

Delegation Newsletter: July 2007

What appears below are highlights of the House of Delegate meeting in Reno, NV on July 16-17.

Please feel free to contact either of the delegates for further clarification or copies of written reports.

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Incoming Delegate-Elect
Deb Hendrickson

Delegation Report

AARC Executive Office
<p><u>AARC EXECUTIVE OFFICE</u></p> <p>Executive Director, Sam Giordano discussed the development of a multidisciplinary advisory committee that have an interest in the role of the respiratory therapist in the future. Three planned conferences have been scheduled that will seek to identify roles and responsibilities of the future RT, identify the breadth and depth and extent of education needed, training and competency of the RT, and focus on how to get from where we are today to where we'll need to go to prepare the RT in 2012 and beyond.</p>
<p><u>AARC COO</u></p> <p>Tom Kallstrom, Chief Operating Officer of the AARC Executive Office, touched on a mobile spirometry unit (MSU) operating in different locations, and creating awareness of the general public on COPD. Approximately 7,000 individuals have been screened so far by the MSU. He requested volunteers to help with the MSU when it comes to their area. He stated that 40 attended the National Convention of the High School Guidance Counselors and that about 90 high schools expressed an interest in having a respiratory therapist come speak. There is information on the AARC web site regarding setting up a demonstration for high schools. He showed the delegations various segments of the Life and Breath DVD, which is the new professional recruitment video.</p>
ARCF
<p><u>AMERICAN RESPIRATORY CARE FOUNDATION</u></p> <p>Michael Amato stated that the ARCF annual audit has been completed which showed increased holdings of the foundation. There is an asthma conference planned for September in Phoenix, AZ. A 3-hour video has been released on Indoor Asthma Triggers, in conjunction with the EPA. AARC and ARCF are promoting respiratory therapy internationally. Forty candidates applied for International Fellowships for this year. The ARCF will bring 10-12 Fellows this year to the International Congress. He requested financial support of the ARCF from the delegations.</p>
CoArc
No report.
AARC Elections
No report.
Governmental Affairs
<p><u>FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - 435 PLAN UPDATE</u></p> <p>Frank Salvatore gave an update to his written report. He stated that 15,927 messages were sent to Washington via Capital Connection. Almost 1,000 messages were written on behalf of Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehab. Mr. Salvatore presented slides depicting activities of various states.</p>
AARC President

AARC PRESIDENT

Toni Rodriguez reviewed her written report. In addition she mentioned the possibility of having a consultant at the state level. Her AARC goal #8 is to strengthen the affiliates and their having an outside consultant may be very advantageous in various areas. She will bring this to the Board to get approval and if approved, she will recommend someone. This will be done with an AARC grant.

Ms. Rodriguez asked the delegations to be encouragers of the profession and move people from a state of complacency. Patient care must be first and foremost in order of priority. We must work hard to keep our profession alive, healthy and ever growing. The more involved we are and the more members of our profession – the more our voice will be heard where it really counts.

NBRC

Not present at this meeting

Resolutions

RESOLUTIONS

#21-07-01

"Resolved that the AARC work with the Credentialed Sleep Specialists and their Organizations to avoid adversity between the groups. Also resolved that non-RT Sleep Specialists be encouraged to join the AARC as Associate members and to join the Sleep Membership Section." (Presented by Michigan). Speaker Fox stated this resolution has been postponed until the following day.

#32-07-02

"Be it resolved that the AARC develop Clinical Practice Guidelines for Delivery of Conscious Sedation." (Presented by Delaware). PA presented a friendly amendment to replace the word "Conscious" with the word "Moderate". MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED. AMENDED MOTION CARRIED. Board Action: Defeated. Rationale for this decision: There is an AARC position statement for the Administration of Sedative and Analgesic Medication by Respiratory Therapist. It also recently was revised to include that a physician need not be physically present during the administration and it also references transport.

#32-07-03

"Be it resolved that the AARC develop minimum competency requirements for Respiratory Therapists who administer Conscious sedation within their scope of practice." (Presented by Delaware). PA presented a friendly amendment to replace the word "Conscious" with the word "Moderate". MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED. AMENDED MOTION DEFEATED.

#32-07-04

"Be it resolved that the AARC survey the membership to see if there is enough interest to proceed with the development of a roundtable group to support the Respiratory Therapist's Role in the delivery of Conscious Sedation." (Presented by Delaware). PA presented a friendly amendment to replace the word "Conscious" with the word "Moderate". MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED. AMENDED MOTION CARRIED. Board Action: Accepted for information only. There was a proposed policy approved to assist with the development of Roundtables at this BOD meeting.

#34-07-05

"Resolved that the AARC develop an award that will bring honor and distinction to respiratory care departments/ divisions utilizing criteria similar to the ANCC MAGNET Award." (Presented by Ohio). Ohio withdrew this resolution.

#34-07-06

"Resolved that the AARC adapt age appropriate care verbiage into clinical practice guidelines and other organizational statements." (Presented by Ohio). MOTION DEFEATED.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

#21-07-01

"Resolved that the AARC work with the Credentialed Sleep Specialists and their Organizations to avoid adversity between the groups. Also resolved that non-RT Sleep Specialists be encouraged to join the AARC as Associate members and to join the Sleep Membership Section." (Presented by Michigan). Michigan withdrew this resolution.

#29-06-18

"Resolved that the AARC request that the NBRC change testing qualifications to allow the RRT Examination to be taken by qualified candidates without prior CRT examination". (presented by WI).

Wisconsin amended this resolution to state: "Resolved that the AARC request that the NBRC change testing qualifications to allow the RRT examination to be taken by qualified candidates without prior CRT examination. Upon successful completion of the RRT exam, the candidate will be issued both the RRT and CRT credential." AMENDED MOTION CARRIED. Alabama made a motion to postpone this resolution until the summer, 2007 HOD meeting. MOTION TO POSTPONE CARRIED. Wisconsin withdrew this resolution.

#29-07-07

"Resolved that the AARC create and charge an ad hoc committee to investigate the issues surrounding transition from two NBRC (CRT & RRT) credentialing examinations to one NBRC (RRT) exam for qualified applicants." (Presented by Vermont-New Hampshire). The Nevada Society amended this resolution to substitute "HOD" for "AARC". This amendment was withdrawn by Nevada.

The Wisconsin Society amended the original resolution to state: "Resolved that the AARC create and charge an ad hoc committee to include several members of the HOD to investigate the issues surrounding transition from two NBRC (CRT & RRT) credentialing examinations to one NBRC (RRT) exam for qualified applicants". MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED. AMENDED MOTION CARRIED. **Board Action: Defeated.** Project 2012 will address this - a steering group has been appointed and it will be up to this group to include members from the HOD and others as appropriate.

PAST SPEAKER'S BOD UPDATE

Denise Johnson said that the Board of Directors approved the second reading of the revised AARC bylaws. She gave an update of Board actions on the following House resolutions:

HOD Resolution #22-06-02 (from the 2006 HOD meeting) which states: "Resolved that the American Association for Respiratory Care develop in conjunction with the national Associate of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) a standardized curriculum for training paramedics in the safe and appropriate use of ventilators for transport of patients outside the hospital setting." The Board referred this back to the House for more information. This was withdrawn.

HOD Resolution #94-06-19 (from 2006 HOD meeting), which states: "Be it resolved that the AARC develop the process for the Chartered Affiliates to have the option of on line voting for state (Chartered Affiliate) elections". This remains open - the Executive Office will survey state presidents to see what initial interest there is, assign a work group from the state presidents to pull together the specifics and to cost it out.

HOD Resolution #94-06-22 (from 2006 HOD meeting), which states: "That the AARC investigate the feasibility of providing Internet Domain to each affiliate for the purpose of setting up and maintaining their web sites for the Affiliate". This was defeated by the Board of Directors as not feasible to take on a major project at this time. It would require many additional resources and would be

too expensive.

Ms. Johnson stated that the Board approved the 5-year rotation of reviewing state bylaws. She also reported that the revised bylaws for the following state affiliates were approved: Alabama, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Illinois. Providing an outside consultant to state affiliates by way of a grant was approved by the Board.

Bylaws

2007 is Wisconsin's year for chartered affiliate bylaws review.

Other

The Wisconsin Society donated \$1,000 to the Disaster Fund and \$1,000 to the Delegate Assistance Fund (this check was returned to Wisconsin to take back to their state and determine who to make this check out to as the Delegate Assistance is a House committee). They will re-issue and send to the AARC Executive Office.

POLYSOMNOGRAPHY UPDATE

Sam Giordano, AARC Executive Director, gave some historical background of polysomnography as well as information regarding sleep labs, tests, licenses, physician's responsibilities, educational exams, accredited schools, and obtaining credentials. Tom Smalling, Chair of the AARC Sleep Section, reviewed the educational and credentialing aspects of Polysomnography with the aid of slides. Tom McCarthy, Chair of the AARC State Government Affairs Committee, reviewed legislative aspects of polysomnography and the profession, as well as fiduciary responsibilities. The delegations were invited to ask questions regarding this subject.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

John Hiser stated that ten applicants have been selected for the Fellowship Program this year and twenty cities have been selected as hosts for these applicants.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Tom Lamphere stated that the numbers of AARC members are ever increasing and presented slides of statistics for the states.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion ensued regarding the CRT and RRT credential - Resolution #29-07-07. Speaker Fox had volunteered to appoint an ad hoc committee to investigate this resolution if the BOD defeated it. The BOD did defeat it but from the feedback received from the delegates, Speaker Fox will not be appointing an ad hoc committee at this time.