

Delegation Newsletter

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



This was my last HOD meeting as a WSRC delegate. I will serve in the House as treasurer for one more year but you will elect a new delegate this Spring. It was an honor to serve and represent the WSRC. I learned a lot and met some very dedicated therapists from around the country. I had hoped to make more of an impact on the profession, but I am pleased to have represented the WSRC,

One thing that I learned was that there are several people in the House who have served for 12-16 years. These are very dedicated individuals and they do a great job. I was humbled to be in their presence. This also highlights how few "new faces" there are in the association at both the state and national level. This is a problem that needs to be addressed at both levels. Another problem that is most evident during my tenure in the House was membership. Although our membership is growing, we still have only about 30% of the practicing therapists in the country who are members of their professional organization. This greatly hinders the AARC's ability to impact change on a national level.

I hope that more WSRC members will seek to be actively involved at both the state and national levels. I will continue to work with the WSRC and AARC and look forward to seeing some of the "new faces". Thank you.

Bob Milisch, 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.

Bob Milisch (608) 785-9244
milischr@wwtc.edu

Lynn Lenz (608) 775-3843
llenz@gundluth.org

AARC Executive Office

- **Membership has surpassed 37,000. This is still inadequate considering there are 110,000 licensed therapists. Also, only 50% of RT Department Managers are members.**
- **Respiratory Therapists were mentioned in the Wall Street Journal article (12-1-04) about SWAT teams. Lynn mentioned during open mike that they had just launched a Medical Response Team at Gundersen Lutheran and asked others to share their experiences.**
- **AARC is developing a Registry Prep Course for next year. The program will be self-**

- paced, individually tailored.
- AARC will be offering more distance learning programs.
- AARC has developed a guidance document on the distribution and storage of RT medications which has been “blessed” by JCAHO. This is available on the website in the Management Section. JCAHO will still not give a definitive answer regarding carrying medications in staff pockets. This seems to be up to individual surveyor interpretation however they do look for consistency throughout the organization (ie: if nursing uses pyxis – so should RT).
- There are 100 international therapists who are special members of AARC
- AARC webcasts are excellent ways to get CEU’s. The program is free but there is a minimal cost (\$15.00) for CEUs.
- The webcasts are also available free of charge in an archive format.
- Two consensus conferences are planned for 2005: Ventilator Associated Pneumonia and Successful use of MDIs and DPIs
- Updated Uniform Reporting Manual now available for purchase - member price \$150.00. Includes pediatric time standards. This is a valuable tool for productivity studies.
- Benchmarking project underway to identify best practice. Should be available by year end 2005.
- CRCE process improved. As of Jan. 2005 you only need to apply for program CRCE’s 30 days in advance. There will be a \$35.00 charge if approval is needed less than 30 days.

AARCF

- New endowment from INO Therapeutics for first time authors.
- Hall of fame was established. A list of preliminary nominees was available for voting at exhibit hall. A narrowed down list will be voted on by CoARC, NBRC and AARC.
- Soliciting funds for VAP and MDI/DPI conferences in Feb. and May respectively.

CoARC

- 357 programs are accredited by CoARC.
- 800 entry programs enrollments, 5,500 RRT enrollments.
- All programs with participation thresholds will be required to use SAE’s.
- Site visits have new criteria for satellite campuses.
- Key personnel can be replaced with unqualified for 6 months and renewed up to 18 months.
- No restriction on satellite campuses.

Board of Medical Advisors (BOMA)

- BOMA supports AARC and CoARC getting into polysomnography

AARC Elections

- Mike Runge – Pres. Elect
- Tim Meyers – VP internal affairs
- Linda Van Scoder-External affairs
- Toni Rodriguez-Treasurer
- Susan Renaldo-Gallo-Director
- Tom Kallstrom-Director

Governmental Affairs

- The new congressional session begins next year.
- Our reimbursement bills may be a part of Medicare restructuring legislation.
- Capitol connections woefully underused – still need to show support for HR 2905 and companion bill S2707. There are 37 house co-sponsors to date.
- Colorado state licensure board has told the legislature that licensure is no longer needed since there have been no respiratory-related deaths or injuries since licensure was begun?

- **PACT Days are March 6 and 7.**

AARC President –Janet Boehm

- **The AARC is estimating a 34.8% shortage in therapists over the next ten years.**
- **The US Bureau of Labor Statistics released data stating RT and one of the 20 fastest growing professions in the US now through 2012.**
- **Membership was down to 29,000 in December 2002 and 37,000 now. This is still low considering the 110,000 practicing therapists.**

NBRC

- The time limit on RRT eligibility takes affect Jan 1, 2005. Those not taking RRT in 3 years must re-take CRT.
- 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.
- Students no longer are required to release results to their schools. It will be done automatically.
- The next version of the testing software will incorporate calculators.
- The development of a critical Care specialty exam on hold while NBRC pursues sleep viability study per AARC request.

Resolutions

HOD #34-04-12

Resolutions: That the AARC begin a dialogue with CPM Resource as a first step in exploring the feasibility of partnering with CPM Resource:

- 1) To facilitate the updating of the AARC Clinical Practice guidelines
- 2) To facilitate the development of an interdisciplinary practice model which includes RCPs

HOD Discussion: CPM (Clinical Practice Model) is a multidisciplinary – nursing based – corporation that developed and distributes interdisciplinary treatment model. Some in the HOD were concerned that CPM is a for-profit company and may utilize some of the AARC's proprietary documents.

HOD Action: Passed plackard vote. Poll vote passed.

BOD Action: Defeated. 31 of 54 AARC CPG's recently updated, nine were changed to evidenced based practice guidelines. Felt that CPM is a commercial interest that may conflict with AARC.

HOD #16-04-13

Resolutions: Resolve that the AARC share e-mail addresses for members with the members prospective affiliate.

HOD Discussion: Doesn't make sense to share everything else but not the email address. There is a process in place whereby the AARC will distribute email to members for the affiliate.

HOD Action: Passed resoundingly by the HOD

BOD Action: Referred to the Executive Office (EO) with request for a report back at the March 2005 meeting.

HOD #16-04-14

Resolutions: Resolved that the AARC offer two and three year membership plans to their new and existing members. These plans should include a discount incentive based on the cost savings and earned interest realized by the AARC for members choosing this plan.

HOD Discussion: Agreed that this was a "no brainer".

HOD Action: Passed unanimously.

BOD Action: Referred to the Executive Office (EO) with request for a report back at the March 2005 meeting.

HOD #00-04-15

Resolutions: Resolved that: The AARC Board of Directors establish an Ad-Hoc Committee to address and communicate issues relating to the business relationship between the AARC and the State Affiliates. The Committee would solicit business related concerns from the AARC and the State Affiliates and publish these business issues to both bodies. The plan would include actions, timelines, and ways and means to deal with future conflicts in business relationships. This plan would include how to handle problems within the Organization between the AARC and the State Affiliates in a positive manner without the feeling from the State Affiliates that they need legal representation when dealing with business related topics. This Committee should be chaired by an AARC Board Member as selected by that body, with at least two other members from the AARC BOD, additionally the Speaker of the House should be a member and at least two members of the House of Delegates, to be equal to the number of the AARC Board members.

HOD Discussion: Wisconsin spoke against this resolution stating that, "that this would add an additional layer of confusion that would deter from rather than enhance communication".

HOD Action: Defeated

BOD Action: None

HOD #78-04-16

Resolutions: Be it resolved that the HOD and the AARC BOD adopt the following procedure for dealing with resolutions that have been passed by the House of Delegates.

1. A Resolution Action and Tracking Form will be developed by the HOD Resolutions Committee.
2. The form will be completed by the AARC Board of Directors or designee(Past Speaker) whenever a resolution is passed by the House.
3. The form will be presented to the HOD no later than the next scheduled House meeting by the Past Speaker of the House or by a representative of the BOD. The form will include either the rationale for rejection or the recommended action and a date of implementation.
4. The AARC BOD or designee must report on any resolution(s) yet to be implemented at each HOD meeting until the resolution is implemented.

HOD Discussion: The HOD speaker has recently drafted a document that does review the status of this resolution. Most felt that this was a good start however there still remains an accountability issue. The HOD officers agreed to continue to work on this with the AARC BOD.

HOD Action: Postponed to the Summer meeting. The HOD officers will try to implement with the BOD.

BOD Action:

Resolution: That the NBRC allow the use of calculators on NBRC exams.

HOD Discussion: NBRC states that calculators are unnecessary for the exams.

HOD Action: Defeated

BOD Action:

HOD Elections

- Bob Milisch, Wisconsin, elected Treasurer
- Denise Johnson, Minnesota, elected Speaker-elect
- Debbie Fox, Kansas, elected Secretary

This is outstanding representation from the Midwest. Please note that both Bob and Denise are working members of the North Regional Respiratory Care Convention (NRRCC) Committee. We should also mention that Charlie McArthur was recently sworn in to the AARC BOD as Specialty Section Chair of Diagnostics. Charlie is also involved with the NRRCC coordinating speakers. We are very proud!