting your professional rights and helping to foster national recognition of respiratory care as a profession. The question is - Are you an active participant or just along for the ride? The AARC is only as strong as its membership, and unfortunately, its membership has been falling.

I'm taking a different approach in the writing of my Delegate's report for the PSNews. In short, there's no way to summarize *all* that the AARC is doing for you in this format. It will lose *too* much in providing a summary. I urge you to go to the PSRC website at www.psrc.net and read the reports that are posted. You'll find the AARC Executive Director's report as well as a report from Jill Eicher (Federal Government Affairs) and Cheryl West (State Government Affairs). This will give you a good overall understanding of what the AARC is doing for you. We'll post the reports after each House of Delegate's meeting. I'd also urge you to visit www.aarc.org as well.

Your membership support is *necessary* if you want the AARC to continue to be your advocate at its current level or to provide greater advocacy. If you do not have Internet access, call me at (717) 780-2315 and request a hard copy. Provide me with the name of your manager as well as a mailing address and I'll send a copy to your place of employment to be posted.

I've listed the major topics for each report below.

Executive Director's Report - Sam Giordano

- Membership
- Education
- Communication/Web Site
- Meetings and Conventions
- Journals
- Marketing
- \$1 Million Research Fund
- National Asthma Educators Certification Board (NAECB)
- National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP)
- American Institute of Life Threatening Illness and Loss
- National Lung Health Education Program (NLHEP)
- Local Medical Review Policies (LMRP's)

Federal Government Affairs Report - Jill Eicher

- Executive Office (Bush Administration) Update
- Congressional Update
- American Hospital Association (AHA)
- Cholesterol Screening Coverage
- COPD Awareness Month
- Health Care Workforce Shortages
- Home Health Care
- Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRF) Prospective Payment Systems (PPS)
- Medicare Regulatory Reform
- Respiratory Assist Devices
- Re-Testing of Home Oxygen Patients
- Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) Local Medical Review Policies (LMRPs)

State Government Affairs Report - Cheryl West

- Overview
- Licensure Legislation
- Licensure Changes
- Smoking Cessation
- Telehealth/Telemedicine
- Asthma Bills
- Tobacco Fund and Ventilator Dependent Patients
- RC Coding Project
- PACT and State Society Initiatives
- PSRC Washington Trip (Home Care and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Reimbursement)

Not included in the posted reports:

Blue Ribbon Panel on Value and Recognition (Chair - Kerry George): The committee has four charges; (1) Document the unique value of respiratory therapists in achieving clinical and economic outcomes, (2) Establish communication channels with parties of interest, (3) Evaluate emerging opportunities for respiratory therapists, and (4) Qualify the respiratory care workforce by conducting human resource surveys.

"Are you an
active participant
or just along
for the ride?"

- Bradley Leidich
PSRC Delegate



Please call me at
(717) 780-2315
to request a hard copy
of the reports

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

Projected Revenue

Account	Subaccount	Budgeted Subaccounts	Budgeted Totals
AARC Dues			\$ 12,000
Publications			\$ 5,000
	Advance	\$ 3,000	
	PS News/Web	\$ 2,000	
Seminars			\$ 82,600
	East Region	\$ 43,000	
	Northwest	\$ 3,600	
	South Central	\$ 1,000	
	Southwest	\$ 35,000	
Awards Banquet			\$ 10,650
Sputum Bowl			\$ 500
Districts (7)			\$ 6,000
Internet(CEU's)			\$ 500
Public Relations			\$ 300
Interest			\$ 8,400
		Totals	\$ 125,950



2002 PSRC BUDGET

The PSRC Board of Directors has passed the 2002 PSRC Operating Budget and presents it for your review.

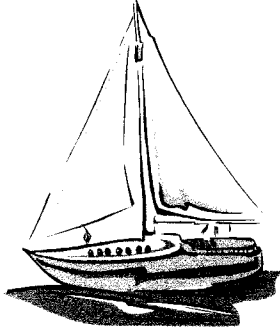
PSRC members should send comments by April 30, 2002, to the PSRC Office Manager at officeman@psrc.net

Projected Expenses

Account	Subaccount	Budgeted Subaccounts	Budgeted Totals
Administration			\$ 6,500
	Insurance	\$ 3,000	
	Office Supplies	\$ 500	
	Phone	\$ 150	
	Photocopy	\$ 250	
	Postage	\$ 600	
	Travel	\$ 2,000	
	President-Ntl's	\$ 1,300	
	PACT	\$ 700	
Publications			\$ 10,400
Board of Directors			\$ 3,000
House of Delegates			\$ 4,000
Seminars			\$ 56,950
	East	\$ 28,000	
	Northwest	\$ 3,300	
	Southcentral	\$ 150	
	Southwest	\$ 25,500	
Legislative			\$ 10,700
	Committee	\$ 700	
	Salerno Services	\$ 10,000	
Sputum Bowl			\$ 3,300
	Nationals	\$ 3,100	
	State Finals	\$ 200	
Audit			\$ 2,800
Awards Banquet			\$ 10,000
District Expenses			\$ 7,000
Elections			\$ 780
Internet Fee			\$ 200
Literary Awards			\$ 160
Member/Public Relations			\$ 2,000
Office Manager			\$ 5,200
Recruitment			\$ 2,000
Student Recognition Awards			\$ 960
		Totals	\$ 125,950

News From The Southeast District

By - Patti L. Curran
SE District Director



We celebrated Respiratory Care Week at the Corinthian Yacht Club

September brought many changes to the country, and has made many of us reevaluate our priorities. The events of September 11, 2001, changed the scope of the PSRC's visit to Washington, D.C. The original plans were to meet with many of the legislatures to discuss reimbursement for pulmonary rehab and home care. But since this event was scheduled for September 20 and 21, Washington was under extremely tightened security. But did that stop the PSRC? No, but it changed the agenda a bit. Those who went expressed how important they felt the visit was. Not as many legislatures were available, but those who were available were very receptive to the information provided by the Pennsylvania therapists. In light of the events, there were also some laughs that were shared by those in attendance.

In October, we celebrated Respiratory Care week. This year, the southeastern district sponsored a cocktail party at the beautiful Corinthian Yacht Club on the Delaware River. The weather the evening of October 25 was beautiful, as well as the scenery at the Yacht Club. Thanks to those of you who helped make the evening special.

The holiday season came and went too quickly, as it usually does, but we found some extra time to celebrate with our PSRC friends. Thanks to a few of our vendors, we had a Holiday Celebration at Dave & Buster's on Pier 19 in Philadelphia. There was plenty of food and games for everyone to enjoy! It was a pleasant evening, and a fun time to share with fellow therapists.



"I would like to see PSRC membership within our district increase."

- Michele Comes,
NE District Director

Northeast District Report

By - Michele Comes
NE District Director

I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself as your new Northeast District Director. My name is Michele (Sable) Comes and I am the Pulmonary Diagnostics Supervisor at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital in Wellsboro, PA. I have been employed by the hospital for 15 years. I am a graduate of Respiratory Therapy programs in New York State, at MVCC and later at OCC where I received my AAS degree. I hold NBRC credentials of RRT, RPFT, and Perinatal - Pediatric Specialty as well as being a Certified Asthma Educator through the American Lung Association.

My predecessor, John Conrad, did a wonderful job in this position and I hope I can fulfill expectations. As some of you know, John wanted to take a year off from a PSRC position but has graciously agreed to be our parliamentarian. Our Northeast District also has the honor of having the PSRC President Vicki Harter, Vice-President Ed Fox, and last year's literary award winner Bette Grey.

Southwest District Update

By - Gail Varcelotti
SW District Director

The SW District hosted International Fellow Chi Chen Chu from China during the last week of November. My sincere thank you to Angie Dilmore and others who helped during the visit.

The 29th Annual Seminar in Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine is currently scheduled to be held in Pittsburgh, PA September 12 and 13, 2002. Last years seminar had a registration of 152 people and hosted more than 30 vendors in the exhibitors. This year's seminar promises to be an interesting blend of pulmonary and sleep topics so watch the mail in June 2002 so you can catch the savings on registration. Please call me at 724-941-8792 if you'd like to help with anything!



I'd love to hear from you at gailannv@yahoo.com

PSRC 2002 OFFICIARY

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

Yvonne Lamme-*Immediate Past President*
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Diane Salerno-*Legislative Consultant*
Raymond Malloy-*Literary Awards*
Barbara Schuster-*Sputum Bowl*
Bob Lamme-*Summit Award Coordinator*
Ron Sherman - *Elections*
Vacant-*Public Relations/Recruitment*
Tom Lamphere - *Office Manager*
Cathy Hurley-*Budget*

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

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2002 PSRC Board of Directors
sworn in by out-going 2001
PSRC President, Yvonne Lamme

PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY
FOR RESPIRATORY CARE



THE PSNEWS

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Email: psnews@psrc.net

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

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Calendar of Events - Spring/Summer 2002

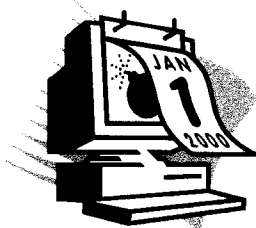
March
8 1st Quarter - PSRC BOD Meeting
Harrisburg Area Community College

April
11-12 PSRC Eastern Regional Conference
King of Prussia, PA

June
7 2nd Quarter PSRC BOD Meeting
State College

July
14-16 AARC Summer Forum
Vail, Colorado

31 Deadline for Spring PSNews
Info: Ann Cusano 215-646-7300 ext-428
e-mail psnews@psrc.net



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