

## AARC Winter House of Delegates

Las Vegas, NV

Dec 7-8, 2014

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:**

COPD Best practices group, AARConnect user group has grown to 371 members. This user group or list serve is used as a mechanism for members to share best practices in COPD disease management, readmission reduction programs, and other programs to improve outcomes in COPD populations. There are 18 sessions dedicated to the care of the COPD patient and readmission. They are working on a chronic disease educator program.

He spoke about the Drive4COPD campaign which has now come to an end, in total the campaign screened almost 3 million people, sparked more than 3 million conversations about COPD. Since Dec 2012, the main focus was to bring respiratory therapy to the community's front. The campaign was to make people aware of who we are, what we do, and why we can help improve their lives. The new campaign name will be COPD 360 Social.

The AARC BOD directed Mr. Kallstrom to work closer with AACVPR. He attended a leadership meeting where he presented an AARC update. He was invited to do the same at the AACP and ASA meetings in the fall who have respiratory care subcommittees.

He mentioned the Edison National Medical company where RT's can submit ideas to be patented. Seventy members have submitted ideas and may have to chance to receive royalties.

Other areas where the AARC is hard at work for us is CPG development, currently expanding into publication. The AARC was invited to 2 major events for recruiting by HOSA and the USA Science and Engineering Festival. The Leadership Institute was launched in 2014 consisting of 3 tracks (management, research, and education). Drager sponsored a scholarship to support tuition for 9 RT's.

Of interesting note in the month of December a video played on all American Airline First Class flights about the ARCF. This video was informational for customers (hopefully gaining donations) for the ARCF.

The AARC will be launching a new website in January which will be easier to navigate.

### **International Fellowship committee:**

John Hiser reported there are 4 new international fellows. The AARC International Respiratory Care Program has been around for 25 years, in all there has been 156 fellows from 63 countries. Of special interest, is the 2014 AARC Adult Acute Care Specialty Practitioner of the Year award was given to Hui-qing Ge. This was the first time that an AARC international

member has been selected and she was an AARC/ARCF international fellow, in addition. This is solid evidence the AARC and its international colleagues are achieving the goal of globalizing respiratory care.

### **Government Affairs:**

Cheryl West and Anne Marie Hummel discussed the Medicare Telehealth Carrier Bill, HR 5380, and its potential impact on respiratory therapy. The Medicare Telehealth bill will expand on Medicare and is supported by more professional organizations. These professional organizations (APTA, OTA, and Speech Pathology) are much larger and have lobbyists on the hill. This bill would allow RT's to be recognized by CMS and also to provide telehealth care which right now only physicians, PA's, and CNP's can do and be reimbursed for services. This bill is expected to be introduced in phases, and could expand into home health and rural areas. There will be opportunities for additional diseases to be added at a later date. This would be a huge opportunity to provide services we can't currently provide.

Anne Marie went over new regulations released by CMS and an update on nebulizer cleaning.

Cheryl noted the House and Senate will both be Republican next session. The annual Hill Day would be March 17, 2015.

### **HAPPENINGS WITHIN THE HOD**

There were several Best Practices presentations: Colorado presented their society's program for grants for their members. Florida presented their ideas for social media strategy and improving communications with their members. Missouri presented their student mentorship program. Utah presented their ongoing efforts in membership, engagement, and advancing the profession.

There are many committees in the HOD. One of special interest is the student mentorship committee; this committee has worked to involve students of respiratory care in our professional organization. Student attendance at the HOD promotes understanding and awareness of the inner workings of the AARC. This activity supports initiatives to increase student membership and retention of their membership post-graduation. This also serves as a method of developing new leaders for the state affiliates and the AARC. The HOD passed a resolution last year to support students, not sponsored by their state, with a \$40/day per diem with a max of \$80 for 2 full days; this is to help with food.

Donations made from the HOD and affiliates: AARC disaster relief fund-\$6,566.25 from winter and \$3,516.25 from summer. AARC international fellow fund winter-\$4,050 and summer \$2,350. ARCF winter-\$2,500 and Summer \$278.

### **New resolutions**

**78-14-8:** Resolve that the AARC Executive Office with the help of the Past Speaker update the HOD resolution tracking grid on the Delegates home page within 60 days after the last HOD meeting. Updates are to be posted within 60 days anytime there is a change in status made by either the BOD, HOD, or EO for all open HOD originated resolutions. **Motion carried.**

### **AARC President-Elect**

Frank Salvatore is the President-elect (at the time of this writing now President) and gave a brief update on his goals. Goals: increase membership to 50,000 active members by developing and executing strategies, creating toolkits for existing educational programs to move forward in making bachelors and entry level, make RRT the minimum requirement, see to the creation of the Advanced Respiratory Therapist Practitioner credential, maintain and expand relevant communications with key allies and organizations, strengthen support for ARCF's fundraising effort

### **AARC Education Update**

Shauna Strickland gave her update on the AARC education. She talked about that there are 51 CEU free opportunities on the AARC. There are live courses for adult critical care specialist and pulmonary disease educators. The AARC university is developing new areas including student centric content, pulmonary function technology and on demand courses, clinician training on tobacco dependence, and pediatric congenital heart defect course. The AARC is partnering with NBRC to start testing a way to transfer CEU's to renew credentials electronically. Professor rounds are retiring and will continue as current topics. The education department is developing a toolbox for affiliates to use at health fairs for screening.

### **AARC Membership Update**

Gary Wickman reported there are 40,574 active members which is down 2,000 members. The cost is a major issue for not renewing membership, and people don't know what the AARC does for them. AARC is losing 120 members a month due to retirement. The AARC did develop a senior membership for 65 years or older in a digital membership format for only \$25/year, no CEU's available or for a one-time cost of \$200 is an option for a lifetime digital membership but the state will get a revenue sharing for these members at \$3, or a onetime \$27 for lifetime member. The AARC is starting an early renewal for students in 2015. The AARC will send a bill to students 6 months before graduation, if renewed in that time frame the new graduate will get \$70 for a 2 year membership. Students will still receive discounts for taking credential tests too. More information for students regarding this is on the AARC website under the new student icon. AARC is asking each affiliate to do 5 visits and then document online. They are asking the affiliates to document especially what each affiliate learned from doing the visits and why some state were successful and why some were not.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Dowling

