

President's Message

Deb Haider



MSRC 2002 -
Time to ACT!

As I begin this year of 2002 as your new President, I'd like to take a

moment to describe my theme for the year. Two years ago in 2000, the theme was Make it Happen, last year in 2001 it was Dare to Make a Difference, and this year it's Time to ACT!

**ACT is an acronym standing for:
Action
Commitment
Teamwork**

My belief is that if we take action together, as a committed team, we can accomplish much to improve our profession. To those of you who have already enthusiastically embraced this idea and are on board with me - involved as Officers, Board of Director members, and Committee Chairs and members - thank you! I appreciate your willingness to step up to the plate.

President's Message continued on page 6.

World Asthma Day 2002 by Lynne Bausman

World Asthma Day is celebrated each May by asthma organizations all over the world. The goal of World Asthma Day is to raise awareness that asthma is a serious public health problem, to increase the recognition of the symptoms of asthma, and to implement effective asthma management.

Last year some of the events included the Allergy and Asthma Network -Mothers of Asthmatics sponsoring an Asthma Awareness Day on Capitol Hill and the EPA launching a national campaign designed to get parents to take the Smoke-Free Home Pledge. The Smoke-Free Home Pledge campaign is intended to increase the number of smoke-free homes, especially those with children under six who have asthma. The impact of asthma falls disproportionately on African-American and certain Hispanic populations and appears to be particularly severe in urban inner cities. The Hispanic Radio Network ran a series of daily asthma education capsules on the program Fuente de Salud. Listeners were able to call in

on a toll free hotline and talk with a specialist who was then able to refer them to a bi-lingual clinic in their community. More than 40 organizations throughout the U.S. are organizing asthma education activities in conjunction with World Asthma Day 2002. Among these will be the MSRC's World Asthma Day at the Mall of America, Sears Court, May 4, 2002, 10:00am to 2:00pm. This event will provide participants with information on asthma and asthma management, proper MDI and DPI inhaler techniques, and proper peak flowmeter technique. Respiratory therapists and physicians will be on hand to answer questions of those participants.

This is a fun and rewarding event. As with all events, World Asthma Day requires a multitude of volunteers. If you are interested in helping out please feel free to contact Lynne Bausman at 651-232-2072 or Deb Haider at 763-694-8830. We encourage you to join the effort to raise awareness about asthma in our community!



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Editor's Note

As you know, the Bronchus has added another member to its staff- Me! Megan Terveen. You wouldn't believe the pressure that Kyle and Jeff put on me to join forces with them. They ran me down until I had no other choice but to accept. These are two hard selling guys! Actually I was very honored when they approached me for the new position of assistant co-editor. They work way too hard and needed a third body. I am also a coworker at North Memorial making it easier for us to schedule meeting times. I'm feeling a little lost, though, as this first issue of the year is put into print. Many new things have gone into the creating of the Bronchus this year, too. The Bronchus staff has chosen Amplo Marketing as its new publisher. The Bronchus has a great new layout. The staff at Amplo Marketing is very organized and has great new ideas for us. We're in the process of creating an electronically delivered Bronchus for all of you who want to cutdown on paper mail. An information survey will soon follow this issue to give us feedback as to what our readers want and to let us know who's interested in an electronic copy of the Bronchus. We have also been discussing with the subject of including editorials. The Bronchus has included editorials in the past and we've decided to accept them again. A format needs to be followed, so if you would like to submit a letter to the Editors, e-mail one of us.



Kyle Jeff Megan

Megan Terveen, Jeff Rutter, and Kyle Oen
Co-Editors



The Bronchus is the official newsletter of the Minnesota Society for Respiratory Care, and an affiliate of the AARC. Published in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Bronchus welcomes articles from respiratory therapists, physicians, nurses, and other health care personnel interested in pulmonary care.

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Change of Address?

If you change your address or are having problems receiving
The Bronchus, please notify the MSRC c/o:

Jeff Anderson

8400 Coral Sea St. NE Suite #200 Blaine, MN 55449
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The first year prices were introductory prices

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Thank you to Nonin Medical, Inc.

by Ron Van Beusekom

Nonin Medical Inc., an international company based locally, awarded the MSRC with an Education Scholarship and Grant Program. In memory and honor of Jerry Zweigbaum, Nonin Medical, Inc of Plymouth, MN has established a program to benefit students of Respiratory Care training programs in the State of Minnesota.

Mr. Zweigbaum, President and CEO of Nonin, passed away on September 21, 2001. Ted Larson of Nonin said, "We wanted to give back to the Respiratory community and would like to provide support to Respiratory Care in Minnesota." Based on criteria established and administered by the MSRC, two annual scholarships of \$500 each

will be awarded at the fall meeting of the MSRC. In addition, Nonin will provide an annual grant of \$1,500 to the MSRC to sponsor speakers and education programs at our Spring Forum and Annual Education Meeting. Nonin will donate equipment to schools in the State of Minnesota that are actively training Respiratory Care students.

The scholarships and grants will be renewed annually. On behalf of the MSRC, Deb Haider and Ron Van Beusekom accepted Nonin's \$2500 check from the family of Jerry Zweigbaum, December 14th, at the Nonin Holiday dinner.



This legislative session, the fate of the Tobacco Prevention Endowment is in serious jeopardy because of a projected state budget deficit. The Governor, the Senate and the House each have a budget plan that includes a provision that will impact the Tobacco Prevention Endowment to some degree.

The Governor's plan proposes cutting \$12 million from the Tobacco Prevention Endowment proceeds in the next biennium. The Senate Plan, S.F. 2897, uses the Endowment as a potential cash flow account while maintaining its integrity without affecting program funding.

In sharp contrast, the House plan involves cutting all of the funds from the endowment with no plans of ever replacing them. While all three of these plans would affect the endowment, the House plan would be devastating. As of February 13, the House proposal has not been referred to a specific committee.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact your local Representative and let them know that you oppose the House plan to strip the endowment of its funding. Remind them that a portion of the tobacco settlement revenues was set up as endowments, and that's where it should stay.

Write a letter to the editor of your local paper and help spread the message about the proposal by House Republicans.

TALKING POINTS:

■ The money was set aside for prevention, and that's where it should stay. The historic settlement with

the tobacco industry presented Minnesota with a unique opportunity to reduce the death toll from tobacco. Raiding the tobacco prevention endowment would be breaking the promise to invest the tobacco settlement money to reduce the death toll from tobacco and prevent kids from smoking.

■ Cutting the Endowment is a quick fix gimmick that will cause more financial harm than good. Every year, tobacco costs Minnesota \$2.64 billion in related costs. Health care costs attributable to tobacco have more than doubled in the past five years. Programs funded by the Endowment will reduce these costs in the future.

■ Programs funded by the endowment are effective. Recent data from a Minnesota Department of Health survey demonstrates that since the tobacco prevention programs funded by the endowment have been implemented, Minnesota has seen a 25 percent reduction in the number of 12 to 17-year-olds who have smoked in the last 21 days. After more than a decade of steadily increasing rates of tobacco use by youth, Minnesota has recently seen a decline in these numbers, proving that prevention works. This recent trend would be jeopardized if funding for the Endowment is reduced.

■ Minnesotans overwhelmingly support keeping the Endowment intact. In a recent poll by the Minnesota Smokefree Coalition issued for the Healthy Kids Minnesota campaign, 86 percent of Minnesotans surveyed expressed agreement with the statement that the Minnesota Legislature should

continue to set aside at least the current 8 percent of the tobacco settlement money for programs that would prevent kids from smoking.

FIRE RESISTANT CIGARETTE PROPOSAL ADVANCES IN THE LEGISLATURE

After almost 15 years of effort, a bill to require fire resistant cigarettes heads to the House floor for the first time. The House Commerce Committee passed the bill by a vote of 11 to 7. This bill did pass the Senate almost unanimously many years ago but this is as far as it has ever advanced in the House.

PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL OF CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT RULES ADVANCES IN THE HOUSE

A proposal introduced by Representative Marty Seifert (R-Marshall) that would require legislative approval of any changes made to the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act rules passed in the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee. The proposal will now head to the House Government Operations Committee.

President's Message

... continued

For those of you not yet involved in MSRC activities, maybe you're not feeling as enthusiastic as you'd like to about your profession. Maybe you're not satisfied that you're as involved as you'd like to be or as fulfilled in your job as you wish you were. Is it a job or is it a profession? What do you really want to make of it? Do you want to just collect a paycheck, or do you want to make a difference for the patients you treat and the Respiratory Therapists that will follow in your path?

There are many issues that are central to respiratory care right now. Licensure the use of unlicensed assistive personnel to do our jobs, and obtaining reimbursement for pulmonary rehabilitation, asthma education, and for respiratory therapists delivering home-care services. These are currently hot issues, just to name a few. Involvement in your professional organization can go a long way in affecting the outcome of these issues.

There are many committees you may be interested in. We need your help and are anxious to have your input. Are you interested in planning educational conferences? Legislative issues affecting respiratory care? Asthma or COPD awareness and management? Case management of chronic respiratory patients? Tobacco Cessation issues? Maybe you'd just like to help once in awhile to label brochures or proofread the Bronchus.

Ask yourself: what do I want to make of this profession? What is really important? What can I do to ACT now and make an impact?

As we embark on a new year together, I'd like to issue a challenge as your new President. Take Time to ACT now, and dare to make a difference in 2002! We need YOU to make it happen!

Please call me to discuss your interests! You can reach me at 763.694.8830, or by e-mail at debhaider@attbi.com.

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- National Sleep Foundation Omnibus Sleep in America Poll, March 2000.



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Student's Corner

Welcome to San Antonio!

by Danielle Schumacher



Welcome to San Antonio! Hello, my name is Danielle Schumacher. I am a Respiratory Therapy student at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester MN. This year I was the lucky recipient of an all expense paid trip to the International Respiratory Congress that was held in San Antonio, Texas. I send out a big thanks to the Minnesota Society for Respiratory Care. Another student in my class, Susan Batt, was drawn as the alternate and ended up going to the congress because last years winner was unable to attend.

I arrived in San Antonio the day before the congress started which gave me some time to get acquainted with the area. The convention center connected to the river walk. There was only a short walk from the river to the Alamo. This down town area provided a lot of information into the history of San Antonio.

The congress began it's official first day on December 1st. We had the opportunity to hear a couple of keynote speakers. The Surgeon General spoke of the concern with the aging baby boomers. These baby boomers are the lifelong smokers that will soon begin to need extra medical attention. Gene Kranz, who was the mission control commander during the Apollo 13 mission, spoke about the importance of teamwork in every job.

Throughout the convention we had the opportunity to choose between a number of breakout sessions. Some of the topics we picked were end of life decisions on withdrawing care, the new recommendations for treatment of ARDS, and the care of the elderly.

The breakout session that dealt with the new treatment recommendation for ARDS was of great interest to me because my term paper was the treatment of ARDS with Non-Conventional Treatments. The session mainly discussed the new NIH recommendations on how ARDS should be handled, but there was still no treatment that stood out as the best option.

The session that Susan and I found most eye opening was the session on treating the elderly. The presenter used some very good methods to demonstrate what it feels like to be an elderly person who is in need of health care. Knowing what a person faces as they get older, combined with the medical problem, will give us a better bedside manner.

Susan and I had some free time to enjoy the sites and

sounds of the town. One morning we got up before the sun to participate in the 5K run/walk. We of course walked in the rain but we still had a great time. The event was sponsored by Roche Medical and is an annual event at the congress. I would love to do it again at another convention, but maybe next time I will run.

Another major draw to us was the River Walk. We walked down there at least once everyday. Even during the rain it was beautiful. There are all kinds of restaurants to choose from and even more shops to look in. We had our dinner there every night trying out different types of food from Mexican to Italian.



Thanks again for this wonderful opportunity!

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MN State Registration for Respiratory Care Practitioners What is it Really?

by Deb Haider, MSRC 2002 President

As you review the following editorial by Alex Adams, many of you may find yourself wondering what the MN Respiratory Care Registration Practice Act, administered and under the jurisdiction of the MN Board of Medical Practice, really means. I've outlined a few facts below that may help you in understanding this.

In Minnesota, our registration with the state is mainly title protection. It also does protect the citizens of Minnesota when being treated by a Respiratory Care Practitioner in that the act requires self-reporting of legal issues or drug/alcohol abuse when an RCP applies for registration or renews. An RCP can also be reported by another RCP or by the public, if it appears as though there may be a legal issue or substance abuse issue, or if there is a violation of our registration statutes. In fact, RCP's registered by the state do have a reporting obligation, which does require that we report to the Board of Medical Practice any respiratory therapist that we observe practicing outside of our specified Practice Act.

What does it mean to practice outside our Practice Act? It means that you cannot call yourself any of our protected titles (Minnesota Registered Respiratory Care Practitioner, Registered Respiratory Care Practitioner, Respiratory Care Practitioner, Respiratory Therapist, Respiratory Therapy (or Care) Technician, Inhalation Therapist, Inhalation Therapy Technician, or use the letters R.C.P., or any other words, letters, or abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that the individual is eligible for registration by the state under the statute),

and practice respiratory care as defined by the "scope of practice" in our registration language.

What should you do if you think you've observed a violation to our registration statutes? You are obligated to make a report to the MN Board of Medical Practice. You can obtain a complaint report form by calling the Board at 612-617-2130. You are immune from any liability as a result of making such a complaint.

Having state registration, and even just practicing in our field, mandates that we take responsibility for our practice individually and as a group, to ensure the safety of MN citizens that may be under the care of a Respiratory Care Practitioner. This is serious business. It is ALL of our jobs to assure that care is safe for the citizens of Minnesota.

If you would like more information about the specifics of our registration and our scope of practice as defined by the Board of Medical Practice, please access their web site at www.bmp.state.mn.us. To view a fact sheet on our registration, click on "Licensing Process" on the home page, then select "Respiratory Care Practitioners Fact Sheet." To view our Practice Act in detail, click on "Statutes and Rules" from the home page, then scroll down and select "Respiratory Care Practitioners Practice Act."

If you would like to view the article regarding Kindred Hearts that was printed in the January 7, 2002 issue of the Star Tribune, access it on the MSRC Web site from the home page by clicking on "News."

MN Board of Medical Practice

www.bmp.state.mn.us

MN Society for Respiratory Care

www.msrcnet.com

RCP Advisory Council

The council is composed of three Respiratory Care Practitioners, two physicians with expertise in respiratory care and two public members.

For more information contact:
Ruth Rinker, Alex Adams or
Tracy Weselow.

Editorial Submission

Hospital Cited for Employing Non-Registered Therapists by Alex Adams

On January 7th, the Minneapolis Star Tribune reported, among other problems, that Kindred Hospital in Golden Valley (formerly Vencor hospital) was employing non-registered respiratory therapists. In a followup visit after three deaths were linked to substandard care, Robert Daly from the Chicago office of the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services stated, "We can't say at this point that they are getting any better." Part of their inspection revealed that a large number of res-

ignations had created a "respiratory therapy crisis". As a result patients were not receiving all physician-ordered treatments, including regular checks on ventilator airways, administering medications through nebulizers, and weaning patients from ventilators. The administrative report from the Medicare/Medicaid Services inspection also discovered four respiratory therapists and a respiratory therapy aide that were not registered by the state.

After years of discussion and deliberations, the MSRC initiated and participated in the process of registering respiratory therapists in Minnesota. It is now apparent that an original intent of registering practitioners, to safeguard the citizens from substandard respiratory care, in my opinion, was justified.

To contact Alex, please send e-mail to: adams922@hotmail.com.

If you would like to submit a letter to the editor please email it to either

Megan Terveen: meganpt@msn.com, Kyle Oen: kyleoen@yahoo.com,

Jeff Rutter: jlrutter@aol.com

Though I find my life to be fairly busy, I almost always make time to read the newspaper. I find it to be one of life's little pleasures. I like to see what is going on, spy a great deal in the ads and get my daily dose of advice from Ann Landers! So each morning I squeeze in at least 10 minutes to "get the scoop." Obviously I don't read everything but I'm a great "browser" and can zoom in on what interests me.

Recently as I poured through the weekly edition of my local paper, the Chaska Herald, I came across the St. Francis Regional Medical Center insert that had an article about respiratory therapists. Wow, it really peaked my interest that of all health careers, they chose to spotlight respiratory therapists. They gave a brief description of what a respiratory therapist does and what the education requirements are for respiratory therapists. They also talked about the employment opportunities available.

I dialed the listed phone number to follow up with the hospital for more information and was able to connect with Anita Nystrom, a member of their Recruitment and Retention Team. As a team, they realize the general public typically sees and thinks "doctors and nurses" when they think of health career occupations. They decided to promote additional health careers that require special training in their newspaper insert "Medical Career Corner." As you can probably guess, they have open positions for respiratory therapists and this is a simple, inexpensive way to reach to public.

Anita said they've had a huge response to the ad.

Individuals are calling in and asking about educational programs to become a respiratory therapist. Thanks to the respiratory care staff at St. Francis; they are ready to answer those questions by providing the MSRC web-site address, phone number and the booklet that contains information about the educational programs available throughout our state.

The Chaska Herald weekly newspaper has a circulation of approximately 5200 paid subscribers in Chaska and the surrounding area of Carver, Victoria and Chanhassen. This newspaper is affiliated with a group of newspapers that has a circulation of approximately 50,000 in the SW metro area. That's a lot of newspapers and potentially a lot of "hits."

Medical Career Corner

Respiratory Therapist

Respiratory therapists diagnose, treat and evaluate patients suffering from heart-lung disorders. They administer pulmonary function tests, analyze arterial blood gases, administer oxygen, give medication, provide emergency care and assist patients on mechanical ventilators.

Education to become a respiratory therapist (RCP) can be either a 1, 2 or 4-year program. Studies concentrate on the sciences, with a significant amount of clinical (hands on) education. High school courses that are helpful would be mathematics, anatomy and physiology, and biochemistry.

Currently, employment prospects for an RCP are excellent throughout the U.S. This career is a very technically oriented field that is in demand throughout many aspects of health care. There are numerous opportunities for advancement and cross-over into related fields. RCPs are able to work flexible hours as they are needed on all shifts including nights and weekends.

For more information on health care careers available at St. Francis Regional Medical Center, contact Anita Nystrom at 952-403-2060.

I've heard many managers talk about the openings they have in their departments. I know therapists that are stressed by running short-staffed, feel over-worked and are getting burned out. Meanwhile, enrollment into our education programs is low and these programs are in jeopardy. The schools are working hard to recruit students but they need our help. Please consider teaming up with your human resource department and public relations department to run an ad like this one. It offers public recognition of respiratory therapist, assists recruitment of new students into our field and has virtually no price tag attached to it. You could even have a little fun with it and elect a "poster child" from within your department staff for the ad. You could give your patients a comment card asking them about how respiratory therapists care for them and use those comments in the ad. Be creative!

AARC Recognition

Congratulations to Outstanding Respiratory Therapists in Minnesota by Deb Haider

The MSRC would like to recognize and congratulate the following Respiratory Therapists, who were recognized at the International AARC Congress in December, 2001:

Congrats!

Beth Green (Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement) – Elected Secretary/Treasurer for the AARC

Carl Mottram and Jeff Ward (both from Mayo, Rochester) – Awarded Fellowships (becoming "Fellows" of the AARC, and allowing them to use the "FAARC" with their professional credentials).

Steve Sittig (Mayo, Rochester) – Awarded Transport Therapist of the Year

Thom Belda (Mayo, Rochester) – First place in AARC Photo Contest

John Framsted (Mayo, Rochester) – Second place in AARC Photo Contest

Many other Minnesota Respiratory Therapists participated at the National level this year. Denise Johnson (Children's Hospitals & Clinics, Mpls./St. Paul) did a group presentation on Leadership Success Stories, and Steve Holets (Mayo, Rochester) lead a workshop on Non-Invasive Ventilation. Numerous therapists also had their original research accepted for Open Forum presentations, as well.

Congratulations to all of you!

Frostbite 2002

by Ellen Cannefax

As if on schedule, January 25th began as the coldest day of the year thus far. The weather, however, did not deter 75 RCPs from attending this year's Frostbite Forum held at United Hospital. "Ready, Set, Go" was the educational theme chosen for the year as a compliment to the Presidential theme of "Time to ACT."

"Ready for Action" featured talks on the newest approaches to mechanical ventilation, ecology of infectious disease and an insight into the cause of failed extubations in the PICU. Participants also learned ways to help insure a smoke-free environment and the basic concepts of bacterial pneumonia.

The MSRC wishes to thank Allegiance/3CI for its sponsorship of the 2002 Frostbite Forum. Join us May 10th at Breezy Point as "Ready, Set, Go" continues with "Set for Commitment."



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MSRC Plans Survey of Tobacco Cessation Education Needs

by Jan Salo Korby, MSRC Tobacco Cessation Task Group

During March 2002, Minnesota's respiratory therapists will be surveyed regarding their interest in learning how to assist patients in their cessation efforts. The survey is short and will serve to guide us in the best ways to deliver the clinical practice guidelines for tobacco cessation to therapists. The survey will include a postage paid, return addressed envelope. Response to the survey will be useful in determining the MSRC Tobacco Cessation Task Force's 2002-2003 action plan.

Research not only continues to confirm tobacco's damage, it has also led to interventions that facilitate quitting. Getting this information to MN's respiratory therapy professionals has the potential to positively affect the health of many Minnesotans.



**March 2002
Respiratory Therapists
to be surveyed on Tobacco Cessation**

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Asthma Summer Camps

by Lynne Bausman

Spring is in the air. Can't you just smell it! Take a deep breath. I know you can smell that fresh, spring smell! Hey, as you take that deep breath, don't take it for granted. Do you know Asthma currently affects approximately 17 million people in the U.S. (more than 6% of the population). Do you know there are an estimated 6100 school aged children in Minnesota who have Asthma and cannot take their breath for granted. With good Asthma education, including recognizing symptoms, monitoring techniques, medication types and delivery and trigger avoidance, these children have a better chance at living their lives symptom free.

The American Lung Association provides an experience for children to learn more about their Asthma while they are enjoying the great outdoors at Camp. Camp SuperKids is the first and largest camp for kids with Asthma. It is a resident camp for boys and girls ages 8-13. The purpose of camp is to provide a summer camp for children with Asthma who, because of their lung disease, might otherwise be denied a camp experience. The camp is set up like any other camp with the exception of the addition of full time medical staff consisting of physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists and pharmacists.

The children have a full day schedule out at camp. They rise and shine for swimming or a jog at 7:00 AM and speed through a day filled with canoeing, sailing, basketball, archery, horseback riding and bog walking just to name a few things. Then at 9:00 PM they meet as a group for campfire and time for reflection. The medical staff takes

one hour of their busy time each day to provide each cabin of campers with an educational session.

Each camper is taught through games and role-playing. The games are fun and definitely energetic.

The four major topics of camper education are:

1. What is Asthma?
2. Medications, Techniques & Devices
3. Triggers, Signs and Symptoms
4. Living with asthma



The medical staff also provides for any medical needs that the campers may have from splinters to home-sickness and, of course, Asthma difficulties. The medical staff works as a team through camper rounds to ensure each camper's asthma is managed while at camp.

Camp is very rewarding for the children. The comments in the camper evaluations are remarkable. But the Campers are not the only ones who enjoy a rewarding experience. You can ask anyone who has helped at camp. Each volunteer walks away from camp knowing they made a difference in at least one child's life. If you are interested in enrolling a child in camp, or would like to volunteer some of your time and talent to an asthma camp near you, contact information is listed right.

Camp SuperKids

Location: YMCA Camp Ihduhapi, Lake Independence, Loretto, MN

Date: July 8-13, 2002

Age: 8-13

Volunteer Contact:

Lynne Bausman,
lbausman@healtheast.org or
651-232-2072

Camper Contact:

Glory Dennison, 651-227-8014

Camp We-No-Wheeze North

Location: Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, Isabella, MN

Date: July 21-24, 2002

Age: 9-14

Volunteer/Camper Contact:

Pat McKone, 218-726-4721

Camp-We-No-Wheeze South

Location: Whispering Hills Girl Scout Camp, South of Houston, MN

Date: August 2-4, 2002

Ages: 7-12

Volunteer/Camper Contact:

Gary Haggerty, 507-457-4423

Camp We-No-Wheeze Central

Location: Camp Courage, Maple Lake, MN

Date: August 2-5, 2002

Ages: 7-13

Volunteer/Camper Contact:

Glory Dennison, 651-227-8014

Camp SuperTots is also available for children ages 4-7 on July 13, 2002 at the YMCA Camp Ihduhapi.

Travel Partner for the MSRC

The MSRC is pleased to announce a relationship with the Travel Advisors International/American Express offices in Maple Grove, Roseville and Chanhassen. As a way of supporting the MSRC, Travel Advisors has offered to provide a discount to all MSRC members, their families and anyone they refer who mentions the MSRC for first time travel (vacation packages and/or cruises) booked through Travel Advisors. Also, for ALL future bookings, a portion will be returned as a donation to help further the mission of the MSRC.

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Together we can go places and build a better future for the respiratory care community by supporting education and public awareness.



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like to thank**

**Pressworks, Inc. for
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Respiratory Care

Delegate News

Denise Johnson, Delegate MSRC

It is hard to believe I am in my 3rd year of a 4 year term as delegate already. The time has indeed flown by! I want to thank all the members for supporting me as your representative to the AARC House of Delegates. This has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my respiratory career. I also would like to thank John Wheeler who just completed his full term as delegate. He is a true leader and mentor and his strong commitment to our profession was always exhibited in the House of Delegates. He was proud to represent Minnesota at the national level and I was proud to serve with him. THANK YOU John!



Our newly elected delegate who will begin his term in 2002 is Charlie McArthur from Immanuel St. Joseph's Hospital in Mankato. Our first meeting of 2002 will be in Vail, Colorado in June. This is a time when the delegations from all over the country join to review any resolutions brought forward, hear from our national leaders, discuss current legislative actions relating to our field at the state and national levels

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JCAHO ACCREDITED

and hear issues, concerns, and innovative ideas from other states. Resolution ideas can come from the general membership through the delegates. Please feel free to contact Charlie or me about any thoughts or ideas you might want us to bring forward. We are here as your spokespeople and representing your concerns at the AARC. Our contact information is on the MSRC web page.

In 2002 there will be a membership rate increase. It has been several years since we have had an increase but with declining membership and increased expenses, the decision was made to increase the yearly rate

from \$75 to \$90 per year. What is the AARC doing with your membership dollars? Here is a quick run down of some of the AARC's major projects for 2002. \$540,000 will be expended for State Society support, \$266,000 will be expended for Public Relations to promote the Respiratory Care profession, \$158,000 for advocacy for our profession, \$50,000 to support research that demonstrates cost saving and quality impact of Respiratory Therapists on patient care. As always the *Respiratory Care Journal* and the *AARC Times* publications are a part of your membership, as well as CEU opportunities online and discounted rates at local and national conferences and workshops. These are just a few of the many membership advantages. If you are currently a member thank you, if you are not, please consider joining this year. It is our year as you may know..... '02 !!! There has never been a better time to become a member! As a comparison to other professional organizations, our rate for membership is one of the lowest. And remember you are getting two memberships for the price of one. When you become an AARC member, you are automatically an MSRC member! Membership applications can be found on our website and you can sign up online.

As I wrote in the Winter edition of the *Bronchus*, John and I had the pleasure of presenting the AARC Disaster Relief Fund with the generous check of \$2,685 from the donations we received from all of you and matching funds from the MSRC at our fall meeting. When we announced the amount at the House of Delegates meeting in San Antonio, we were given a standing ovation as we presented the check to Barb Fedak, House Treasurer. It was the largest donation presented from any state this year. What a moving and emotional moment, one that John and I both agreed was a highlight of our time in the House! Thank you for your generosity and support of your fellow therapists in need.

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Important Dates for Upcoming Events.

MSRC 2002-2003

Friday, March 29:	All nominations for MSRC Executive Officers due to President-Elect
Friday, April 12:	Student/Therapist Presentations: 12:00 noon at St. Paul Technical College, Board of Director's meeting to follow at 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 9:	F.U.N. Events at Breezy Point, 4:00 p.m. Board of Director's Meeting at Breezy Point Resort
Friday, May 10:	Spring Forum: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Breezy Point Resort



World Asthma Day

Education & Awareness Materials and Display

Saturday, May 4, 2002

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Sears Court, Mall of America

Spring Forum

Set for Commitment

May 9, 2002

• Board Meeting

May 10, 2002

• Educational Program

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