

THE PSNEWS

Pennsylvania Society for Respiratory Care

Greetings From The PSRC President

Volume IX, Issue I
SUMMER 2007

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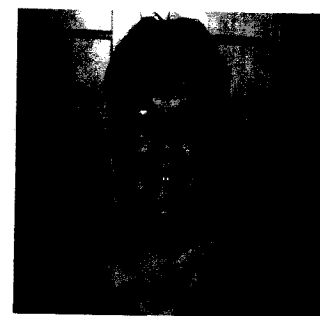
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The PSRC held the 2007 1st Quarter Board of Directors meeting on 3/20/07, followed by the two-day Eastern Regional Conference on 3/21 & 3/22/07 in King of Prussia. The 2nd Quarter Meeting was held on 6/22/07 in Lewisburg at Evangelical Hospital. Both meetings were very well attended with Board members traveling from all areas of the state including Hershey, Lancaster, Danville and as far away as Erie and Pittsburgh! I'd like to thank the entire Board for volunteering to serve on the PSRC Board and for their continued dedication and commitment to our profession. In addition, I'd like to thank Katie Trifiletti and Ray Barber for joining us as guests at the meetings. The PSRC Board is always happy to have guests attend our meetings and, in fact, I encourage members to join us!

The board meeting agendas are always packed full of important discussion items! At the 1st quarter meeting, Garry Kauffman, PSRC Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, presented a legislative update. Following the update, Mark Single and Nathan Mains from the Winter Group gave a short presentation to the Board. The Winter Group is currently employed by the PSRC to advocate for our profession and our patients in regards to both state and federal legislation. For an update on legislative activities, see the Governmental Affairs Committee article on page 10.

On March 21, 2007, I was very fortunate to open the PSRC Eastern Regional Conference. It was wonderful to see so many friends and fellow therapists whom I have met and worked with over the past 25 years and it was also encouraging to meet many new therapist and students. During my opening remarks, I shared with the audience the three main goals that the PSRC is working on this year. They are **Education, Advocacy and FUN!!**

President's Greetings continued on Page 3



Cathy Hurley, BS, RRT
PSRC 2007 President

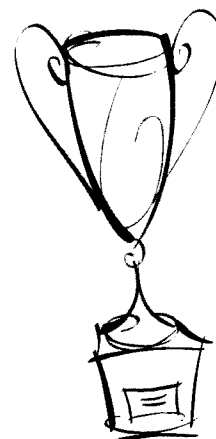
2007 STATE SPUTUM BOWL COMPETITION

This year's competition will take place on Tuesday, October 16th at 4:30 pm, in conjunction with the 2nd Annual PSRC "Conference in the Capital", at the 4 Points Sheraton Hotel in Harrisburg.

The competition is open to all Respiratory Therapists. All are encouraged to participate in this challenging yet fun-filled event. The winning team will have expenses paid to represent Pennsylvania in the National Sputum bowl at the 53rd Annual Respiratory Congress in Orlando, Florida December 1-4, 2007.

Please visit the PSRC website for all related information. If you want to know more about what a "Sputum Bowl" is, go to www.AARC.org, at Resources click Sputum Bowl.

We are hoping for a great showing, so form a team or come and cheer! It is really a very rewarding, fun experience. If you need any further info, please contact Linda Napoli at 215-590-1704 or napoli@email.chop.edu. See you there!



Go to www.psrc.net
for information on:

- Job Postings
- Regulatory/
Governmental Issues
- Credentialing
Requirements
- Continuing Education
Information
- Calendar of Events
- Important Links
- Discount AARC
coupons

PSRC Legislative Day 2007: Building on Last Year's Success

Garry W. Kauffman, MPA, FACHE, RRT, FAARC, PSRC Governmental Affairs Chair

After a hiatus of a couple of decades, the PSRC reinstated its "Legislative Day" on October 16th, 2006. Along with Cheryl West, AARC Governmental Affairs, and our governmental affairs business partner, the Winter Group, PSRC "teams" composed of respiratory therapists, students and members of the PSRC leadership delivered our messages to Pennsylvania legislators and their staff members in a day-long event at the Capitol.

The PSRC, lead by Ann Wilson, RRT, RPFT, provided screening PFTs and distributed patient and consumer educational materials at our PSRC booth (featuring our new banner 'Respiratory Therapists: Your Lung Health is our Concern') in the East Wing of the Rotunda located in the Capitol. Ann reported that we did 55 PFTs and handed out 'a ton' of educational materials. Special thanks go out to Ann for obtaining all of the PFT equipment and materials, training the RT volunteers, and for transporting everything to and from the event!

Four teams, each assisted by a member of the Winter Group, spent the entire day meeting with Pennsylvania legislators and staff to introduce ourselves as Respiratory Therapists and talk about several key health issues. Each team leader was given a 'fact sheet' on each legislator that included their picture (a big help so you know who you're talking with), their staffer names, committees, and contact information. The four teams set up 30 visits and met with every legislator and staffer as planned. While the four teams were dispersed over the Capitol grounds, a cadre of enthusiastic RT students from several schools were given a packet of information to distribute to **ALL** 256 Senators and Representatives. The information they provided included a description of who Respiratory Therapists are, where we work, how we contribute to health care delivery as well as information on key health issues as noted below.

In 2007, we're taking it up a notch by inviting RTs and RT students from the ENTIRE STATE to participate in our events, which are scheduled for Monday October 15th. We will be building on last year's contacts as well as introducing ourselves to a significant number of new faces in the Senate and House. Ann Wilson, PSRC Secretary, is once again heading up the Screening Spirometry team who will be performing PFT screenings and providing patient and consumer educational materials throughout the day. As we did last year, we will be lead by the Winter Group leadership to meet with key legislators dealing with legislative issues of great importance to the patients and family members we serve and to us as physician-extenders.

I have received a number of emails and phone calls from both RT practitioners and RT students who want to come back and do it again in 2007! The messages that we deliver will include the following as well as any legislative issues that arise prior to our day in the capitol:

- Describe the training, skills, and competencies that define the roles, responsibilities, and value of Respiratory Therapists in various sites of care.
- Thank them for proclaiming 'Respiratory Care Week' in Pennsylvania in both the Senate and House.
- Thank them for supporting various clean indoor air legislation, asthma legislation, and the appropriate use of tobacco settlement funds (i.e. for healthcare not filling potholes or building crematoriums).
- Remind them that Respiratory Therapists are being actively recruited by Human & Health Services for Disaster Preparedness

At the end of the work day, the RTs and RT students will host a reception in the East Wing of the Rotunda for all legislators and staff to thank them for their time, commitment to our causes, and to accept our heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the patients we serve.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We'd like to have as many therapists and students join us to help deliver our message to Pennsylvania legislators on October 15, 2007. No experience is necessary, just the desire to help your profession is all that is needed!! For more information, contact me via email at 2007GovAffairsChair@psrc.net or via phone at 717-544-7149

**Check out the
www.PSRC.net
web site for**

- *Your District Director Contact Information*
- *Board of Directors Contact Information*
- *Legislative News*
- *CRCE Events*
- *Fun Activities in your district.*

FUN, FUN, FUN at the Student Sputum Bowl

contributed by contributed by Linda Napoli MBA, RRT - PSRC Sputum Bowl Committee Chair

April 20th in Harrisburg was quite an exciting day! The 2nd Annual Student Conference and Sputum Bowl was held.

Of course from my perspective, as Sputum Bowl Chairperson, the Sputum Bowl was the MOST exciting yet. This year was the best ever, with 18 teams competing from 9 different programs. The winning team hailed from Harrisburg Area Community College: "3 of PEEP" - Miriam Tassin, Kim Beers and Shana Mashack. This team will have expenses paid to represent Pennsylvania at the National Student Sputum Bowl, in Orlando, Florida during the 53rd AARC International Respiratory Congress, December 1 - 4, 2007. If you are attending the meeting, please come and cheer them on during preliminary competitions, which start on December 1st.

Compliments and thanks for a successful competition go out to the following teams who also participated:

Harrisburg Area Community College:	Bill Miller, Joe Camacci, Chris Schock
Western Pennsylvania Hospital (IUP):	Eric Holtz, Justin Reddinger, Mike Havrilla, Jodi Allison
Gwynedd Mercy::	Amanda Perry, Brian Wilson, Kim Miller, Virginia Shea Katie Trifiletti, Kelly Beal, Matt Gari
Reading Area Community College:	Hope Brown, Lou Cacayan, Brandon Edwards, Jess Landis Brian Baker, Dennis Brillantes, Steve Schmidt, Patty Lyczak
Univeristy of Pittsburgh at Johnstown:	Danni Kennedy, Katie Bonshock, Bryan McHugh, Jason Fluke, Katelyn Novak, Jessica Hmel, James Shoup, Tomi Heptner, Sara Eash, Bridget Wrynn, Matthew Grimme, Randall Howe
York College of Pennsylvania:	Adam Tierney, Krista Stover, Emily Sellers, Nikki Clinton
Bryn Mawr Hospital/ West Chester University:	Kathy McDonald, Brandon Gracey, Crissy Sylvester, Kelly Walsh Veronica Malenka, Jody Murtaugh, Kaitlyn Keenan, Sarah Colyar, Jay Alyers, Lisa Fastbinder, John Ovelman, Leighann Panetta
Millersville:	Christine Dzedzy, Danielle Simcox, Lauren Dominick, Kristen Hess
Community College of Philadelphia	2 Teams

PSRC President continued from Page 1

Education: The PSRC District Directors are organizing many educational programs throughout the state. Be sure to log on to the PSRC website at www.psrc.net and click on *Continuing Education* to locate upcoming programs in your area.

Advocacy: The PSRC is currently involved in supporting several key pieces of legislation both nationally and right here in Pennsylvania! Please refer to Garry Kauffman's article on page 10 where he addresses the key issues we're focusing on. We need YOUR help to get the word out to our state and federal legislators!

FUN: Earlier this year, the PSRC offered discount tickets to Hersheypark and have multiple PSRC events planned at baseball games including the Pittsburgh Pirates, Philadelphia Phillies, Lancaster Barnstormers, and the Reading Phillies!

In September, many of us will travel to the Land of Oz (ok, actually it's Philadelphia) to see the musical "Wicked". Please check the PSRC website for a listing of the 2007 activities.

As the 2007 President of the PSRC, I hope to have a very productive year working for all of the therapist in the State. If you need to contact your District Director or any member of the board, you can go to our website and click on the Officiary for contact information.

Until next time,
Cathy

Calling all Respiratory Therapists

You are invited to attend the PSRC Board Meetings. If interested in attending, please contact awilson@wellspan.org

The dates and locations for the meetings are:

9/26/07 Monroeville, PA
12/13/07 Millersville, PA



For information regarding PA State Credentialing

website: www.dos.state.pa.us/med

e-mail: st-medicine@state.pa.us

phone: 717-783-1400

Make a Difference

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HealthSouth Hospital of Pittsburgh is for you.

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Please forward resume to:



Hospital of Pittsburgh
2380 McGinley Road
Monroeville, PA 15146

Phone: 412-856-2608 Fax: 412-856-2669

anita.walsh@healthsouth.com

EOE

So What Does the PSRC Delegate to the AARC Do Anyway?

contributed by John M. Hughes, M.Ed, RRT, AEC

I am serving my second to last year of my second consecutive four-year term as your delegate to the AARC. When people ask, "What does the delegate do?", I usually explain the AARC House of Delegates (HOD) as similar in make-up to the U.S. Senate. There is a two-member delegation from each chartered affiliate that meets twice per year in the locations where the fall AARC International Congress and Summer Forum are held. Tom Lamphere (Junior Delegate) and I currently serve as the elected delegation that represents the PSRC. Altogether there are 50 delegations with 100 therapists from all over the country (and Puerto Rico) gathering. Like the U.S. Senate, there is a head table of elected officers who are the leaders of the HOD. Incidentally, I am currently serving the HOD as chair of the Elections Committee that conducts the HOD elections.

A delegate's role is two-fold: First, bring issues that are of importance to the PSRC and have national application to the HOD and the AARC leadership. This also included receiving and commenting on reports from the Executive Office, the CoARC, The NBRC, the AARC leadership, and others and report back to the chartered affiliate membership. A proud fact is the PSRC has been viewed as a best practice model for membership. Our membership rose from less than 1800 (we were the 4th largest affiliate) to where we currently have over 2700. We are now by far the largest chartered affiliate in the AARC. This has led to an increase in our activities throughout the state. Therapists are gathering together for educational events and coming out for the fun events as well. We are also more politically active due to Garry Kauffman's leadership in the state. See his column on page 10

The second responsibility involves two-way information exchange. We receive reports on the plans of the AARC leadership and Executive Office and then comment and/or critique those plans. The AARC works for you and we represent you to the AARC. Like your legislators we influence the formation of policy that directs the priorities and operation of the AARC. In addition, there is a HOD mechanism whereby chartered affiliates submit resolutions for consideration. Similar to bills that are brought before the Senate by a state delegation, they are discussed, amended, and voted upon by the HOD. Those that pass are introduced to the AARC Board of Directors that is meeting concurrently. They consider them and report back regarding their implementation the next day.

As senior delegate, it is my job at the meetings to vote on behalf of the PSRC and to submit a written report to the PSRC Board of Directors disclosing the salient points of the meeting. I am proud to serve you in this way. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at: 2007Delegate@psrc.net

Help Educate Pennsylvania Legislators About Respiratory Care!

Join us for the 2007 PSRC Legislative Day – October 15th in Harrisburg, PA

Make it a **DOUBLE SHOT** and stay over for the **2nd Annual PSRC Conference in the Capital**
Tuesday, October 16, 2007 at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Harrisburg

Schedule of Events (6 CRCE anticipated)

7:00 a.m.	Registration / Continental Breakfast	11:15 a.m.	Exhibit Hall Opens
7:30 a.m.	No RT Left Behind Garry Kauffmann, RRT, FAARC, MPA, FACHE, Director Project Implementation, Lancaster General, Lancaster, PA	12:00 p.m.	Lunch
8:00 a.m.	Ethics, Passion, and Professionalism Toni Rodriguez, Ed.D, RRT, 2007 AARC President, Gateway Community College, Phoenix, AZ	1:00 p.m.	NAVA- Neurally Adjusted Ventilatory Assist: Empowering Human Effort Louis Fuentes, RRT, Clinical Applications Specialist, Maquet, Inc
9:00 a.m.	Break	2:00 p.m.	The Mgmt. of Childhood Asthma Frances C. Gross, DO, Pediatric Asthma Specialist, Lancaster, PA
9:15 a.m.	Mechanical Ventilation: From Hospital to Home Michael D. Dettorre, DO, Director, Home Ventilator Program, Penn State Children's Hospital, Hershey, PA	3:00 p.m.	ABG Pearls and Moving Targets Bill Malley, RRT, FAARC, MS Admini. Directpr, Resp. Svcs, West Penn Allegheny Health System, Pittsburgh, PA
10:15 a.m.	911 - Lessons Learned, Successes Achieved Robert Gillio, MD, CEO, InnerLink Inc., Lancaster, Pa	4:00 p.m.	End of conference

**REGISTRATION for this event can be found on the
PSRC.net website or by contacting
Dave Rubisch at 2007CapDistrict@psrc.net**

ROAD TRIP

A story by Mike Mattis, Gannon University, Erie, PA



"Getting lost on the road to the conference and finding out what it means to be a respiratory therapist."

My first PSRC seminar was one I will not soon forget. Two fellow classmates and I left with no idea of what to expect, other than it was going to be a long, but hopefully fun, road trip. Hey man, we're from Erie; it's a six hour drive. Five hours and nineteen minutes later we made it to Harrisburg uneventfully, or so we thought. We arrived at the address for the hotel, but it was no where to be found. Oops, wrong hotel. Wait there it is right behind us. The Best Western, that's right, "sweet!" We rolled up to the front desk, but not so fast, right hotel, wrong place. Professor Cornfield gave us the address, but it must have been the wrong one. What do we do now? Stop for food! Have you ever tried to drive while eating an order of nachos? But, that's a different story. Anyway, twenty minutes later we had arrived. This time, check in went smoothly. Then the real fun began.

Before we could even get on the elevator we were warmly greeted by a guy wearing shades, a tie-dyed shirt and orange cargo shorts. He said, "I'm Dave Rube, PSRC dude. Are you guys RT's? We're having a Beach Party. Are you ready to party?" I said, "We're on a college road trip, what do you think?" So, we dropped off our bags and headed back down to the party. What a great way for everyone to relax and meet other students and faculty from all over the state.

For us it seemed as if people already knew who we were. Not personally, but when we told people that we were from Erie the reaction was, "Oh, you're the guys!" I was stunned but it also made me feel welcome.

The official party ended at 10:00 pm, I guess they had to set up for the next day, but for us and a lot others it was just getting started. We met some girls from one of the Lancaster programs and hung out. After a lot of talking, laughing, and a late night run to Taco Bell, it was time to crash. Was it really 3:00 am? Four very short hours later, it was time to get up and go to the seminar.

The seminar was great. The topics were all interesting and the speakers were knowledgeable. I learned so much about the PSRC, and what to expect after graduation. *Most importantly I came to realize that the responsibility is ours if we want to keep our profession strong and respected.*

This time on our drive home we knew what to expect. We knew what it means to be part of a respected profession and how by being a member of our professional society, we can make a difference. Not only that, we had a great time and took home some great memories. Everyone was great. From the moment we arrived we could not have felt more welcome. Thanks, PSRC dude and thanks to everyone who made the 2007 PSRC Student Seminar a great success. *I'm telling everyone, "If you ever have the opportunity to attend a PSRC event... Do It!"*

Southwest PSRC Conference Celebrates 34 Years in 2007.

The PSRC Southwest District Conference will be celebrating 34 years this September. The conference has an exciting agenda with many respiratory and sleep medicine topics. The agenda also includes the two hours of Patient Ethics and Safety issues that are required to maintain a PA credential in Respiratory Therapy. There will be 70+ exhibits and great fun at the Hawaiian Luau festivity on Thursday night (pack your shades, flowered shirts and a grass skirt!)

Check out the www.psrc.net website to view the 10 hours of CRCE that are available to you at a discounted rate because you are a PSRC member (register online before 8/31 and get an additional discount too!) and come visit the Pittsburgh area where there is always something going on!

Consider the following events and stay the weekend: Byham Theater—Marriage of Figaro by Pittsburgh Opera; Carnegie Museums; Pittsburgh CLO Cabaret in Theater Square, Gateway Clipper River Cruises, Sen. John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, Andy Warhol Museum, Mattress Factory Art Exhibit, Pittsburgh Celebrates Glass (multi-site exhibits), Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Pittsburgh Pirates against Arizona or St Louis... Hope you are able to join us in the "Burg" for the September 27-28 conference, which will be held at the Radisson Pittsburgh and Expomart in Monroeville, Pa. Contact Gail Varcelotti, SW District Director if you have any questions (2007SWDistrictdirector@psrc.net),

2007 SE PSRC Awards Banquet

contributed by Steve Mosokowski, RRT, CPFT

This 2007 SE PSRC Awards Banquet was a great success! On Wednesday evening March 21, 50 invited guests gathered to honor the winners of the 2007 PSRC Outstanding Practitioner of the Year. PSRC President Cathy Hurley welcomed everyone to the banquet and turned over the program to PSRC SE District Director Steve Mosakowski. Managers from each Hospital spoke about their winning employee who received a gift and a beautiful framed certificate. This year's winners were noted as being practitioners who go out of their way and demonstrate how much they cared about their patients. It was great to see so many hospitals taking the time to honor their outstanding employees!

Additional awards were presented to

- Outstanding Students (see below) from the educational programs from the Southeast region. Students were recognized for leading by example and going above and beyond.
- Puritan Bennett as the 2007 PSRC Outstanding Vendor of the Year, in recognition of their exemplary support to the profession.
- Fara Cooper, in recognition of her dedication in advancing the profession of Respiratory Care .

The PSRC thanks Smiths Medical for their generous contribution so the PSRC could hold the awards banquet and Cardinal Health for donating the Welch-Allyn stethoscope which was raffled off and won by Kristen Bauer.

The event ended with a presentation by Alan Covaleski, the Program Director from Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, regarding what motivates us as Respiratory Practitioners.

PRACTITIONER AWARDS 2007:

Kristin Bauer, RRT, CPFT - Montgomery Hospital
 Karen Blum, RRT - Grand View Hospital
 Bernadette D'Onofrio, RRT-NPS, AE-C - Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
 Carl Hoover, RRT, RPFT - Lancaster Regional Medical Center
 Stephen Kohler, RRT - Reading Hospital and Medical Center
 Glen McMasters, RRT-NPS - Lancaster General Hospital
 Colleen McNally, RRT - Thomas Jefferson University Hospital

Ann Newman, RRT - Hanover Hospital
 Gloria Reiter, RRT - Sacred Heart Hospital
 Carol Robinson, CRT - Chester County Hospital
 Maureen Romano, RRT - Triumph Hospital - Easton
 Kathryn Sebastian, RRT - Abington Hospital
 Susan Sidler, RRT - Evangelical Community Hospital
 David Sestili, CRT, RPFT - Temple University Hospital

STUDENT AWARDS 2007

Jennifer Breidinger - Millersville University
 Shannon Childs - York College
 Tracy Haas - Harrisburg Area Community College
 Veronica Malenka - West Chester University / Bryn Mawr Hospital
 Susan Schneyer - Gwynedd Mercy College

2007 PSRC OUTSTANDING VENDOR OF THE YEAR PURITAN BENNETT

2007 Student Conference—What a Success!

contributed by Dave Rubisch, RRT, Capital District Director

On Friday April 20, the PSRC hosted the 2007 Student Conference and Job Fair. Over 200 students and program directors from 11 Respiratory Therapy programs across the state gathered for this annual rite of spring.

The educational portion of the conference included lectures from Alan Covalesski speaking on "Life After RT School - What Do I Do Now?". Tom Lamphere explained to students how they could "Get Involved and Make a Difference!", and Former Lt Governor Mark Singel shared his expertise on "Making Your Voice Heard on Capitol Hill". The morning session concluded with Terri Seargent's riveting and poignant personal story, "The Life and Breath of a Woman With Alpha One Antitrypsin".

The morning session was followed by lunch. The students also participated in a job fair with fifteen of the biggest and best hospitals in the state. Testimonials from students attending the West Chester University respiratory therapy program included:

The PSRC conference was a positive experience for me. It is extremely important that we students know how important passion is to the field, as well as how crucial it is to be involved in the community by joining organizations such as the AARC. **Jillian Cruz**

This was the first year I attended the PSRC Student Conference. I enjoyed all the speakers' presentations, but as a non-traditional aged student I felt the topic of professionalism was the most pertinent. Many of the "soon-to-be-graduates" will benefit greatly if they remember Tom Lamphere's summarization: "The cruel reality is that you will be judged". **James (Jay) Salyers**

The PSRC Student Conference was a well organized, beneficial experience for everyone involved. The Sputum Bowl was the highlight of the day, particularly for me because I took part in the competition. Despite not winning, it was a great way to learn. **Jody Murtaugh**

The student conference was not only a great educational experience, but also a time to meet students from other schools and socialize with them about their future plans. The evening before there was a beach party with music and games for students to get involved and have some fun. Everything was beautifully decorated and the food was great. **Gina Scholtz**

I really enjoyed this year's student conference and sputum bowl in Harrisburg. I appreciated the diversity with different programs from all over the state of Pennsylvania attending. I enjoyed being able to meet and network with people from other programs and was excited to have met future co-workers. **Nicole Boyd**

I found the student seminar to be an excellent event to learn more about the field of respiratory care. It gave me a chance to meet and interact with fellow students, who will soon be fellow colleagues. The talk on alpha one anti-trypsin deficiency was an amazing and inspirational story that taught me about this disorder and how I might be able to recognize someone with it in my future practice.

John Ovelman

PSRC 2008 Budget

The PSRC Budget for year 2008 is now available for review at the PSRC website - <http://psrc.net/2008Budget.html>

PSRC members are requested to review the proposed budget and submit comments via email to the Jim Oberdorf, PSRC Treasurer at 2007Treasurer@psrc.net or by phone at 570-723-0111



Southwest District Update

Gail Varcelotti, District Director

The SW District is looking for new blood to help with activities. Contact Gail Varcelotti at 412-370-1749 to volunteer!

Don't forget ! Go to www.PSRC.net website for more information!

- **August 16th PSRC Pirates Night (SKYBLAST 1)**
- **12th annual Golf Outing August 20 at the Buffalo Valley Golf Club near Freeport.**
- **34th Annual Seminar in Respiratory Care and Sleep Technology is scheduled at the Radisson/Expomart, Monroeville, Pa (10 CRCE which includes the two hours of Patient Safety and Ethics lectures required for state credentialing)**

Southeast District Announcement

Steve Mosakowski - SE District Director

PSRC S.E. District Manager's Meeting

The next Manager's Meeting for the South East district is set for Friday, October 5th, 2007 at Gwynedd Mercy College. It is a great day so come join some of your local managers and friends to discuss current and relevant topics. If there are some issues that you feel are important, please feel free to send them to 2007SEDistrict@psrc.net. I'll make sure they are on the agenda. There are many tough issues facing RT's and your input is vitally important. Please make the time to join us.



In Memoriam

William Michael "Mikey" Hagarty, RRT, passed away on May 24, 2006 at the age of 63. Mikey had been an employee at Chestnut Hill Hospital Respiratory Care Services department for the prior 12 years. He began in "Inhalation Therapy" back in the 1960's when he was a corpsman in the Navy. He would frequently regale us with his many unique experiences throughout the infancy of the field of Respiratory Therapy, including the Oral Exams. He touched many people that he worked with, countless patients that he cared for, and the lucky few of us that were his friends. He was an "original", without a doubt, that will not soon be forgotten.

PSRC Offers Discounted AARC Membership Renewals!

Is your AARC membership (which includes your PSRC membership) about to expire? Here's great news! The PSRC Board of Directors has voted to extend the "Discount Membership Program"! Existing members can renew their AARC membership for \$75.00, a savings of \$15 off the normal \$90.00 renewal fee. What's the catch? Simple....there isn't one! The PSRC uses their purchasing power to buy a "bulk" of memberships from the AARC at a discounted price and we pass the savings along to you. The membership is exactly the same as if you renewed directly through the AARC....but at a lower cost to you! Existing members can renew at ANY time without losing any remaining time on their current membership. The AARC will simply add 12 months to your current expiration date upon receipt of your renewal.

Do you know someone who isn't a member of the AARC (and PSRC!)? This program allows new members to join the AARC at the same discounted price of \$75.00! In addition, the new member processing fee (\$12.50) is waived when joining through this program so new members save \$27.50!!

www.psrc.net/membership%20discount.html

Capital District Event

Join the PSRC for the "Last Picnic of Summer"

A Night with the Lancaster Barnstormers

Friday September 14 - 6:05 pm

8 + 8 = 8

**Group seating tickets for \$8.00 PLUS
\$8.00 FREE in Barnstormer Buck\$***

*For members and their families, redeemable on food and concessions

PLUS: *It's Baseball Cap Giveaway night (first 2,500 fans).*

To register using a credit card: Go to the **Fun Page** at www.psrc.net/Fun.html

To register by check: Send your name, address, phone number and email address along with a check for \$8.00 per ticket ordered (payable to the PSRC) to:

Dave Rubisch • 415 Steitz St. • Lebanon, PA 17042

Pick up your tickets and Buck\$ at the WILL CALL window.

*Join in with your profession
and have some fun too!
Volunteer with the PSRC!*

Disaster Response and R.T.

contributed by Randy Solly, BS, RRT, CPFT



A common question that I get asked all the time is, "What do respiratory therapists have to do with disaster response?" The simple answer is everything. In the event of any incident that causes mass casualties or a patient surge, victims ranging from the truly injured to the "walking well" will head to the nearest health care facility (HCF) seeking treatment. Regardless of the cause of the incident, recent articles in the literature show that shortness of breath and associated respiratory symptoms are at the top of the list of chief complaints of those presenting to the emergency department (ED). For example, on August 14 2003, a massive power outage occurred throughout parts of the Northeastern and Midwestern United States. Serving as a microcosm of the overall effect of this disaster, Montefiore Medical Center in New York City saw a 58% increase in the number of ED visits, including a 189% increase in respiratory related presentations due to concern over power for respiratory related equipment (eg: home ventilators, BiPAP/CPAP devices, oxygen concentrators, etc.) Not only was the RT department in the hospital inundated, but also the RT's in the home care arena in answering and delivering back up supplies to those affected patients at home.

Recent environmental events (ie hurricanes, thunderstorms, flooding) have shown that it doesn't take a massive power grid to go down in order to knock out the power for an extended period of time. With this in mind, when a disaster of any magnitude strikes a community, as we can see above, like it or not we as a profession will be involved.

So what can we do to better prepare ourselves when the "Big One" hits? First is to have the RT department become involved in the health care facility's disaster preparedness committee. Current JCAHO standards mandate that each HCF have a disaster plan, and that disaster drills be exercised at least twice a year. It is imperative that RT's be *actively* involved in this process. "Now what do I do?", "Maybe we should have practiced this beforehand" or "Where am I going to get an extra ten ventilators and circuits" aren't questions that should be asked as an event is unfolding.

So how do RT's fit into a disaster response? There are currently a number of incident management systems that are utilized to mitigate the effects of a disaster. Examples include the Incident Command System (ICS), Hospital Incident Command System (HICS), and the Medical and Health Incident Management System (MaHIM). There are subtle differences with each system, but all attempt to establish a chain of command and communication, and to delineate who is in charge of specific personnel and specific supplies. The beauty of each of them is that they can be expanded or contracted to fit the needs of each incident. While it is beyond the scope of this article to summarize the pro's and con's of each system, (a simple internet search will provide more information) it is in the best interest of the RT department to not only become familiar with what system your respective HCF utilizes, but also to practice it periodically. By knowing how the RT department fits into the overall response, as well as knowing what is expected of the department when a disaster strikes, we as a profession will be better prepared to handle the challenges that disasters and the casualties that come with them will present.

Mr. Solly works for the University of Pennsylvania Health System, and currently heads the PSRC's Disaster Preparedness Committee.

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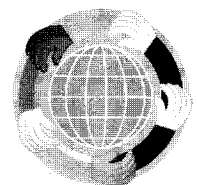
PSRC to Host International Fellow

The PSRC has recently learned they have been selected to be a Host City for an AARC International Fellow.

Philadelphia has been selected to be one of the Host Cities and Chip Malloy, Director of Respiratory Care Services at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital has agreed to act as the main host and will coordinate the activities of the "fellow".

Our international guest will visit several other area hospitals, home care companies, subacute care facilities, and schools with the goal being to provide an opportunity to observe the delivery of respiratory care in both large and small hospitals and in the home or other alternate care sites.

Established in 1990, the AARC International Fellow Program has allowed non-U.S. health care professionals an opportunity to visit the U.S. and observe respiratory care as it is practiced here. The Fellowships have been established to assist health care professionals to visit the United States to observe the practice of Respiratory Care as it is performed in a variety of settings, and visit the educational programs that teach it.



Government Affairs Committee

Contributed by: Garry W. Kauffman, MPA, FACHE, RRT, FAARC,

As your PSRC Governmental Affairs Committee Chairperson, I would like to make you aware of a host of issues of importance to you and the patients you serve at the both the state level and the federal level.

State Issues

1. Asthma Legislation

Rep Michael Sturla has introduced legislation to establish a statewide asthma tracking system. This legislation would develop a comprehensive tracking system to monitor the investigation of factors contributing to the difference in the rates of asthma among different socioeconomic, racial, and age groups as well as provide recommendations for improving greater access to health care for groups with high prevalence of the disease. In addition, this legislation would target resources to areas shown to be the most heavily impacted.

2. Clean Indoor Air

Sen Greenleaf has introduced SB 246, The Clean Indoor Air Act. This prohibits a person from smoking in a public place or a workplace. The bill also prohibits employers from discharging, refusing to hire, or in any form retaliating against any employee or applicant because he or she exercises any right to a smoke-free environment. It is critical for RTs to clearly communicate that this bill would affect all restaurants and bars uniformly and that there will be no negative economic impact as a result of this uniform application.

What Can You Do?

How issues get noticed and rise to the top of the pile is by sheer volume of contacts by VOTERS. Please email, write a letter, or fax a letter to your state senator and state Rep and ask them to support this legislation. This step takes only a few minutes of your time, since all that you have to do is replicate what is noted for each piece of legislation and put your personal touch on it. Secondly, if you have the time, you can contact your state senator and Rep and ask to speak with them and/or their staff at their local office. All of the contact information can be found on the web or in the blue pages of your telephone book under 'State Government'.

Federal Legislation

1. S 329/HR 552 Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Act

For over 20 years, the AARC and other organizations supporting pulmonary health have worked to get a consistent, clear national coverage policy for pulmonary rehabilitation issued under the Medicare program. Medical documentation on the effectiveness of pulmonary rehabilitation is indisputable. S 329 and HR 552, the Pulmonary and Cardiac Rehabilitation Act, will put an end to the patchwork coverage for pulmonary rehabilitation by creating a national coverage policy. S 329 and HR 552 do not create a new benefit because the components of pulmonary rehabilitation are now covered by Medicare.

2. Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative

The AARC launched the Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative to amend portions of Part B Medicare law to allow certain RTs to deliver a broader array of services. Currently, Medicare Part B recognizes a number of medical and other health care services that can be furnished by non-physician practitioners, but Respiratory Therapy services and Respiratory Therapists are not among them.

This would permit RRTs with a bachelor's degree to furnish respiratory services without the physician having to be physically present at the time the service is being rendered. This means flexibility for the physician and new opportunities for the Respiratory Therapist outside of the hospital. This issue is important to all Therapists in this profession, not just those who would be eligible to practice under these new rules. An expansion of services that the profession can offer outside of the hospital opens doors for everyone's future. This initiative would also provide an important avenue for documentation of respiratory services that would provide evidence of the Respiratory Therapist's value. This is a professional issue that every RT can get behind.

Government Affairs Committee

Continued from Page 10

3. Medicare Home Oxygen Patient Protection Act

Legislation was reintroduced to repeal the 36-month oxygen equipment ownership provision. HR 621 sponsored by Congressman Tom Price (R-GA) would repeal the sections of the Social Security Act that now include the provision which requires the beneficiary to own their oxygen equipment after 36 months. Congressman Price says and we concur: Home oxygen Therapy is an extremely important and essential treatment for many of our nation's seniors," said Price. "Medical oxygen is a complicated treatment and requires a prescription. Forcing individuals to own the equipment necessary to deliver oxygen treatment raises serious health and safety concerns. Our seniors do not deserve this undue burden. H.R. 621 will help ensure a life-saving benefit and service for those in need."

4. FDA Control of Tobacco

Bipartisan bills introduced into both the House and Senate on Feb. 15 may finally mean the end to the unregulated manufacture, sale, and marketing of cigarettes and other tobacco products. HR 1108 and S 625 both ask Congress to provide the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the authority to regulate tobacco products. Hopefully, by the time you read this, this will have become law since it is being voted on as this is being typed.

5. Allied Health Reinvestment Act

Several allied health professions, including Respiratory Therapy, are characterized by workforce shortages, declining enrollments in allied health education programs, or both, and hospital officials have reported serious vacancy rates. With the increasing demand for acute and chronic health care services among both the general population and a rapidly growing aging portion of the population, and the calls for reduction in medical errors, increased patient safety, and quality of care have resulted in an amplified need for allied health professionals to provide health care services. S. 605 will provide grant money to schools of allied health to provide outreach and promotion of allied health professions, provide student scholarships or stipends, and recruit disadvantaged students into the professions.

6. Safe Compounding Act of 2007

There has been an alarming increase in the number of business entities entering into the pharmacy compounding arena. These businesses replace patients' prescriptions for FDA-approved nebulizer medications with unlawful pharmacy-manufactured substitutes. Operating under the guise of traditional pharmacy compounding, these businesses manufacture, distribute and dispense millions of doses of unapproved nebulizer medications – without patient or prescriber awareness that these medications are not FDA-approved for safety, efficacy or sterility. We are asking support from Congress to implement legislation that will give the FDA a clear mandate to regulate compounding manufactures, including setting processing standards, labeling and assuring that there is clear disclosure to both the physician and patient when compounded drugs are used.

What Can I Do?

The most effective and easiest means of contacting your federal Senators (Robert Casey, Arlen Specter) and your Rep (based upon your residence) is to utilize the AARC's Capitol Connection. This tool is easily seen on the home page of the AARC's website (www.aarc.org). A simple left click will take you to the webpage that includes all of the information on current legislative issues and the means to identify your federal Senators and Rep. Once you click on the issue, it's as easy as filling in your name, address, zip code (9 digits may be required), and then 'submit' to send the information already crafted for you by Cheryl West, AARC Director of Governmental Affairs. If you want to change or add any words to that provided, you may easily do so and then submit. Since the tragedy of 9/11 and continuing terrorist acts, mail sent through the postal service is sterilized in two locations and is not recommended. Email is by far the preferred technique. If you have some extra time, you can ask to meet with your elected officials in their local office. If we are to be successful in gaining the attention and votes of our elected officials, it is absolutely imperative that we send thousands of emails from RTs across the state and nation.

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience. The best way to contact me is via email (gwkrrt@comcast.net) or by calling me in the evening after 7PM at 717.361.9088.

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PSRC Coming Events

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

Editor for Summer 2007

Gail Varcelotti

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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.

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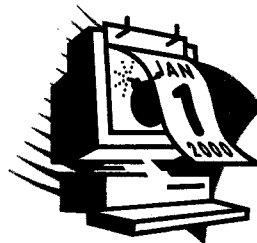
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Check the PSRC
website for
registration info
& the most up-to-
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events at
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Log onto WWW.PSRC.NET
For more information and registration

August

- 7 Capital PSRC Baseball (Reading Phillies vs Bowie)
- 16 SW PSRC Baseball (Pittsburgh Pirates vs Mets)
- 20 SW District 12th Annual Golf Outing, Buffalo Valley Golf Club, Freeport, Pa

September

- 7 SE Baseball (Phila. Phillies vs Marlins)
- 14 Capital PSRC Baseball - Lancaster Barnstormers
- 27-28 SW 34th Annual Conference in Respiratory Care and Sleep Medicine, (Pittsburgh) Monroeville, Pa

October

- 5 SE Managers Mtg, Gwynedd Mercy College.
- 15 PSRC Legislative Day, Harrisburg, Pa
- 16 2nd Annual PSRC Conference in the Capital, Harrisburg, PA

November

- 16 PSRC Pulmonary Rehab Conference, Harrisburg, PA