

WSRC NEWSLETTER

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

Dear Membership:

Fall has arrived and we're six months into the 2004-2005 term of the WSRC Board of Directors. Many of us have been busy supporting our partner organizations, planning our first North Regional Respiratory Care Conference (NRRCC) in spring of 2005, and spreading the word of advocacy within our profession and for those that we care for. All in which you will read about in the following pages. I am in awe by what a small number of individuals, approximately 40 people, can accomplish as a team.

A few weeks ago, I was watching the Today show. Howard Dean was on promoting his new book and he made a statement "Democracy will wither unless individuals understand it's their responsibility not their neighbors to support the process." As I thought about the quote and how it pertains to the upcoming elections, it made me think of its relevance within our own state and national society.

It only takes a few minutes of time to support the Bill's and Legislation which are connected to our profession. It's a click away on www.aarc.org and another click on the Congressional Seal. Our three current legislation alerts include: **Patient Need Access to Respiratory Therapist in the Home, Ensure Patient Access to Respiratory Medication and encouragement of Congressional involvement within the COPD Caucus.**

Our partners at the American Lung Association have made it just as easy to support the issues that are relevant to our profession by E-Advocate, which is an alert for action that will simply connect your support by responding to an email.

Please respect and value your freedom and exercise your right to vote in the National Elections on November 2, 2004. If you are not yet a registered voter you can do so on www.aarc.org webpage. Remember, the AARC BOD Elections ballots are due October 22, 2004 to learn more about the candidates check out the AARC Times August edition. And right in your back yard the WSRC BOD nomination ballots will be sent out in December, please consider being part of the process. Please know Board of Directors and myself are

here to support you. I can be reached at, angiewsrc@aol.com, or at my work at 414-649-6414. We are always glad to hear from you.

You and I have the power to make change, to be supported, to live out a democratic process, to do great things as a team even in small numbers. We as a State Society our approximately 800 members strong 22 fold of those who are actively involved in the board, oh what a difference we could make!

Respectively,

Angela Dittman RRT
President
Wisconsin Society for Respiratory Care

President Elect Call to Duty. Resigns His Position On The WSRC BOD



In late August, Bill Pupanek received activation orders from his reserve unit. He had 10 days to report to an assignment stateside at a Navel Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. Bill can be emailed at William.Pupanek@sar.med.navy.mil. He will be corresponding with us with stories for the newsletter once he is settled.

This has left us with the open position of President-Elect, which to date, we have not yet filled. The position is a 2-year position the first year as President-Elect, the second as President.

As President-Elect you are responsible for formatting the newsletter and Budget and Audit, which is our 2-step method of reviewing the accounts managed by the Treasurer position. The review usually takes place the BOD meeting, which is in Portage every other month.

I am willing to maintain the duties of the newsletter to help the interested candidate get settle in and will be there to help mentor the candidate. All you need to do is contact me at angiewsrc@aol.com. Once candidate(s) express

interest, per our standing rules I can appoint the position post BOD approval.

Please consider this opportunity. I can also be reached at 414-649-6414. -----Angie Dittman

Treasurer Resigns Position

Yes, it has been a busy month! Paul Cade regretfully due to personal reason needed to resign his position as Treasurer. Pete Weber of Bellin Hospital in Green Bay has replaced him. This transition will take place over the next month.. Thanks to both Paul and Pete for their assistance in running the financial portion of the WSRC.

Newsletter to Go Electronic
During 2005-2006 BOD.

Per discussion at the June 2004 BOD meeting the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter was addressed. To ensure our continued fiscal responsibility to the membership it was agreed the newsletter would be posted on the website and a postcard would be sent to the membership when it is available for viewing.

We are eager to hear your thoughts on this matter! Please contact.....me once again

angiewsrc@aol.com. Thanks!

American Lung Association First Annual Asthma Walk.

As posted on our Website, the First Annual ALA Walk took place on October 2nd, at Veterans Park in Milwaukee. It was a chilly morning but the ALA was able to raise over \$92,000 and all had fun.

The WSRC Home Care Committee volunteered their time at the asthma resource table. (THANKS!) The WSRC was a Bronze Sponsor of this event and our team raised 767 dollars. Thanks to Lynn Lenz and her family for coming down from La Crosse to walk with the Milwaukee group.

Two more walks will be taking place in spring in LaCrosse and Green Bay. Those of you who considering developing your local WSRC team, contact Barb O'Leary (oleachy@execpc.com) for WSRC T-Shirts. We have about 15 –20 left and since the silk screen is already developed she can put you in contact with the company that printed the shirts to save on reprinting cost.



From the L Barb O'Leary, Jane Swoboda, Angie Dittman, Jeanee Zurawski, Tanya Masznicz, Diane Jenkins and Rosemary Thompson in back.

Pictures and Stories.

I'm always snapping pictures at WSRC events but I'm in need of events that are going on statewide. If you are holding an event or have great pictures of RT's in action please forward them to me. Please keep this in mind with your RC WEEK events. You can forward them to me at.angiewsrc@aol.com



HAPPY RESPIRATORY CARE WEEK
EVERYONE
FROM THE WSRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Yes, it's that time of year again and I hope you are busy planning your activities within your organizations.

District IV Southeastern Wisconsin is holding their First Annual Hunger Task Force Food Drive during RC Week.

District VI in LaCrosse will have its annual art contest. Display and judging for Teens Against Tobacco will take place during RC Week. The theme this year is Don't Let Tobacco Suck You In. Last year there were over 800 middle and high school participants. The winner will have their work displayed on a billboard in LaCrosse.

We would love to hear what took place within your organization

If you haven't purchased your paraphernalia go to http://aarc.org/headlines/rc_week.asp and connect to information about RC Week and to the AARC store.

*National Lung Health Day October
27, 2004*

Fall Conference Cancelled

Due to unforeseen events within the planning committee for the Fall Conference, the BOD opted to cancel this event. This conference

merits growth and leadership to become an annual event. If your interested in chairing or becoming part of this two day event contact Cheryl Garner at cte06813@centurytel.net .

Membership From Kevin Shrake

September 2004 has been a banner month for AARC membership growth. Not only did we blast through the 35,000 total member barrier, but also we fell only 100 members short of the next millennium of 36,000! Plus or minus a few records that are still being tallied, our total membership figure at the end of September 2004 was 35,900 (please see attached graphs). Approximately 50% of this significant growth was due to a combination of free Internet based student memberships and paid student memberships. The remaining 50% consisted of new members or lapsed members who renewed their membership and came back into the fold once again. This is an impressive spike of activity with two of our biggest months of October and November coming up. We expect those months to be strong membership months as people think about becoming a part of the organization in preparation of attending the 50th International Congress in New Orleans December 4-7.

Now for the unfortunate reality that occurs every month— On October 1, 2004 we had a little over 1,000 members who allowed their AARC membership to lapse. This will drop us back down under the 35,000 total member figure. I am very optimistic, however, that we will dig out of that hole once again and see significant additional growth during the month of October. It is now clear that we will finish the calendar year well above budget in terms of total membership and continue to move strongly toward some goals that many thought unattainable even a few months ago.

I would like to personally thank you for all the great work that you are doing. These results are a direct reflection of all of the local and state activities that are happening in each of your respective areas. I look forward to continuing to report the great results between now and the time of the International Congress. I also look forward to seeing many of you as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary in December. More good news to come!

Kevin Shrake
COO
AARC

**To obtain a Membership at a reduced rate contact Cheryl Garner WSRC Membership Chair for more information at cte06813@centurytel.net
ACTIVE DUTY RTs OFFERED FREE
REGISTRATION TO CONGRESS**

AARC members on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces are now eligible for free registration to the

AARC International Respiratory Congress, this Dec. 4-7 in New Orleans. It's just the Association's way of saying "thanks" to everyone serving on behalf of us all.
READ MORE:

http://www.aarc.org/headlines/armed_forces.asp

ASSOCIATION COMMENTS ON INHALATION DRUGS PROPOSAL

The AARC voiced its concerns regarding proposed cuts in reimbursement for inhalation therapy drugs used by home care patients this week in public comments made to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

http://www.aarc.org/headlines/drug_reimbursement_reductions/index.asp

AARC HELPS RTs HELP PATIENTS WITH PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Two new articles on the AARC web site feature new resources you can use to help your patients who need assistance with prescription drug costs. READ MORE HERE:

http://www.aarc.org/headlines/drug_cards.asp AND
HERE:

http://www.aarc.org/headlines/new_site_drugs.asp

NRRCC UPDATES

Things are moving along for the first annual North Regional Respiratory Care Conference. The conference will have “ three concurrent sessions” which will cover a wide variety of topics reaching all attendees. Total AARC CRCE of 12.5 hours.

Any organization wishing to sponsor a speaker, an event or a meal contact Greg Spindler at gspindler@shc.hshs.org recognition may include signage, notation in binder, announcement, advertisement depending on the level of contribution.

Rooms will be priced at \$104 during registration period. The conference will be April 25-April 28 with the

**BOD meeting on Sunday Evening
April 24 all are welcome.**

NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

**BALLOT WILL BE MAILED OUT IN
EARLY DECEMBER. THE
FOLLOWING BOD POSITION WILL
BE UP FOR ELECTION:**

**DISTRICTS 2,4,AND 6
SECRETARY
DELEGATE ELECT
PRESIDENT ELECT**

**DESCRIPTION OF EACH POSITION
CAN BE FOUND IN THE WSRC
BYLAWS LOCATED IN PDF FORMAT
AT WWW.WSRC.ORG.**

Notes from the Disaster Response and Preparedness Committee

In Process of Development

- Wisconsin State Citizen Corp Council
 - Link existing councils
 - Train citizens to supplement emergency professional
 - Create a Medical Reserve Corps
 - Health Care Professional Registry

For more information contact Steve Daveler
at flitersed@aol.com

