

**House of Delegates Report**  
**Summer House of Delegates Meeting, Santa Fe, NM**  
**July 16 and 17, 2012**

What's the AARC doing for you (Highlights of the reports at the HOD)?

AARC Reports:

First of all for those of you who may have missed the announcement Sam Giordano is retiring and Tom Kallstrom has been promoted to the CEO of the AARC. Please feel free to send Sam your best wishes in his retirement and wish Tom much success as he takes over his new role with the AARC.

Membership is over 50,861 members which is down from 51,054 from a year ago. Tom Kallstrom noted that this happens at this time of year due to student membership adjustments that occur. Our membership as of June 2012 is at 55% or approximately 242 members (440 licensed therapists in the state).

The AARC has available on line a number of tool kits including Safety Check Lists, Peak Performance USA (for teaching about asthma in schools), COPD tool kit (to prepare patients for discharge from the hospital) and a Pulmonary Rehab tool kit (reimbursement and tracking).

Links:

[http://www.aarc.org/resources/safety\\_checklist/index.asp](http://www.aarc.org/resources/safety_checklist/index.asp)

<http://www.peakperformanceusa.info/>

[http://www.aarc.org/resources/pulmonary\\_rehab\\_toolkit/](http://www.aarc.org/resources/pulmonary_rehab_toolkit/)

<http://www.aarc.org/resources/>

<http://www.aarc.org/headlines/12/06/checklist.cfm>

Tom also noted that under CMS reimbursement guidelines there are fiscal penalties in place in some settings beginning FY 2013 for Acute MI, Pneumonia and CHF readmissions with plans to add COPD and CABG readmissions in 2014.

Beginning July 2012 the AARC will be offering 3 full membership options with a new rate schedule.

Digital only membership - \$78.50 annually

Receive one publication only - \$84.25 annually

Receive both publications - \$90.00 annually

All members automatically have access to both publications on line regardless of which option they choose. The AARC will continue to provide the \$12.00 affiliate revenue sharing for each active and associate member.

In 2013 the AARC will offer a Senior Membership Discount Membership. Members will retain their member category (Active, Associate, etc) and all rights associated with that membership type. To be eligible the member must be 65 years of age or older with 20 consecutive years of membership. A 10% discount will be given for any dues tier.

John Hiser, chairman of the International Fellow Committee reported including this year's Fall International Congress we will have sponsored 147 fellows from 18 different countries including 7 new countries this year. This year will sponsor a total of 8 fellows.

AARC President Karen Stewart reported that state affiliate Presidents will be receiving a letter and up-dated copy of the policy regarding Bylaws reviews and what happens if affiliate bylaws are in conflict with AARC bylaws. The AARC BOD also passed a position statement on Best Practices in Respiratory Care with the ultimate goal to help address safety issues. A final draft of this document will be sent to all Health Care CEO's to counter some of the claims being made by some consulting groups.

The AARC is also talking with congressional members regarding a bill to put Primatine Mist an over the counter inhaler back on the market and to allow it to be excluded from the ban on CFC propellant based inhalers. The AARC does not support this exclusion in part because it does not support unsupervised treatment of Asthma nor does it support the makers of Primatine Mists refusal to develop a CFC propellant free product. This is consistent with their stand regarding other manufacturers who have not produced a CFC propellant free inhaler.

Bill Dubbs reported that they are finishing a revised edition of the Uniform Reporting Manual that will have updated time standards including time standards in more settings. It will also make some suggested CPT codes and CPG statements for various procedures.

#### **Legislation:**

HR 941: Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative will revise the Medicare Part B statute that regulates the "medical and other health services" benefit. This revision will permit Respiratory Therapists with the RRT Credential and a bachelors degree to deliver respiratory care services without the physician being physically present when the services are being furnished (that is under "general" physician supervision rather than "direct" physician supervision which requires the physician to be on site at the time of service.

*Update: Given the issues with the scoring or miss scoring of this bill, the AARC is not giving up on continuing to push and support the passage of this bill, they are adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> approach in an attempt to achieve this goal. They are developing an office based Disease Management approach similar to the Diabetes Management program which is Respiratory*

*Therapist Led where the Diabetes Management is generally done by Registered Nurses and Dietitians who are Certified Diabetes Managers.*

*Call to Action: What can you do?*

- Participate in our Virtual Lobby Day in 2012*
- Build support within your business setting; hospitals etc.*
- Recruit Patients to get involved in talking to legislators.*
- Continue to communicate with Congress.*

You may contact our Congressional delegation about any of these issues and others as they arise through the AARC website link Capitol connection under the Government Affairs page.

<http://www.aarc.org/advocacy/>

The next DC lobbying dates will be March 11 and 12, 2013. Stay tuned for more information regarding our virtual lobbying efforts to co-inside with this visit by our PACT representatives.

#### **ARCF report:**

Mike Amoto reported that the International Fellow Program is being moved back under the AARC Executive Office and any donations made to this fund in care of the ARCF will also be transferred to the AARC's account.

The ARCF will again this year host a meet and greet at the International Congress where you can meet the International Fellows. This is a face to face opportunity. It is a fund raiser for the International Fellowship Committee and is a minimum donation of \$100 per person.

Mike also reported that the ARCF is developing a High Level International Guest Program, bringing people to the United States for a short intensive visit to help prepare them to go back home and promote the Respiratory Care profession and help develop it in their home countries. The ARCF is also beginning a marketing plan with a short video showing what the ARCF is and what it does for the profession.

#### **NBRC report:**

The much awaited Adult Critical Care Exam launched July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Anyone who applies and schedules an examination date prior to August 31, 2012 will receive a free assessment examination.

This was a written report so I did not get to ask Kerry George the President of the NBRC if the August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline meant that the application and scheduling had to be done before then, but the actual date to take exam could be after that date. If you're planning to try and take advantage of this offer, I would check that with the NBRC first.

You can go to [www.NBRC.org](http://www.NBRC.org) and find more information under the examinations tab.

New Resolutions:

**Resolution 23-12-01**

**Resolution Author: Dan and Connie Small of Nevada**

**Co-Sponsors: None**

**Resolution: The AARC develop a position paper deeming the administration of bronchodilators to hospitalized patients for off label use as Medicare abuse and waste.**

After discussion including concerns about even appropriate use for pediatric patients may technically be off-label because of age limits used in the FDA approval process among other issues this resolution was withdrawn by the author for further investigation and development.

**Old Resolutions:**

**Work is almost finished for an on line tracking system to better track resolutions after they have been sent on from the HOD.**

As always these are highlights of things presented at the House of Delegates meeting. If you have questions about these or other issues please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Cahill

Julie Dowling