



Introducing the New and Improved....

Arizona Airways

Spring Issue—March 2008

2008 AzSRC President's Message

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Congratulations Arizona RCPs!!! I am proud to report that HB 2741 is dead, for all intents and purposes. Your fight has been well worth it!

2008 had started with a major challenge: HB 2741. I've always considered nursing to be a noble profession. But I never wanted to be a nurse and certainly never wanted to be a subgroup of nursing either. HB 2741 is a piece of legislature that does exactly that; it will make RCPs a subgroup of nursing.

The Governor had attempted to combine the respiratory and the nursing boards into one. The goal or objective was to improve government efficiency but protecting the public seemed just a sidebar. Under this legislation, there would not be a Physician, not an Educator, not a Hospital administrator, and not a 50/50 peer review. Rather, it would have been 8 nurses governing the practice of RCPs. The bill changed our licensing statute into a couple of sentences, basically stating that "Nursing would govern the practice of respiratory care and would have be known as the Board of Nursing".

I am so proud to be an RCP today! The call for assistance went out and RCPs responded! RCPs took up arms and said "no this is not going to be politics as usual." Arizona RCPs called their representatives, emailed the Health Committee, and even started a petition drive. I was ecstatic when the office of Representative Stump, Chair of the Health Committee requested that we "slow it down" as they have "got the message." A special recognition to several key RT's who made special contributions: Bert Bockman, who initiated the petition and drove it forward, and Cheryl Pietkiewicz, who helped convey our message to key players!

From the beginning, our Arizona Board of Respiratory Care Examiners (AzBOE) was in contact with the Governors office. The AzBOE went into special session and devised a plan of action, and helped with scripts for to use when contacting our representatives to express our concerns. They were also personally talking to legislators in an attempt to explain the problems associated with such a bill.

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2008 AzSRC President's Message..... continued

Our Arizona Society of Respiratory Care (AzSRC) also assembled and quickly collaborated to develop and implement an action plan. They were instrumental in delivering the official position status for all RCPs in the state in opposition to the bill. The AzSRC, as the liaison for RCPs in the state, was coordinating efforts and communication between the AzBOE and the American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC), acting and communicating as one cohesive force that we were not in support of the proposed legislation. Thank you to all of the RCPs who contacted their representatives!

This has truly been not only a state movement but also a national movement. The AzSRC also opened communication with the AARC and posted information and actions needed on the web site. In response, the AARC became very engaged in our state situation. They assisted in some of the action planning, provided us political insights necessary to block this bill, helped us do immediate mass emailing to all RCP in the state of Arizona, and solicited RCP leaders around the country for help and offer suggestions.

What a team, truly a collaborative effort among the AzBOE, AzSRC, and the AARC. These parties have remained in almost continual discussion and decision making during this political action movement. Of course, all of this hard work would have had little impact without the action from the great RCPs of Arizona! Everyone unified and mobilized into political action, making calls not for the sake of their jobs, but for the best possible patient care delivery in the State of Arizona!

SAVE THE DATE!!!

AUGUST 27TH & 28TH ~ 2008 ARIZONA STATE CONFERENCE

ARIZONA GRAND RESORT, PHOENIX (FORMERLY THE POINTE SOUTH MOUNTAIN RESORT)

OUTSTANDING SPEAKERS, EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES! DON'T MISS IT!!

NBRC Grants Amnesty Period for RRT Eligibility

Individuals who graduated from advanced-level respiratory therapy programs with an associate degree before Jan. 1, 2005 now have until Feb. 28, 2009 to earn the RRT credential, according to the following announcement just issued by the NBRC.

The NBRC Board of Trustees has granted an extension to individuals who graduated from an advanced-level respiratory therapy education program with an associate degree (prior to January 1, 2005) to take and pass the Registry Examination for Advanced Respiratory Therapists (RRT).

The new deadline to earn the RRT credential is February 28, 2009.

(The original deadline established in 2005 of December 31, 2007 has passed.)

NBRC's mission is to evaluate the competency of respiratory therapists and to support the profession of respiratory care. It's a role that we take very seriously. As the provider of the RRT, the credential that is considered the "standard of excellence" in respiratory care, it is our responsibility to ensure that graduates of advanced-level education programs have the opportunity to earn the RRT credential. Extending the time limit to February 28, 2009 helps us meet our responsibility to certificants, their colleagues, and, ultimately, their patients. For more information or with questions, contact the NBRC at 888-341-4811 or email nbrc-info@nbrc.org.

Respiratory Alphabet Soup ~ One Could Drown in all of the Initials!

By Ed Thomas, MA,

RRT

I can not tell you how many times I have attempted to clear the air of what and who the various Respiratory organizations and groups are, and how they affect our lives. Frequently, I will hear someone complain about not joining the AARC since they are already paying \$120 every two years for their state license. This may surprise some but they are not even related!

If you are one that cannot tell the difference between the NBRC and the AARC, or the Arizona Board of Respiratory Care Examiners from the AzSRC Board of Directors, this article is for you! Here are a few thoughts for you to ponder. Do you know what they are and how they affect you?

- **AARC ~ The American Association for Respiratory Care**
 - www.aarc.org
 - The official national respiratory care practitioner's professional organization that is over **50,000 members** strong.
 - Has affiliate organizations in all 50 states.
 - Membership requires an approved application and annual dues.
 - Provides professional journals and a multitude of other benefits. Check out http://www.aarc.org/member_services/benefits/ for more information.
 - Provides the ***only voice*** for respiratory care practitioners in Washington, D.C. through it's PAC (Political Action Committee)
- **AzSRC ~ The Arizona Society For Respiratory Care**
 - www.azsrc.org
 - A chartered affiliate of the AARC.
 - Provides local activities and educational opportunities for respiratory care practitioners in Arizona.
 - Membership is automatic upon obtaining membership with the AARC.
 - Provides a **voice** for RCP's in the state of Arizona legislature through its lobbyist.
- **NBRC ~ The National Board for Respiratory Care**
 - www.nbrc.org
 - The organization that provides the testing used to achieve various credentialing in the field of respiratory care, including **CRT** (Certified Respiratory Therapist), **RRT** (Registered Respiratory Therapists), and others.

Respiratory Alphabet Soup... continued

- **The Arizona Board of Respiratory Care Examiners**
 - www.rb.state.az.us
 - The governing board that regulates the licensure of respiratory care practitioners in the state of Arizona.
 - The Board's responsibility is to enforce statutes of Arizona law developed to **protect the public** from any harm brought about by a respiratory care practitioner.
 - This Board was not developed to protect respiratory care practitioners' **jobs**, nor is it intended to be a voice for respiratory care practitioners.
 - An application is required and a fee is charged for an initial state license. A renewal fee is charged every two years along with continuing education requirements.
 - **AzSRC Board of Directors**
 - www.azsrc.com
 - This is the board elected by the active membership of the AzSRC.
 - This board has no direct association with the Arizona Board of Respiratory Care Examiners.

This board works within the confines of the chartered bylaws approved by the AARC.

This may not be the total compendium of Respiratory Care's organizations and their roles, but it does reflect those that impact all RCP's in this state in some manner.

The point to recognize is that only the **AARC** is the representative voice for Respiratory Care in this country. Through the AARC we all have enjoyed better recognition in our field. They continue to strive for improved reimbursement for what we do with patients on a daily basis, both in the hospital setting and at home. Without recognition to allow reimbursement, there would be no monies to pay our salaries. No monies for services would lead to no need for services. No need for services is equal to no jobs for RCP's.

If you are not a member of the AARC, your professional organization and voice for your livelihood, you should take a minute and review the many benefits offered as noted on the above website.

If you are a member of the AARC, thank you for your professional support.

Ed Thomas, MA, RRT

Delegate

The Airways is always accepting articles & information!

If you have something to share, please submit to:

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We're on the Web!!!!

www.azsrc.com

The Benefits of AARC Membership

Attention Arizona RCPs! It is a great time to understand the benefits of being an AARC Member! Here is a list of the benefits and services offered by the AARC:

http://www.aarc.org/member_services/benefits/

News Information and Resources

AARC Times Magazine
Respiratory Care Journal
News Now Emails
Internet Resources
News
AARC Staff

Connections and Communications

Federal Government Affairs
Public Relations
Liaison Activities
State Societies
State Government Affairs
Specialty Sections
Respiratory Care Week
Professional Promotion

Program and Product Discounts

Magazine Subscription Discounts
AARC Store
Flower Arrangements
Real Estate Rebates
MBNA World Points SM Program

Personal Insurance Programs

Professional Liability
Life, Health Disability Income
Long Term Care
Major Medical Catastrophe
Auto

Professional Development

AARC International Respiratory
Congress
Summer Forum
Courses and Workshops
NBRC Discounts

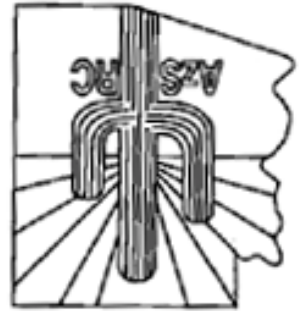
Lifelong Learning @ AARC

CRCE Online
CRCE Accreditation
CRCE LookUp
Webcasts
Professor's Rounds
Degree Completion

Career Assistance

Career Options
Employment Opportunities
Job Search Skills Assistance

Make your Nominations Today!
**2008 Nominations for Department,
Educator, and Therapist of the
Year will be accepted until May 31,
2008. Forms are available online at
www.azsrc.com**



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