



# Wisconsin Society for Respiratory Care

Membership  
Newsletter

August/September  
2005

## Note From Editor

If any member would like a hardcopy on the newsletter sent to them please e-mail [brianeisner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brianeisner@sbcglobal.net).

## LOGO CONTEST

The WSRC is sponsoring a contest to redesign our website and WSRC logo. We are looking for some creative therapists who are active WSRC members to redesign our current web page and logo. The winning web page will win \$200 and the winning WSRC logo \$100. The WSRC board of directors will judge the entries and award prizes. Please send all entries by December 31, 2005 to: [brianeisner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brianeisner@sbcglobal.net)

## New District II Rep

Daniel J. Schneider RRT, RCP, NPS is the new district two representative. We welcome him to the Board of Directors. You can reach him by e-mail at: [rugbycoach@charter.net](mailto:rugbycoach@charter.net).

## WSRC President's Letter

There are so many activities going on within the WSRC that I would like to share them with you.

This fall we have 3 contests running. WSRC website redesign (deadline 12/31/2005), WSRC logo redesign (deadline 12/31/2005), and membership contest between hospitals (managers should submit their forms by the 2nd week in October). Each of the contests has prizes to be awarded. Please check the website for more information. [www.wsrconline.org](http://www.wsrconline.org).

Respiratory Care Week is October 23 - 29, 2005. Let the WSRC know what you did for Respiratory Care Week. Email [beckywsrc@yahoo.com](mailto:beckywsrc@yahoo.com) with your activities and include photos that may be used on the web site.

Buses have been rented for the trip to Duluth to the NRRCC Conference. So you can now sit back and just enjoy the ride to Duluth with your fellow Respiratory Therapists.

Congressman Rick Renzi helped to introduce HR964. Senator Trent Lott helped to companion the bill with the help of Dr. Conerly. You can support our profession by sending them a thank you note for supporting our profession. The addresses can be found on the WSRC website. While you are there read up on HR 964 and 435 and see if there is something you can do with for your profession.

Lung Health Day is October 26, 2005 and the AARC has contracted with a company called Sound Targeting to produce radio spots that will air in all 50 states. So listen closely to your favorite radio station that day and see if you can catch a Wisconsin Respiratory Therapist talking about our profession.

The WSRC is always in need of Respiratory Therapists donating their time to their profession. If you would like to help in any direction with activities within the WSRC please email me.

If you noticed the word profession appears throughout this letter. The WSRC is all about Respiratory Therapists and their profession. The WSRC is a professional Society dedicated to the advancement of all aspects of Respiratory Care. During Respiratory Care Week be proud of your profession and share what you do with others. Tell your co-worker what a great job he or she is doing. Talk to your manager and tell him or her you appreciate what they do. One other thing does your best and give that respiratory patient the excellent care he/she needs deserves because that is the reason we are here in the first place.

**Strike**

**Becky**  
**HURRICANE KATRINA**

**President of the WSRC**

The WSRC Board of Directors voted on September 13, 2005 to donate society funds for the disaster relief effort. The board approved donations of \$2000 to the AARC Disaster Relief Fund, \$1000 to the American Red Cross Disaster Fund, and \$1000 to the Salvation Army Disaster Fund. A website link was placed on the WSRC home page to the AARC Disaster Relief Fund to assist members with donations to the AARC Disaster Relief Fund.

## **Respiratory Care Week – October 23 through 29 – “Lung Health for Life”**

**As you know, Respiratory Care Week is a major event that honors the contributions of respiratory therapists to our lung health. It is a week-long event that RTs everywhere use to demonstrate their pride in the profession and to promote the role of respiratory therapists in health care. Just as important, is the opportunity to educate others and to promote lung health awareness in the community.**

We hope that you will join the AARC in encouraging your members, and other RTs to celebrate RC Week in their facilities, businesses, clinics, and schools. It is an ideal time for them to:

**® Reward Staff ® Build Morale ® Promote Wellness ® Raise Community Awareness**

The AARC offers a variety of products that help raise awareness about the profession and educate the public about lung health issues, including asthma, COPD, sleep apnea, RSV, and smoking cessation.

Attached is a file with URLs and images of products that you are welcome to use in promoting RC Week on your website.

# *Delegation Newsletter*

**House of Delegates  
Meeting  
December 2 & 3, 2004  
New Orleans**



Lynn and I attended the HOD meeting on 7-11 & 7-12 in Orlando Florida. This was my first HOD meeting as a WSRC Delegate. It is a real honor to represent our state at this very important meeting. My initial impression is one of shock and awe! There are some very important issues facing healthcare in the near future and these issues will affect our jobs and how we deliver patient care. It is an important time for Respiratory Therapist to stay informed about the legislative changes that may be proposed in the

Medicare overhaul. It is important that we be vocal so our patients don't lose out on being able to receive the care they need by the individuals trained to do that care. The Bill HR-964 that recognizes Respiratory Therapist and their ability to perform physical patient assessment, treatment and education in the patient home is being presented in congress. It is an important time for you to contact your congressional representative and encourage them to support this bill. The more letters they receive the better.

Denice Stingl, WSRC/AARC Delegate

*What appears below are highlights of the meetings. Please feel free to contact either of the delegates for further clarification or copies of written reports.*

**Lynn Lenz (608) 775-3843**  
[lslenz@gundluth.org](mailto:lslenz@gundluth.org)

**Denice Stingl (414) 647-5521**  
[dstingl@covhealth.org](mailto:dstingl@covhealth.org)

## Delegation Report

AARC Executive Office
<p>Sam Giordano was unable to attend. The highlights of his report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public relations</b> activities include 6 Radio spots highlighting issues affecting the profession, Collaborations with other groups, recognition of hospital department through the QRQC-Quality Respiratory Care Recognition program, National campaign for MDI/DPI use and sharing stories about the positive impact that RTs make.</li> <li>• <b>Membership</b> continues to grow with the numbers now at 37,505. We still need to encourage our co-workers to take the important step of becoming an active member! There are many reasons to be a member and the AARC website has some wonderful links devoted to sharing this information @ <a href="http://www.aarc.org/member_services/">http://www.aarc.org/member_services/</a>. Go there and see for yourselves.</li> <li>• <b>Meetings &amp; Convention</b> there were 4 Asthma Educator Certification preparation courses held &amp; Summer form. The <b>51st International Respiratory Congress (the AARC Convention)— Dec 3-6, San Antonio, Texas.</b></li> <li>• <b>Other Activities-</b> AARC remains in a leadership position of the US COPD coalition, RTs asked to participate in the Health and Human Services Homeland security response team. Office spirometry certificate of achievement program and the AARC human Resources Survey.</li> <li>• <b>Chartered Affiliate Contracts:</b> 48 states have signed the contract. Revenue generating opportunities for the affiliate to partner with the AARC will be made available in to those affiliates. The details of those opportunities have not yet been made available. 2006 contracts will be distributed to affiliates by the end of the summer.</li> <li>• <b>Human Resource Survey:</b> If you are a manager you have by now received the HR survey from the AARC. This is the only survey of its kind related to compensation of demographics of therapist. We urge you to complete the survey.</li> </ul>
ARCF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board has agreed to sponsor a 1-day scientific conference on Aerosol delivery via face mask in 2006</li> <li>• Two journal conferences held in 2005- Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia. The results of this conference were published in the July issue of the Journal. The second conference was entitled, "MDI/DPIs in Aerosol Therapy." The results have not yet been published.</li> <li>• ARCF Board of trustees will soon select education and achievement awards for 2005.</li> </ul>
BOMA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BOMA has been in contact with the American Academy of Sleep Medicine on the issue of polysomnography issues.</li> <li>• Working with the American Society of Anesthesiologists to develop guidelines for utilizing the RT to assess post operative patients "at risk" for obstructive sleep apnea.</li> </ul>
AARC Elections

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processes are underway to implement an online voting system for AARC elections in 2006.</li> </ul>
<p>Governmental Affairs</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State governments continue to face the daunting task of funding important state programs with limited budgets. The states financial resources, particularly as it relates to Medicaid and other health funding, have taken the brunt of the budgetary cuts. This type of fiscal environment makes it difficult for State Societies to successfully lobby for an expanded role for RTs in State funded health care programs. Nevertheless, opportunities in the areas of smoking cessation &amp; asthma management are increasing and should be maximized by the profession.</li> <li>Many states dealing with licensure issues to date there have been no threats to the RT licensure in Wisconsin.</li> <li>Many states are mandated by their constitutions to maintain balanced budgets and to do that they are cutting in other places. A disturbing trend is the reduction of the durable medical equipment benefit. This is an issue that needs to be watched by all and we need to contact our congress people to prevent further reduction in this benefit.</li> </ul>
<p>AARC President –John Hiser</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some continued threats to Licensure this is being addressed.</li> <li>Spoke to 7 state societies.</li> <li>Ventilator competency by Rich Branson will be made available on the AARC website.</li> <li>21% of AARC Revenue comes from membership. Recommend that affiliates develop a strategic plan to address membership which include setting goals and assigning responsibility for action an plan. Some strategies discussed.</li> </ul>
<p>NBRC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The time limit on RRT eligibility took affect Jan 1, 05. You must take RRT in <b>3 years</b> other wise you will need to re-take CRT.</li> <li>The new expected graduation policy will allow students to take the CRT 30 days prior to graduation with results held until proof of graduation is filed.</li> <li>A Viability study in developing a Sleep Disorders Specialty Examination will take place in September 2005.</li> <li>The AARC and the NBRC are planning to offer \$40.00 discounts on all advance practice exams to AARC members. The hope is that this will encourage the 11,000 RRT eligible CRT's to take the exam. The discount will also apply to the NPS and the RPFT exam.</li> </ul>
<p>Resolutions</p>
<p>"Resolved that the AARC conduct an average of at least two out of every three International Congresses before November 15th of each calendar year, excluding all future conferences previously under contract at the time of resolution ratification." (Presented by NC) <u>MOTION CARRIED.</u></p>
<p>Chartered Affiliated Committee</p>
<p>The committee recommended that Wisconsin be recognized as one of the recipients of honorable mention by excelling in the membership category.</p>
<p>HOD Elections</p>
<p>Lynn was nominated for the position of HOD secretary. Elections will take place in San Antonio.</p>

## 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Art Contest Sponsored by WSRC

“People Over Profit. Stop Big Tobacco”

For the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the WSRC is a major sponsor of the annual Tobacco Free Youth Art Contest in La Crosse by donating \$500.00. In addition to providing financial support WSRC members in La Crosse worked with members of the La Crosse Area Health Initiative –Youth Advisory Council (Y.A.C.) to promote the contest and distribute entries. The contest traditionally attracts over 800 youth entries each year and is very well received by school health and art teachers.

If you'd like more information on how to hold a similar contest in your area contact Lynn Lenz at 608-775-3843 or [lslenz@gundluth.org](mailto:lslenz@gundluth.org).



## St. Francis Starts Harmon-O<sub>2</sub>-Cats

We are excited to announce a new program for COPD patients & family has started @ St. Francis Hospital. The program is called: **Harmon-O<sub>2</sub>-Cats**. It is a breathing program that not only teaches controlled breathing techniques but it also teaches patients & family to play the Harmonica. The group spends it's time learning to blow through the harmonica very much like the resistive breathing devices as they blow out there is beautiful music in the air. Well .....that might be going a little **too** far but it is starting to sound better every session! We have some wonderful instructors/staff who are volunteering their time to help the group and we were lucky enough to get a local music company, *Interstate Music*, to donate 25 harmonicas. New members are always welcome and they may register by calling: Denice Stingl, Respiratory Care Manager @ 647-5521.

### Membership Contest

The WSRC Membership Drive is in it waning moments. It not too late to join the AARC and have your department win one of the prizes. Winners will be published on the WSRC website and in the October newsletter.

## New Education Committee Chair

The WSRC welcome Mary Bandler Program Director of Moraine Park Technical Collage as the WSRC education committee chair.



### American Lung Association

### Asthma Walk Milwaukee

October 8, 2005

Association hosted the 2005 Asthma Walk along  
 October 8, 2005. The WSRC Home Care  
 registration, and the WSRC was a mile sponsor  
 the Milwaukee area respiratory therapists gave their  
 support to the fight against asthma by participating in this event. The  
 WSRC would like to thank the Home Care Committee for their active role  
 in this event.

## District 3 News

Aurora BayCare is hosting the Diagnostic Pathways 2005 on Friday October 28, 2005 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center Green Bay, Wisconsin. AARC 5.5 CEU. Contact Dorothy Summers for more information at 920-288-4601.

Bellin Health is hosting the Sleep Medicine Conference on Thursday, November 3, 2005 in conjunction with the Cardiovascular Conference. To download a registration forms go to [www.bellinhealth.com](http://www.bellinhealth.com). AARC credits applied for.

Katherine A. Schlitz, BA, RRT, CPFT, AE-C  
RCP – Program Director  
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College  
District 3 Rep WSRC



## **Medicare Pulmonary Rehabilitation Bill Introduced in Senate**

A bill that would clarify Medicare policy on pulmonary rehabilitation has been introduced in the Senate, paving the way for coverage of these services, a goal sought by AARC for over 20 years. “We still have much work to do,” said Cheryl West, Director of Government Affairs, “but the introduction of this bill is an excellent first step toward solving an issue that has been problematic for patients for years.”

S1440, the Pulmonary and Cardiac Rehabilitation Act of 2005, has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Senator Blanche Lincoln (D-AR). Senator Crapo is chair of the Congress’ U.S. COPD Caucus, a congressionally based caucus of which the AARC is an organizational partner. The bill requires Medicare to cover outpatient pulmonary rehabilitation, an issue we’ve tried to seek clarification on for over 20 years.

### **Letters Needed from RT Community**

West explained that introduction of a bill does not guarantee passage and the AARC asks that all AARC members write to their Senators urging support of the bill.

“We have made it easy for all members to write to their Senators,” said Sherry Milligan, website content manager. This is accomplished through the AARC’s Capitol Connection, a system that allows you to send emails directly to your congressional representatives.



## **Send Thank You Notes for Support of those supporting our profession with bill HR 964:**

The AARC would like all Respiratory Therapists to send a THANK YOU note to the following individuals for their support of bill HR964:

Senator Trent Lott  
487 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2403

Congressman Rick Renzi  
418 Cannon House Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0301

A. Wallace Conerly, M.D.  
1463 Jones Loop Road  
Terry, MS 39170

## **NRRC UPDATE**

The North Regional Respiratory Convention will be held in Duluth, Minnesota on May 3, 4, and 5, 2006. The hotel accommodations should be less than \$100/night. The WSRC Convention Committee is exploring bus transportation to Duluth via coach buses. The current suggestion is to have two bus routes starting in Milwaukee and Green Bay. Each bus would have a couple of stops along the route to cover the majority of the state. Further information will follow in upcoming newsletters and the WSRC website. Mark your calendar now.