

AARC House of Delegates

Anaheim, CA

November 14 & 15, 2013

What is the AARC doing for you? A summary of the reports from the Fall/Winter HOD meeting:

**Tom Kallstrom Executive director of the AARC report:**

Membership in October 2013 was 51,000. Membership remains the primary goal for the AARC.

Professional Advocacy: Drive 4 COPD 2013 Adopt-A-Company initiative is almost done. This initiative included the recruitment and support of Crew Chiefs and the members of the AARC with receiving and processing DRIVE 4COPD materials to partner with a local business. Over 130 members signed up for the event during RC week or COPD Awareness Month. Strategies and opportunities for AARC members are currently being determined for 2014

Last year (with support from the Alpha One Foundation), the AARC developed an online course about Alpha One. This was done as a response to a needs assessment by the membership. RT's who signed up for the courses were encouraged to be part of a larger multicenter study trying to determine the effectiveness of the respiratory therapist in patient education and diagnosis of Alpha One. The data has been collected and written into a scientific paper to be published in the Respiratory Care Journal in 2014.

Corporate Partners for 2014 include: Carefusion, Masimo, Covidien, Monaghan, Philips/Respironics, Drager, Maquet, Teleflex, Boehringer Ingelheim, Forest Pharmaceuticals, Ikaria and Sunovion Pharmaceuticals.

AARC is modernizing and streamlining the AARC website. The new website should be done before 2014.

A nutrition guide titled "A Guide to the Nutritional Assessment and Treatment of the Critically Ill Patient" has been implemented by the AARC. The guide was funded through an educational grant from GE. On-line access and CRCE's are available on the AARC website.

Meetings and Convention: The 2013 Summer Forum was well attended and survey feedback was forwarded to the program committee for new opportunities and suggestions in 2014. The Summer Forum will be held in

Marco Island, Florida in July. New ideas were processed for the 2013 Congress like: 4 pre-courses, 19 open forums, 30 minute lectures (with same start/stop time), total CRCE of 18, increased exhibit hall hours, and ½ day lectures on Tuesday to help attendee's travel plans or enjoy the host city.

New products introduced: exam prep-NBRC test guided assistance, clinical preceptor course and ACCS course.

A leadership institute coming the first quarter of 2014 (includes a research and educator component). It will also be on-line.

### **International Fellowship committee:**

John Hiser reported there were 32 applications from 23 countries, and there were 7 applications from countries never before applying.

### **Government Affairs:**

Cheryl West updated on HR2619. Congressman John Lewis introduced the legislative initiative in early July. As of October 14, HR 2619 had 16 co-sponsors. Our legislation is designed to provide coverage of pulmonary self-management and education services when furnished in a physician practice by qualified resp. therapist to Medicare beneficiaries who have been diagnosed with certain chronic lung diseases. We need more co-sponsors to be able to gain serious consideration by Congress. The AARC commissioned a firm to evaluate the cost. The analysis indicated that over the course of 10 years there would be a cost increase of between \$245-500 million depending on how well Medicare patients complied with self-management skills. We still need people to write to Congress also have friends, members, patients, and physicians write. She encouraged all to visit with Congress members during recess if the opportunity arises. The AARC has sample letters on-line for use by other medical societies like the ACCP has now endorsed it. Hill day is March 31, 2014.

### **AARC Membership Committee:**

Key points from Gary Wickman and Frank Salvatore were:

- The 2013 membership campaign ended in October, but the website is still up and providing current data and resources for affiliates to make use of
- The winners of the Affiliate competition was 1<sup>st</sup> place- Pennsylvania, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Florida, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place California. The

winners of largest percentage increase was Nevada at 23.6%, followed by New Mexico then Mississippi

- The individual 4<sup>th</sup> quarter winners were from Connecticut and Texas.

## **HAPPENINGS WITHIN THE HOD:**

All committees within the HOD are hard at work for the members; all charges are met or ongoing. Every member of the HOD is expected to be on a committee. Julie is a member of the elections committee and will serve as co-chair of the scrutinizing committee. Best practice presentations are made throughout the meeting days and these ideas will be brought back to the affiliates if needed. Elections were held for the 2014 HOD leadership.

### **New resolutions**

**77-13-14** Resolve that the AARC BOD approve an annual recognition award to be entitled the Bill Lamb Volunteer Award, presented at the national congress which recognizes a respiratory therapist who has demonstrated exemplary service as a volunteer. Motion carried. (resolution accepted and approved by the BOD)

**36-13-15** Resolve that the AARC BOD collaborate with the CoARC, CoBGRTE and the NBRC to develop a strategic plan, complete with time table, to develop Graduate Level Educational Programs equivalent to PA's, CNP's, CRNA's, and Anesthesia Assistants and develop a strategic plan to help the State Affiliates obtain the appropriate licensure for these Advanced Practice Respiratory Therapist in each of the States and Territories within the US. Motion carried (accepted for information only by the BOD)

**19-13-16** Resolve that the AARC communicate with the CoARC and request that the new accreditation standards require all new programs seeking initial accreditation to grant, at minimum, the baccalaureate degree to its graduates, with the proviso that existing fully accredited associate degree programs may continue to function as long as they meet CoARC accreditation standards and actively develop articulation mechanisms whereby graduates can pursue baccalaureate degrees relevant to the respiratory care profession. Motion carried (accepted for information only by the BOD)

**32-13-18** Resolve that the AARC BOD and Executive Office collaborate with the State Affiliate Charters and the NBRC to develop a strategic transitional

plan, complete with timetable, to require minimum entry-level for respiratory therapist licensure to be the RRT credential. Motion carried

**35-13-17** Resolve that the AARC BOD collaborate with the CoARC, CoBGRTE, and the NBRC to develop a strategic transitional plan, complete with timetable, to require the minimum entry-level educational preparation of respiratory therapy program graduates to be the baccalaureate degree level. The strategic plan is to include model curricula to assist existing associate degree programs in formulating articulation strategies with baccalaureate degree granting institutions. Motion carried (accepted for information only by the BOD)

Resolutions: 19-13-16, 32-13-17, 35-13-17 have been addressed by the AARC BOD already and plans have been put in place and are included in 2015 and Beyond initiative

### **Donations to the AARC Causes:**

Ross Havens (HOD Treasurer) reported totals as follows:

- \$750 to ARCF
- \$10,454 to disaster relief fund
- \$502.20 to Bill Bitzel Student Meeting Scholarship Fund
- \$4,550 to the International Fellowship Fund

**Best Practices Presentations:** Jill Saye (NC) presented on the collaborative relationship between their state society and the licensure board in North Carolina. Charity Bowling (IN) presented on boosting CRCE's within the states-she discussed the difficulties Indiana has faced and solutions they are looking into. Pattie Stefans (MT) presented on MSRC Annual Student Scholarships-outlined their scholarship program, how it works, and achieving vendor support. There was some very valuable information shared and if Tom or I feel any of the information would benefit our state then we will certainly share it with the board.

### **Student Mentorship Committee:**

Of interesting note within this HOD committee-there were 24 students from 11 different states attending the HOD meeting. This committee allows students to sit in on the HOD and observe what goes on. There is a person assigned to them to mentor and direct. There was a lot of positive feedback from the students.

### **AARC section chairs update**

**Management Section:** Bill Cohagen reported the main focus for the section has been and will be discussing how to react to actions taken for the ACA. Membership in the section has dropped some. Many longtime managers have begun to retire and the section is reaching out to supervisors and looking for ways to help mentor up-coming managers. The incoming Chair will be Cheryl Hoerr. The SPOY (Specialty Person of the Year) was Dana Evans. The section will continue to work on getting benchmarking data.

**Home Care:** Greg Spratt reported there is a new guide for POCs (Portable Oxygen Concentrators) on YourLungHealth.org website which is a great resource for training your clinicians and patients. The section recently did a hospital to home webcast. Kim Wiles will be the new section chair in the new year.

**Neonatal Pediatrics:** Cyndi White reported there are 1826 section members. Cyndi will be stepping down as chair and Natalie Napolitano is the new chair. This year's SPOY was Wade Rich from California. The list-serve is very active. There are increasing submissions for the Bulletin and collaborations with other sections.

**Education:** Joe Sorbello noted there are 1163 section members. They will be doing a few more web-based section meetings. The section membership is down, so they are trying to recruit more. The SPOY is Dr. Lynda Goodfellow, who has been very involved in the 2015 project. The new chair of this section will be Dr. Ellen Becker.

### **AARC President Update**

President George Gaebler spoke about the "2015 and Beyond" group formed. This group is moving forward with advanced practice act. He feels the market is the driving force. Members from AARC, CoARC, NBRC, and CoBGRTE are working to have a roadmap by April 2014 to help states, based on the individual state and its unique needs, to be able to help attain the 2015 initiatives. In 2015 the NBRC will have a new exam with 2 cut scores. He reminded the HOD when working with these other groups we have to be careful and judicious. No educational programs will be eliminated because we need therapists.

### **AARC Education Update**

Shawna Strickland, AARC Associate Executive Director, presented an overview of the current and upcoming activities in education. She addressed

the release of the Preceptor Training course, the first ACCS prep course and a proposed Learning Management System.

Note from Julie-I would like to thank Tom Cahill for his encouragement and leadership in my first two years as a Delegate. He did an amazing job explaining the process to me and tolerating my questions. I wish him the best of luck as AARC By-law committee chair-we are proud of him.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Cahill

Julie Dowling