

AARC Summer House of Delegates

Orlando, Florida

July 18-19, 2013

What is the AARC doing for you? A summary of the reports from the summer HOD meeting.

Tom Kallstrom Executive director of the AARC report:

Membership in May was stable at 52,517, however the beginning of June dropped to 49,264. This drop is due to the student membership not renewing post-graduation.

Professional Advocacy: Drive 4 COPD launched the Adopt-A-Company program in the spring. The program is currently recruiting Crew Chiefs and supporting members of the AARC to ship, receive, and process the Drive4COPD materials within their states. If interested in helping this program contact Jason Moury from the Drive4COPD campaign.

The AARC has developed a prep course for the Adult Critical Care Exam. This prep course will be held in Las Vegas, NV on Sept 18-19, 2013. Each participant can earn 13.5 CEU's. The AARC is also working on other exam prep courses including the CRT and RRT exams. A participant can take a self-assessment test then the AARC can grade and will be able to tell the participant which areas of the test should be studied or focused on more.

The AARC is developing a virtual museum to focus on the history of respiratory care. Currently they are in the fundraising stage and more information will be posted when available.

The AARC is advocating with other associations including the AHA, CMS, and CDC. Briefly the CMS placed a new regulation to permit trach changes only every 90 days. The AARC has written a letter in opposition of this regulation.

The AARC has been asked to be a partner with the CDC in their pandemic preparedness. The CDC wants to stock pile 30,000 vents in anticipation of a new flu strain. There will be post graduate courses on these vents at the fall international congress.

Changes are going to be made at the 2013 AARC International Congress: 30 minute lectures, identical start/stop times for all lectures, a new Thomas Petty Memorial Lecture has been established, Friday night ARCF fundraiser will be titled "A Night at the Museum" at \$125/pp.

He spoke about other co-marketing products including asthma prep course, COPD educator course, Alpha1course, VAP course, Ethics course, and asthma triggers course. A clinical preceptor course will be developed by the AARC, plans are currently underway to be released later this year.

The AARC hosted a booth in Nashville, Tennessee for the HOSA meeting (Health Occupations Students of America) to promote our field.

Several programs are coming soon including, nutrition resource guide, new CPG's, Clinical prep course online in fall, Leadership institute (entry level leadership course for management, research, and education tracks) should be out before congress, Portable Oxygen Concentrator guide, and new aerosol guides. COPD may be next penalty for readmissions-AARC to release best practices webcast on COPD readmission reduction (4 facilities identified to assist)

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 and Anne Marie Hummel gave the update on HR 2619, the Medicare Respiratory Therapist Act, now introduced in congress. They addressed the analysis done by an independent consultant assigning a cost of \$245-500 million. The question might be asked by Hill staff or Members of Congress on this added cost of our bill. If the question is asked our response, as RT's would be the following: **We believe the cost could be lower if certain offsets are taken into consideration; namely, reduced ER visits (including the cost of a hospital admission, if applicable) and improved oxygen utilization and adherence to medication protocols. For example, if one-half of one percent of ER visits for beneficiaries who received self-management education by RTs were avoided, it could offset the cost of the bill. Or, if 24 percent of those patients improved their oxygen utilization and adherence to inhaled medications like metered dose inhalers and nebulizers, which is also likely to offset the total cost of the bill.**

Cheryl also reported for states to take care in opening licensure acts, and noted the continuing problem in Michigan about decommissioning the licensure board, which has also been threatened in other states.

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. Tom is currently on the HOD orientation committee and will serve as an AARC By-laws chair in 2014. Julie is a member of the scrutinizing committee and also the elections committee. Best practice presentations are made throughout the meeting days and these ideas will be brought back to the affiliates if needed. Nominations were made for the 2014 House officers.

New resolutions

29-13-01 Resolve that the AARC contact the NBRC and request a change to the NBRC's Continuing Competency Program to allow a therapist whose credential has expired to regain active status without re-examination by providing proof of completion of the 30 hour continuing education requirement during the five year active credential period regardless of how long the credential has been expired. Motion was made to call the question. Motion carried

62-13-02 Be it resolved that the AARC allocate sufficient funds to the Delegate Assistance committee to allow Affiliates approved for assistance to receive an additional day of lodging and per diem at the winter meeting. Motion carried

AARC section chairs update

Management Section: Bill Cohagen stated there are 1700 members. The newest project of the section is benchmarking for extubation and intubation rates.

Home Care: Greg Spratt reported on the Portable Oxygen Concentrator Guide and he also talked about readmission reduction programs and the best practices community for the Affordable Care Act program being developed.

Adult Acute Care: Keith Lamb discussed the varied usage of their AARConnect Discussion Lists. The section has 1700 members. He noted their quarterly bulletin helps new writers get some experience with this process. July 31st was the deadline for SPOY.

Neonatal Pediatrics: Cyndi White stated Neo-peds is the largest section with just under 2000 members. She sends out a video message periodically.

Education: Joe Sorbello stated this section has about 1200 members. They are trying to get more involvement from educators who are not based in educational programs. This was a record attendance for the educators at the Summer Forum. He noted the preceptor course will be available in the fall and was previewed at the Summer Forum.

AARC President Update

George Gaebler gave an update of the 2015 project and noted how this dovetails with opportunity for the respiratory care profession. He reviewed actions taken by the AARC BOD on the 2015 recommendations. He noted how the introduction of HR 2619 is coming at an opportune time, just as changes emanating from the Affordable Care Act will force re-examination of the way healthcare has been delivered. He ended with a declaration that he felt this profession is in the best place it has been in a long time.

AARC Education Update

Shawna Strickland, associate executive director, gave an update on education projects including professor's rounds, webcasts with new RC Journal offerings, Exam Prep, ACCS prep, the Clinical Preceptor course, and Leadership institute. She noted reporting features of the new CRCE accreditation system are still under development.

Voucher Membership for AARC

New incentives to replace old voucher program. Incentives for affiliates-additional \$6 revenue sharing for new memberships paying the \$12.50 processing fee. On renewals, affiliates will receive \$12 revenue share, they will begin to offer \$20 gift coupons for renewing members, redeemable for online courses.

Delegate "to-do" list

- Order bricks on-line for virtual museum
- Smaller ventilator survey to take place _AARC looking for 5 academic hospitals, 5 community hospitals, 5 pedi-adult hospitals to participate-talk with Tom Kallstrom if interested
- HR2619-GET LETTERS TO LEGISLATORS!!!
- Drive for COPD- Delegates identify and support state "crew-chief"

- Delegates encourage affiliates to ramp up membership drives
 - Follow progress on website
 - Share best practices
- Affiliates encourage hospitals to include RT's in discharge planning-CMS has letter supporting this on the AARC website (AARC news 6-27-13)
- Encourage Sputum Bowl participants-participation is low

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Cahill

Julie Dowling