

WSRC NEWSLETTER

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WISCONSIN SOCIETY FOR RESPIRATORY CARE
P.O. Box 26005 Milwaukee, WI 53226
<http://www.wsrconline.org>

Greetings WSRC Membership,

A dear friend stopped by to see me today; his new line of ware is durable medical equipment walker, canes, and such. He handed me his catalog and innocently said, "You know Ang our generation is aging," I of course rolled my eyes and reminded him that I was younger than he, but what he spoke was the truth.

This conversation along with a report published by the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) confirms we as health care providers are aging. Its report demonstrates that 11% of our fellows Respiratory Therapist are over the age of 55. The Department of Labor reports employment of respiratory therapists is expected to increase faster than the average of all occupations through the year 2012, because of substantial growth in numbers of the middle-aged and elderly population—a development that will heighten the incidence of cardiopulmonary disease. The number of people between the ages of 54 and 65 is growing six times faster than the rest of the population in our state. As knowledgeable and experience employees retire, hospital will be recruit from a pool of applicants that is not large to fill all the vacant position.

According to the WHA our current professional vacancy rate is at 4.9%, which ranks respiratory therapy number three on their list. The decline enrollment within our technical programs has been at crisis level for several years. We have seen an upswing in enrollment in the last two-three years. Currently, many programs are at full enrollment, with next year's admissions filling up quickly. Eau Claire and Fond du Lac Technical Colleges have applied to CoARC for accreditation, this will bring the total number of Respiratory Programs in the State of Wisconsin to seven. Hopefully the statistic provided by WHA will support the continued growth of all statewide programs.

The WHA advises that now is time to start addressing a work force shortage, not when the crisis is at hand. They WHA recommends the following initiatives:

1. Create interest in health care careers.
2. Interest new audiences in health care careers. Recruiting must reach minority population to more accurately reflect the state's demographics.
3. Expand capacity in the educational system, which doesn't have the capacity to meet the future needs.

4. Encourage new educational strategies. Those working fulltime, living in non-urban communities and those with other family obligations need more options for weekend, evening, online and /or video conference learning.
5. Create and develop faculty. Technical school faculty is an average of 57 years of age. Incentive to enter teaching career, flexible educational paths, and the creative use of practicing experts will be necessary in the future.
6. Obtain and retain funding. The state of Wisconsin' budget dilemma cannot be ignored, however it is important that no current funding be lost and that additional possibilities be explored.
7. Support new entrants into the health care workforce. Strong orientation programs peer support and guidance are critical element of successful entry program.

Please take the opportunity to work with your community high schools. Become involved with your employer's recruitment initiatives and ensure that respiratory therapy is part of this process. The statistics are available it just take a voice to bring our profession to the forefront. Most importantly stay involved in your professional organization.

To read more about the above reports link onto <http://www.waha.org/>,
<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos084.htm#outlook>, <http://www.jsonline.com/bym/news/jan05/297851.asp>,

Respectfully,

Angela Dittman
 President, WSRC



North Regional Respiratory



Care Conference

Mark your calendars, check our website, look in your mailbox the information you need to be a part of the First Annual NRRCC conference is available to you! The conference will be held April 25-April 27 2005 and will be held in the Wisconsin Dells.

For general information contact Greg Spindler Convention Chair at GSpindler@shcc.hshs.org, Pete Weber in regard to the annual golf outing at ptwebe@bellin.org and Jon Peterson rtjpeter@sbcglobal.net in regard to exhibit information.

Other NRRCC events posted on the WSRC Web page are:

- ***Sputum Bowl Rules and Applications***
- ***Student Poster Board Competition, Rules and Application.***

CHECK IT OUT AT:
www.wsrconline.org.

VOTE

As a WSRC member please exercise your right to vote. Ballots will be mailed out mid to late February and will need to be mailed back to the Nomination and Elections Committees by March 21, 2005. Any questions contact myself at

angiewsrc@aol.com or Barb O'Leary at oleachy@execpc.com.

Each year it's an endeavor for the state to recruit new members to the BOD. Often the position goes unopposed. Take the next year and consider being part of your professional organization. It's a worthwhile cause, which allows you to network with your peers and to set a direction for the membership as a whole.

Employers please help us recruit your staff. Check with your administrators to see if the time spent working on the WSRC BOD can be counted towards the hospitals community benefit time/in kind donation.

Exercise your democratic right to be able to choose your professional board of directors.



RCP Examining Council Openings

There are immediate openings on the Respiratory Care Practitioner Examining Council. The Council, which serves as an advisor to the Medical Board, is made up of three respiratory care practitioners plus a physician and public member.

Requirements for the RCP Member:

- Has at least 3 years experience as an RCP.
- Holds a current certificate to practice in Wisconsin.
- Is **not** an officer, director or employee of any association that promotes the profession, such as the AARC or WSRC.

The Council meets 2 to 3 times a year in Madison. Members are paid a per diem (generally \$25) and expenses for meetings. Appointments are for a 3-year term.

At the meetings, the Council considers issues relevant to the profession, reviews applications and administers oral exams. (Note: the orals were recently revised to reflect current practice standards. The questions, answers and references are provided to the examiners.)

The Medical Board appoints the professional members of the Council. If you are interested in serving, send a resume to:

Ms. Susan Evans
Chair, RCP Examining Council
Western Wisconsin Technical College
P.O. Box C-0908
La Crosse, WI 54602-0908

Ms. Evans will forward the materials to the Medical Board for their review.

Kettering Seminars to take Place in Wisconsin
Abstract Contest
AARC Updates



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE
UPDATES?

As of January 1st 2005 the NBRC rolled out its newest guidelines. All current CRT credential holders have until December 31st, 2007 to obtain RRT Credential. If the current CRT credential holder chooses to wait until

after December 31 2007, to sit for the RRT exam, you must re-credential as a CRT before you are able to obtain the RRT credential.

All subsequent **graduates** obtaining their CRT credential will have 3 years after their initial credentialing date to obtain their RRT.

Nbrc continuing competency program

For some of you, the date is drawing near that you will need to credential to the next level of credentialing or submit 30 CEU within a five-year period.

This is an ongoing NBRC requirement for those obtaining NBRC credentials after July 1, 2002. This includes, CRT, RRT, CPFT, RPFT, and Neonatal Specialist

I emailed the NBRC in regard to what is an acceptable CEU and Laura Tinkler responded with the following information, "Regarding the NBRC's Continuing Competency Program (CCP), acceptable CEU's are those approved for CRCE credit by the AARC. So, in essence, any CEU's directly related to the practice of respiratory therapy that have been approved by the AARC will be acceptable for the NBRC's CCP. The AARC has a section on their website listing available, approved courses for CRCE credit and I believe this is searchable by state as well."

"The NBRC's reporting mechanism is still being worked out but our intention

is for individuals to complete their CCP application online and indicate what CEU's they have obtained and then the NBRC will perform a random audit of participants."

A brochure on the Continuing Competency Program can be obtained at:

<http://www.nbrc.org/CredMembers.htm>
Credential Members link on the homepage of the NBRC. I encourage all employers, instructors and members to read over this detailed brochure.

Notification will be mailed out to the credential holders one prior to expiration of credentials, 6 months, and 90 days. There will be no grace period.

For further information contact the NBRC @ www.NBRC.org

REMINDER ABOUT THE WSRC NEWSLETTER.

The WSRC Newsletter will be going electronic starting with our MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER.

You will be sent the newsletter through the AARC electronically, provided that you have included your email information with your AARC application. This newsletter will

be sent out in both formats.

Otherwise it will be available through the WSRC website at www.wsrconline.org.

We will send out post cards reminding you of this change.

HAVE YOU CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE LATELY?

Looking for a Job?

Employment opportunities are available on the WSRC Web Page located on the left hand side under "employment opportunities."

UPCOMING CEU'S

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION.

Send your ideas and thoughts for the next newsletter

Becky Strike, President Elect will be formatting the next newsletter. (YEAH!) All ideas, thoughts or pictures should be emailed to beckywsrc@yahoo.com

MESSAGE FORM THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE.

We are still looking for volunteers for the WSRC Disaster Response and Preparedness committee, that I'm chairing. I will be sending Bob Fluck AARC an updated member list in June after our convention and new BOD is chosen, We have

about 4 members and as a profession we would like to see more RT's step up to the plate along with the many other professionals and emergency agency throughout the state.

The focus of this committee is to provide emergency support to surrounding communities in event of an emergency/disaster. Maggie Walsh heads the Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) for the State of Wisconsin. Training classes are offered at various times throughout the year.

We would like to see several members through each district participate as a member of this committee. Please include your district, name, title, address work or home and your e-mail. If you have additional training in I/E. EMT / Fire Fighters/ Hazmat Medics please add that to your response. Send your information to Steve Daveler @ wsrc911@aol.com

Upcoming Events:
2005 GOV Conference on Emergency Management
Lake Geneva
April 5-6 2005

Wisc. Tornado/ Severe Weather Week
April 18-22, 2005

RESPIRATORY AND STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD.

Medical Equipment Specialist and Home Care Medical will be sponsoring the 2005 Student and Respiratory Therapist of the Year Award. To obtain an application for nomination please go to wsrconline.org to download your copy. We do a lot of great work through out the year; please recognize therapist and students that are deserving of this honor.

Wisconsin In Action at The AARC

Brad McNutt, from St. Joseph's Hospital Eau Claire, received an award for his mini documentary "The Stethoscope" at the award ceremony at the AARC Congress on December

The AARC HOD elected Bob Milisch to the Office of Treasurer. (See page 74 of the February 2005 AARC Times) Bob holds a position as Instructor at Western Wisconsin Technical College in La Crosse.

This is a great honor for our state society to have. It also reflects the quality work and the admiration of his peers that Bob has achieved in the role of WSRC Delegate.

WAY TO GO BRAD AND BOB!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

NBRC ADDS NEW TESTING CENTER.

Per Dialog with the NBRC the WSRC was able to procure another testing center for the State of Wisconsin. The new location is in the Green Bay Area. To view, check out the following link:

http://www.goamp.com/sched/w_aspen_acn.show_tc?state_in=WI&p_exam_id=53

We will continue to work with the NBRC to discuss the feasibility of adding another site to the western half of the state.

Northeastern Wisconsin Technical College to Hold Kettering Review.

April 13, 14, 15, 16 2005 NWTC will be hosting the four-day CRT/RRT Review Course. The fee for the course is \$311, which includes 24 AARC Credits, all the lectures, and materials that Kettering offers.

For more information link onto

<http://www.wsrconline.org/PDFfilesOldNew/Kettering%20letter05.pdf>

The March 2005 AARC Times will have photo opportunities of some of our local Military Therapist. Be sure to check it out!

THANKS EVERYONE
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU AT THE NRRCC CONVENTION
APRIL 24-27, 2005.