

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

**PUBLISHED BY THE WISCONSIN
SOCIETY FOR RESPIRATORY CARE**

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Just a few updates from District IV.

Election ballots will be going out next week for the term of 2003-2004, please take this opportunity to vote, we put a lot of work into this committee so a response is appreciated.

Our next BOD Meeting in Portage will be March 11, if anyone is interested in learning more about the current BOD activities, I invite you to come along.

You can e-mail me or contact me at SLMC at 414-649-6414. Remember, the WSRC website can be reached at:

www.wrsconline.org.

The state convention will be April 29,30 and May 1 in the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc. If you haven't received a flier on the conference please contact me. Registration and more complete information will be coming out shortly.

Thanks to all District IV members that offered their time to the Convention Committee.

Our next District IV meeting will be March 12, 2003, at Friday's Front Row at Miller Park. Space is limited, registration required, enroll as an AARC member for \$75.00, a

\$12.50 savings, checks made out to the WSRC. Please post the attachment for your employees. AARC CEU PENDING.

Please post or share the information provided.

Respectfully,

Angela Dittman, RRT
WSRC
District IV Representative

**WSRC
DISTRICT IV MEETING
MARCH 12,2003**

MEETING 6:00 – 630 PM

LECTURE AND DINNER630-730

**TOPIC
COPD GOLD STANDARDS**

**PRESENTED BY
DR. STEPHEN PRESBERG MD
PULMONOLOGIST
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN**

**LIMITED TO 30 PARTICIPANTS
CONTACT ANGIE DITTMAN
DISTRICT IV REPRESENTATIVE
BY MARCH 10
AT
414 649-6414**

Comments from AARC

From Bridgette Wintlend and

News Now@AARC January 15, 2003

**Your Opinion Counts
AARC Ambassadors
Three Groups Issue Statement
Congress Abstracts Available**

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

Check out this new feature on our website.

"Your Opinion Counts" will gauge your opinions on important topics of the day -some serious, some fun. Already we've asked our members about smallpox vaccines and use of handheld PDA devices. Check it out frequently on our home page (right side) at:

<http://www.aarc.org/>

AARC AMBASSADORS

You can help strengthen your profession by being an AARC Ambassador. Sign up to recruit at least one new member by next International Respiratory Congress. You'll be named an AARC Ambassador and receive several e-mailings throughout the year to help you keep in-the-know about AARC goals and activities.

<http://www.aarc.org/headlines/ambassadors/>

THREE GROUPS ISSUE STATEMENT

To support a stronger profession, the AARC, CoARC, and NBRC have all approved a statement to encourage advanced education and credentialing for respiratory therapists. See what the groups have to say at:

<http://www.aarc.org/headlines/landmarkstatement.asp>

CONGRESS ABSTRACTS

Abstracts from the RESPIRATORY CARE Open Forum at the 2002 International Respiratory Congress are available compliments of Allegiance Healthcare on their website. Not only can you get a free copy of all abstracts from the 15 Open Forum symposia at the Congress in Tampa, the abstracts from the 2001, 2000, and 1999 Congresses are posted for you. See the Allegiance site at:

<http://www.allegiancehealthcare.com/respiratory/ab2002/toc.asp>

Let your colleagues and friends know you get information fast from your professional organization, the AARC! If they're not members, ask them to join or renew

TODAY!

<https://secure.aarc.org/membership/>

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Asthma Awareness Month

From: westaarc@uswest.net

To: pact@aarc.org

Subject: Organizing RT events for World Asthma Day/Month

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2003 8:46 AM

Hi Everyone,

The month of May has been proclaimed Asthma Awareness Month, and May 6th, 2003 is World Asthma Day. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the agency spearheading efforts to promote and co-ordinate local asthma education events. We hope that respiratory therapists from around the country will be actively involved in organizing some of these events.

The AARC is a member of the EPA Asthma Partners, where organizations and providers work with the EPA on various asthma related projects. It is the goal of the EPA, working with its Partner organizations and associations, to have at least 500 local asthma education events take place during May.

As the leadership of the state societies we hope you will

- 1) Consider hosting a state society asthma education event.
- 2) Spread the word to other respiratory therapists to take part in or organize their own events. Perhaps sponsoring a Legislative Day at your state Capitol. (Which not only promotes the Month/Day but emphasizes the RT role in managing the disease)
- 3) Do a health screening (PFTs) at your hospital, or health fair.

The EPA wants its Partners to keep track of and report back to the agency on the asthma events that they and their members organize. We need a good showing from the respiratory therapy profession. To that end I would ask that, as you become aware of or organize an event for Asthma Month/Day, if you would drop me an e-mail (mailto:west@aarc.org) so I can keep a master list, which I will eventually send on to the EPA. What I would need is something short but specific (i.e. "Health Fair at Johnstown Mall, Wellsville, IL, May 13th" or "Pulmonary Function Testing at St. Mary's Hospital, Canton, OH, May 6th").

To help its Partner members organize events, the EPA has put together a World Asthma Day Event Planning Kit which can be downloaded from the agency's website at <http://www.epa.gov/asthma>, or call IAQ INFO at 1-800-438-4318 to order a copy. (This Kit is available to anyone, so please let the RT's in your state know about it.)

The Kit includes information on how to plan events in schools, hospitals, libraries, State capitol buildings, and other community settings. The Kit also includes a sample proclamation, press release, local and regional contact lists, and a form for ordering free asthma materials for their event, such as videos, brochures, posters, coloring books, health curriculum, stickers, spacers, peak flow meters, etc.

Finally, as many of you know, the AARC has been strengthening its ties with the EPA. The AARC has, in the past 3 years secured significant grants from the EPA to undertake projects directly related to respiratory therapists and asthma education. More and more provider groups are competing for limited EPA grant money, and we want to be able to show that respiratory therapists are indeed a health profession worthy of EPA recognition. By making a "good showing" during Asthma Awareness Month/Day events we demonstrate to the EPA that their support is not misplaced.

I look forward to hearing from you. Let me know if you have any questions.

Cheryl A. West, MHA
Director State Government Affairs

Phone: 303-663-1572

WSRC says, "Please vote!"

Editors Corner January to March 2003

WSRC ballots went out in the mail this week. Please vote and return in the provided envelop. Last year only 25% of the WSRC members voted. Please, send in your votes this year.

2003 Annual Convention is quickly approaching. Our convention committee has again worked very hard. Please mark your calendars. Registrations will be mailed shortly. April 29, 2003 thru May 1, 2003 in Oconomowoc.

* Visit our web site @ www.wsronline.org