

NRRCC Committee Report  
January 25, 2008

Income from the 2007 NRRCC Meeting in Wisconsin Dells ended up being something in excess of \$26,000.

Planning for the September 29 - October 1, 2008 NRRCC Meeting in Rochester progressing well.

Approximately half of the speakers are confirmed. The agenda will again include plenary as well as breakout sessions with the latter focusing on the various respiratory care specialty sections. Noteworthy national speakers are David Pierson, Dean Hess and Jan Stepanek. Minnesota physicians thus far include Bob Shapiro (MSRC Medical Director), David Ingbar, Ann Wendling and Peter Gay.

The Speaker Committee is appreciative of any speaker or topic suggestions that have been sent on to us. Shortly, the committee will begin planning for the Spring, 2009 meeting which will again be held in Wisconsin Dells so all recommendations will be considered.

The Speaker Committee has selected Peter Gay from the Mayo Clinic to be the recipient of the H. Frederic Helmholtz Scientific Lecture Award. This is an annual award presented to a Minnesotan who has made significant contribution to the practice of respiratory care. Dr. Gay was a pioneer in the development of non-invasive ventilation and has always been a strong advocate of our profession. This award was first presented in 2003 and has been given annually since then when the meeting has been held in Minnesota. Past recipients of this award have included John Marini, Mohamed Yassin, and Alex Adams.

More Sputum Bowl Teams are encouraged to compete. Last year's participation was rather sparse. We are hoping to have an elite panel of judges this time around to include David Pierson, Dean Hess and Bob Shapiro.

Remember to save the dates, September 29 - October 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul LaMere, MS, RRT

**MSRC Delegates' Report**  
**December 2007 HOD meeting, Orlando, Florida**

Jessie and I are grateful for the opportunity to represent the interests of the membership of the MSRC and to bring back information from the AARC. It is apparent from the numerous presentations and information shared during the House of Delegates meeting that the AARC continues to be active on many fronts for the benefit of our profession, the patients we care for and the public.

On behalf of the MSRC, we presented a check for \$1,000 to the AARC disaster relief fund and another \$500 to the Bill Bitzel Scholarship Fund (Bill was a highly respected and loved delegate from Georgia who died this past year).

Following are the key highlights from the meeting:

**Report from the AARC Executive Office- Sam Giordano, Executive Director**

- ★ Membership as of Dec 2007 is over 44,550 which is a 7% increase from the same time 2006. (includes 6,255 student members)
- ★ Meetings and educational opportunities presented:
  - 3 CRCE programs presented in Reno in 2007: summer forum, asthma educator prep and Mass Casualty Journal conference
  - 2007 International Congress with asthma prep course, Vent workshops and breakfast CRCEs
- ★ Public Awareness activities:
  - Mobile spirometry Unit (MSU)-Collaboration between the AARC and the COPD foundation- 15 cities visited with over 9,000 people screened. Will re-visit Mpls in 08
  - Life and breath video updated and released – 250 copies sold and 5,210 downloads from site
  - National High School counselor meeting –partner to provide info on the RT as a career choice
  - Your Lung Health Website- released quarterly edition of an electronic magazine called Allergy and Asthma Health- 1700 downloads
- ★ Education and Management
  - AARC has financially supported the Allied Health Professionals Associates (AHPA) and now has a member on the board to help with promoting health careers in RT
  - EPA grant money funded to educate RTs about triggers in asthma- 2,000 have taken the free CRCE on-line course
  - AARC Benchmarking System- fully operational with around 90 subscribers
  - Reimbursement College- 1,167 members have taken the 2 CRCE on-line course
  - Aerosol delivery Book- 132,921 downloads since released in 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2007

- Web casts- free to members . 71 produces in the past 2 ½ years
- ★ Project 2015 and beyond- formerly known as Project 2012
  - First of 3 conferences slated for March 08, with 2 additional focused conferences to address future roles, educational needs and competency determination for respiratory therapists. Stakeholders have been identified for the first meeting including a cross-section of many physician associations, regulating bodies and health related associations or foundations.

### **AARC President's report- Toni Rodriguez**

Toni gave another inspiring presentation on her goals for the profession or RT for the next couple of years. She highlighted the activities around HR 3968, the bill to provide for reimbursement for O.P. services by a RRT with a bachelors degree under Medicare part B. According to Toni, the top ten reasons for getting this legislation passed are:

10. Bragging rights for getting this accomplished
9. Focus the profession to work as one
8. You are known by the company you keep
7. Patients stakeholder alliance
6. Ability to collect data on the impact of respiratory care services on the efficacy of healthcare
5. Gives us someplace to grow as a profession
4. Get us recognized by the federal government
3. Equips us to deal with job migration
2. The patient right to respiratory care access in all care venues
1. Affirms our destiny as patient advocates

### **Government Activities- Cheryl West and Miriam O'Day**

This has been a very active year on Capital Hill for many bills and initiatives that impact our profession or the patients we care for.

HR 3968- Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative- This will revise the Medicare statute to allow the services of a RRT/BS respiratory therapist to deliver out-patient care without having a physician present. It is currently awaiting a companion bill in the Senate.

S 329 and HR 552- Companion bills for the Pulmonary and Cardiac Rehabilitation Act- This bill would provide for a national coverage policy in Medicare.

HR 621 and S 1484- Home Oxygen Patient Protection Act of 2007- would repeal the 36 month limitation of oxygen equipment rental. Congress has additionally proposed to further decrease to 18 months of rental to gain additional savings to the budget.

Stay tuned for the “call to action” to write letters to your senators and representatives as 2008 activities heat up.

### **New Resolutions**

**04-07-23:** (Resolution concerning the HOD review and approval of AARC budget). Resolved that the HOD will receive the proposed AARC budget on the first day of the fall HOD meeting. On the next day of the meeting the HOD will vote on the proposed budget. (Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana)

**Results:** Motion carried in the HOD

Due to a question about a conflict of interest raised by the auditing firm used by the AARC, there are still some potential recommendations forthcoming. In the meantime, it was decided that more of an executive summary would be provided to the HOD for review instead of the line-by-line detail in attempt to address those concerns yet keep the HOD informed.

**94-07-24:** Resolved that the AARC develop a list of suggested competencies and equipment that Respiratory Therapy departments may use as a guideline in order to prepare for pandemic or mass casualty situations (Virginia)

**Results:** Motion carried in the HOD

Referred to the AARC president to be assigned to an adhoc committee

**94-07-25:** Resolved that the AARC provide a discussion “blog” on the website for the purpose of posting relative and important information to submitted resolutions in advance of the HOD meetings. (Minnesota)

**Results:** Motion carried in the HOD

Referred to the Executive Office to be reported back to the board in March with and update to the HOD at the summer 08 meeting

### **Status of resolutions previously passed:**

**94-06-19:** Be it resolved that the AARC develop the process for the Chartered Affiliates to have the option of on line voting for state (Chartered Affiliate) elections.

**Update:** Being investigated by the Executive office at this time. Information will be forthcoming. ( presented in 2006 by Virginia)

The next HOD meeting will be in July of 2008 in Phoenix, AZ. Curt and I invite your ideas and recommendations for resolutions that would benefit our profession, organization, or the public to be submitted for discussion at the next meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to both thank Jessie for her assistance as Senior Delegate these past 2 years and to welcome the new junior delegate, Curt Merriman to the House. We hope to follow in the footsteps of the many highly regarded and well-respected past delegates and continue to contribute to our profession on behalf of the MSRC.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Skees, Senior Delegate



**MEETING MINUTES**

**MEETING: BOD 1.25.08** \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 1.25.08  
 Minutes By: Lori Vogelpohl  
 Parliamentarian: Deb Skees

Next meeting: 2.29.08

Issue/Topic	Discussion	Conclusion/Outcome	Comp. Date
Vicki E Call to order			
Lori V Secretary's roll call	Roll call	We have a Quorum!	
Lori V Approve previous minutes	Motion to approve 11.9.07 minutes- John Wheeler  Second- Steve Sittig	Vote: approved	
Vicki E 2008 Treasurer	Deb Bruer relinquished her position as treasurer and Pat Johnson has agreed to assume this role. Motion made by Deb Skees to appoint Pat Johnson as treasurer for the remainder of the 2007-2008 term Second: John Wheeler	Vote: approved	
Introductions			
Vicki E Approval of committee chairs/co-chairs	Committee chairs/Co-chairs listed in 2008 directory reviewed Motion to approve: John Wheeler Second: Deb Skees	Vote: approved	
Vicki E Review of updated	Updates reviewed Nick K discussed the possibility of	Changing current liaison positions to committees will be evaluated by the long range	

2008 directory	changing liaison position to a committee. This is not defined in bylaws and would require a change in the current bylaws. AARC allows this every 5 years so would have to wait until 2009 if decided upon.	planning committee with input from the bylaws committee and recommendations will be given at the next BOD mtg 2/29/08	
Vicki E/Carrie B Open Positions	Opening for Publication committee co-chair		
Laurie T Treasurer report	Still looking at mutual funds and financial records		
Laurie T Long range planning	2 year president term and long range goals still being discussed within long range planning committee.	Laurie T/Long range planning committee plans to meet Feb 29 <sup>th</sup> at the student job Fair to discuss further	
Laurie T Summit award	Summit awards submission link is now available on MSRC website		
Laurie T MSRC travel agent	Travel agent, Karen Jaska is listed on MSRC website for the use of MSRC members for streamlining travel plans.		
Deb S Delegate report	See report		
Paul L NRRC report	See report Revenue in excess of \$26,000!!!! Peter Gay chosen 2008 for Helmholtz award		
Kathie S Minnesota premature infant health network			
Kathie S Student affairs	Only 3 vendors currently applied for student job fair 2/29 Discussion on how to update e-mail list Many e-mail addresses not current		
Carrie B Legislative updates	-PACT- Remind everyone to send out to letters to legislators!!		


