



Introducing the New and Improved....

Arizona Airways

SPRING Issue—March 2010

2010 AzSRC Presidential Address

Kathy Rineer, MBA, RRT



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As I begin my year in this role of President, I am encouraged by the number of practitioners who have offered to assist with whatever I may need. I am encouraged by the energy and enthusiasm displayed by those colleagues I encounter wanting to make the vision and mission of the AzSRC (to advance the art and practice of respiratory care from within the State of Arizona) real this year. This will take courage to break away from what was done in the past. Our work will require creative thinking to endure in today's economy. It will take everyone participating.

I am very excited to share with you our plans for the coming year. Three one day educational opportunities will be held, each at a different part of the State, from Tucson in February, to Phoenix in April, Flagstaff in June, and ending the year with our two day conference in Prescott. Each one day conference will have a different agenda and speakers, while giving us an opportunity to see our great State of Arizona. Refer to our website for more details: www.azsrc.org for more details. The conference planning committee has been hard at work since last year's conference at The Arizona Grand ended. I hope to see you there!

In addition, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank last year's Board for a job well done. This photo was taken after our final meeting of 2009 in Casa Grande. I am looking forward to a great year ahead!



AzSRC Board wrapping up 2009!

We're on the Web!!!!
www.azsrc.com

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The Arizona Hospital Spotlight Shines on...
TUCSON MEDICAL CENTER
2009 Respiratory Care Department of the Year

Life at Tucson Medical Center has changed. In 2009, their hospital and respiratory department has been hard at work, making moves to improve patient care and overall outcomes in order to be the 'community's choice for healthcare'. In this sprawling facility with grounds of 120 acres, the combination of an internal aura of conviction, dedicated teams of staff, a clearly engaged Medical Director and a hospital organization set up to succeed, Tucson Medical Center, has been making strong moves to improve their operation.



Tucson Medical Center is a full service hospital who has cared for the community for 65 years, and has become the leading provider in the region for emergency care, including Tucson's first Children's Emergency Center, women's and maternity care, neonatal and pediatric care, cardiac, orthopedic, neuroscience, imaging and senior services. TMC is licensed for 650 adult and skilled nursing beds. The hospital serves more than 30,000 inpatients and 122,000 outpatients yearly and has several emphasis areas, including maternal and child health, cardiac care, hospice care, neuroscience, orthopedics, diagnostic services, behavioral health and senior services. For half a century, TMC's board has chosen to maintain a one-story design for the patient care area. As a result, 28 private landscaped patios give every TMC patient a room with a view.

I had the pleasure of interviewing the leaders of their respiratory program in the fall, particularly Joseph Nunes, Director, and learned that their hospital and department has been hard at work, particularly in 2009.

One of the hospital wide changes has been to implement what is affectionately called "Quiet Program". This multi disciplinary approach looked at how to improve the noise level for patients. Every aspect of impact was considered, even down to the location and use of the ice machines on patient floors. Pursuing electronic medical records and being "paper independent" has been a successful transition as well.

The departmental changes started with physical renovations to the department. The size of the department resulted in very active, loud, busy report rooms. Now, the department utilizes multiple areas for report, producing a quieter arena, conducive for better exchange of patient information.

Joe Nunes has strong convictions of engagement, empowerment and accountability. He clearly believes in his team, and their input to drive change. Joe's leadership, a solid team such as Manager Pat Marr, a proactive mover and shaker with 30 years of TMC history, and Assistant Manager, Fernando Galaviz, who's mission includes constant educational support for their team, and of course committed and dedicated respiratory practitioners who are communicating areas of possible improvement, have been the keys ingredients for their success.



CONGRATULATIONS!

**TMC Department of the Year Award is proudly
displayed in the Respiratory team area.**

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US!!

AZ State License for RCP's: Going Strong After 20 Years!

Ed Thomas MA, RRT

It may be hard to believe, but the State Licensure Bill that created the **AZ Board of Respiratory Care Examiners** will be 20 years old in June of 2010. The Board remains strong and steady despite some of the challenges it has weathered during this period. Nearly a decade of hard work and perseverance led by a driven and dedicated group of respiratory therapists throughout the state made this bill a reality.

In the fall of 1980, after many discussions of the need to be licensed held amongst members of the Arizona Society for Respiratory Care (AzSRC), four respiratory therapists met at **Tony Rodela's** home to begin to compose the first draft of a state bill. Sitting with Tony around his dining room table were **Harry Reafling, Ed Thomas, Linda Chitwood**. Armed only with a copy of California's state license for Respiratory Therapists and a "Model" Bill provided by the AARC, these four put pen to paper to produce the first of many drafts.



The early eighties were our learning years. It was a real education trying to understand the workings of the state government and what one must do to proceed with our Bill. (This link gives an idea of the complexities involved in getting a Bill passed: <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf>. Every year we had a sponsor in the legislature but were delayed by some committee along the way; and every year we had to start at the beginning.) Every president of the AzSRC throughout the 80's was dedicated to move the bill forward and pass on to the next president the knowledge gained each year. Occasionally, we needed the advice of professional lobbyists, an expense we found difficult covering with our meager budgets. However, the AARC did loan us money to help us keep our momentum. The \$75,000 loaned over the last few years of our battle was of great assistance, even if it was difficult paying them back.

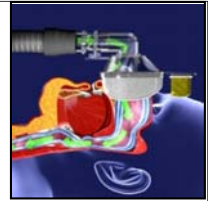
By 1987, we seemed to have maintained a steady momentum. AzSRC president, **Ed Thomas** and **David Eubanks, PhD**, former AARC president, met with the president of the AZ Hospital Association (AzHHA), **John Rivers**, to ask their support for our licensure efforts. Mr. Rivers politely heard our case and understood the purpose of the bill to protect the public and patient safety. He agreed to discuss it with the AZHA Board and would call us after meeting with their Board. Three weeks later a meeting was called at which Mr. Rivers informed us that there were pros and cons discussed at his Board meeting and after much debate, the Board asked that he convey this message to us: "Not only would we not support your efforts, but we will adamantly oppose your efforts to achieve licensure." Things really got tough, then. AzHHA had a full-time lobbyist focused on stopping our bill. But that did not discourage us.



Every year we failed, but every year we went back. Stronger and more committed than the previous year until the bill passed in 1990. On **June 6, 1990 Governor Rose Mofford** signed our Bill. At the signing were a number of former presidents of the AzSRC, AzSRC members and other supporters. The governor's office would not have been large enough to hold us all, but every supporter was there in spirit in the heart of those watching her sign the **Respiratory Care Practitioners Board of Examiners Bill**.

In closing, we must recognize the guidance and financial support the **AARC** gave to our state when we needed it. This may never have happened without them. If you are a member, thank you. If you are not, why not?

New GateWay Community College Program Announced! Polysomnography Technology



The new GateWay Community College Polysomnography (PSG) Technology Program was created to help answer the urgent demand for local, regional and national Polysomnography Technologists needed to work in sleep disorder centers. The American Association of Sleep Technologists (AAST) has projected a positive job outlook for years to come; and their recent salary survey reported a national average annual salary range of \$42,509 to \$80,300 (averages include compensation for registration by the BRPT or NBRC, evening/night shift differentials and management responsibilities).

There are an estimated 50-70 million people in the US suffering from a chronic sleep disorder. Patients of all ages are evaluated through the monitoring of brainwaves, respiratory effort and airflow, blood oxygen levels and limb, eye and chin movements. Sleep disorders such as sleep apnea, narcolepsy, periodic limb movements, and parasomnias are among those tested. Polysomnography Technologists are, also responsible for the titration of therapeutic PAP devices, used for the treatment of sleep disordered breathing.

Upon completion of this program, students are awarded a Certificate of Completion. The Polysomnography Technology Program provides instruction through lectures, laboratory experience on campus, physician lectures and clinical experience at local accredited sleep centers. Completion of an accredited Respiratory Care Program and a CRT or RRT credential are currently required for acceptance to the Program.

The PSG Technology Program will accept 20 students for the Summer I session, which begins in May 2010. The classes, which are offered in the evenings, are presented in six 5-week blocks. Students will complete the program in December 2010. To learn more about the Polysomnography Technology Program, please contact the **Health Science Academic Advisors: (602)286-8183 or (602)286-8176**, or visit the GateWay Community College website and download an application today at <http://www.gatewaycc.edu/Programs/Polysomnography>.

9 month Certificate Program for Respiratory Care Practitioners Admission Requirements

- Graduate of an accredited Respiratory Care Program
 - CRT or RRT Credential

Applications are now being accepted for May 2010 Program
<http://www.gatewaycc.edu/Programs/Polysomnography>

Health Science Academic Advisors: (602)286-8183 or (602)286-8176



AzSRC One day Tucson conference ~ a HIT!!!

One word: Impressive! On Friday February 19th, the AzSRC held the first of 3, 1/2 day conferences. It has been several years since the AzSRC came to Tucson, but that changed on the 19th. The turnout was great and everybody who came was greeted like a celebrity, in fact, the red carpet was literally rolled out for everyone to enjoy and walk down! Some of the feedback received included "I like the approach being taken with smaller meetings, demonstrating renewed commitment to education. I think this moves the AZSRC towards relevance and appropriate visibility with the younger folks in our profession. Thank you."; "The hours were great and the subject matter was interesting"; and "Nice variety of people from all over; short and sweet conference, worth the drive from Phoenix".



.....Tucson Medical Center continued

The department has a onsite, in-department library /education center as well as a clinical lab. Onsite clinical simulation and teaching has become a routine part of their department growth. Ongoing education is truly at their fingertips!

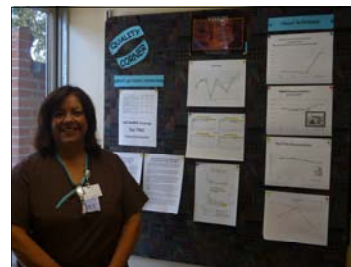
Maintaining and growing therapist skill sets is a key goal to the department. The therapists complete 6 intubations per year in the teaching arena of the OR. They review arterial line insertion policies and procedures. TMC respiratory therapists have a very active role, including intubations, arterial line insertions, and rapid response team members.

Boosting team morale has been a key focus. The respiratory team at TMC know and understand that they are part of a movement and direction with a clear vision. In order to support that, the respiratory department takes time to announce real time encouragement and successes with the team. Increasing respiratory care involvement has also been a high priority. For example, routine check-ins with patients to ask “do you know who your respiratory therapist is today?”, have made positive improvements.

The therapists receive input and performance feedback very regularly. Information is given to them every 12 weeks, using an evaluation process. This uses quantitative acknowledgements, chart reviews, attendance, staff satisfaction, along with other key indicators. This process of giving regularly, frequent feedback eliminates only the standard annual review when feedback is given only once per year. This allows the therapists to respond to live information, using it to grow and address areas of possible improvement. Peer to peer anonymous reviews are also used as random picks to give additional input.

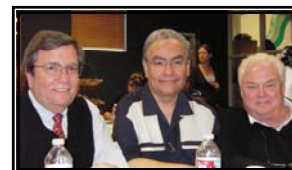
With roots from San Jose, California, Joe, his wife and children are settling into life in Arizona. In addition to leading his team at work, Joe is active in the local community, coaching baseball with his son’s teams. Being dedicated to respiratory medicine is near to Joe’s heart...he is a lifetime asthmatic and his mother passed away at the young age of 59 from respiratory and cardiac complications.

Congratulations to Tucson Medical Center, its Respiratory department, Joe Nunes and their management team, for their dedication and effort for positive change! Arizona Respiratory Therapists honor you!



Pat Marr next to the departments “Vision Board”.

...Tucson One day conference continued.....



We had four fabulous speakers, including the 2009 Educator of the year: Eric Davis. The line up of speakers included Christian Joseph, Mountain Region Account Manager for Maquet, Lisa Cifaldi, Clinical Educator for Smiths Medical, Eric Davis, Ventilation Representative for Covidien Puritan, and Tony Isabella, Clinical Research Manager from Case Western Reserve University and The Cleveland Clinic Foundation. Topics included NAVA, V.A.P. prevention, & Xolair, a unique drug to help fight asthma.

There were many laughs, lots of crowd participation, and we found out that we had one person who came all the way from New Mexico, and yet another who came right after her night shift. She was going on zero sleep, but we fixed that with a nice cup of black coffee! We had drawings, giveaways, CEUs, and little Oscar awards! This was a success and we are looking forward to our next one in Phoenix on April 23rd.

For those who are AARC members, which gets you an automatic AzSRC membership, “Thank you!” We are expressing out thanks at each seminar by drawing two members names out and giving them free attendance to our state conference. We have some great international speakers who are going to feed us with knowledge as well as give us some great self improvement and self healing. You won't want to miss the tour!



THE **AzSRC** TOUR

3
half-day
conferences

February 19, 2010

Tucson

April 23, 2010

Phoenix

June 11, 2010

Flagstaff

the state conference

44th Annual AzSRC Conference

August 31-September 2, 2010

The Prescott Resort

tickets and info available online at azsrc.org