

**AzSRC Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, December 8, 2007
Casa Grande, AZ**

MINUTES

I. Call to Order:

A. Meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m., December 8, 2007.

B. Members present:

1. President: Ron Evans RRT
2. Past-President: Edward Hoskins M.Ed., RRT
3. President-Elect: Chuck Ramirez BA, RRT
4. Vice President: Jeanette Keiffer RRT
5. 2008 Treasurer: Shannon Miranda RRT
6. Secretary: Donna Pachek BS, RRT
7. Director: Michelle Williams RRT
8. Director: Bill Sayers RRT
9. Director: Kathy Rineer MBA, RRT
10. Delegate: Marie Fenske Ed.D., RRT
11. Delegate: Ed Thomas MA, RRT

C. Members Absent:

1. Treasurer: Charez Norris
2. Director: Cheryl Hamilton MS, RRT

D. Guests Present:

1. Joe Abate
2. Lauri Mast RRT
3. Jim Love RRT

II. Past Minutes:

Review of minutes by board members.

A motion was made by Chuck Ramirez to accept past minutes, seconded by Marie Fenske , zero discussion. Motion passed.

III. President's Report:

Ron Evans presented report.

Ron reminded the board that the AzSRC has been invited by the Arizona school system to participate in local career days. This exposure would be valuable in efforts to increase awareness of our profession. Ed Thomas stated that three schools in the Tucson area have been visited.

IV. Treasurer's Report:

Charez Norris is ill, report not available. Update information will be sent out electronically.

V. Delegates Report:

Marie Fenske presented report. (3 handouts)

The HOD met in Orlando Florida on November 29 & 30, 2007. Three resolutions were passed: # 94-07-25 – AARC to provide a discussion “blog” on the website for the purpose of posting relative information prior to the meeting.

#04-07-23 – the HOD will receive the proposed AARC budget on the first day of the HOD meeting in December.

#94-07-24 – AARC should develop a list of competencies & equipment that Respiratory Therapy departments use as a guideline in order to prepare for Pandemic or Mass Casualty situations.

Marie also presented the Executive Office Report from Sam Giordano. She highlighted that the AARC has purchased a new phone system so that seven people can now be on a conference call. The US Public Health Service has given approval for RRT’s who have bachelor’s degree in respiratory therapy as being eligible to become a commissioned officer in PHS. The 2012 committee has been renamed 2015 committee. The first meeting will take place in Dallas Texas in March 2008. It is encouraged that all therapists support HR 3968 that involves Medicare reimbursement.

Marie also presented a preliminary report on licensure/single examination.

1. Would your state licensure law have to change is we went to a single examination? N/A – 3 states, No – 29 states, Yes – 16 states.
2. If your state licensure law would have to be changed, how comfortable would your state society be in reopening your law? All state societies reported a reluctance to take on the risks of re-opening their licensure law.
3. Would the rules that govern your licensing agency need to be changed?
Unknown – 9, No – 27, Yes – 12

Discussion ensued:

Joe Abate praised the HOD for monitoring the bills being presented to congress. He reinforced the initiative that therapists call or write both local and national congressmen to let their voice be heard.

Edward stated that the single examination is a hot topic for the schools providing respiratory therapy education. The school system feels a much higher accountability for their graduates to obtain the RRT credential.

Lastly, Marie stated that the next HOD meeting would be held in Phoenix, AZ. The AzSRC has a responsibility to this meeting. Planning sessions will need to be scheduled.

VI. Report on Committee Activities:

A. Legislative Update.

Joe Abate presented report. (2 handouts)

The license renewal process went smoothly. A ten-year extension has been granted. Health Care legislation will be hectic this coming year. The governor is proposing an increased access to care – but currently there is a shortage in health care professionals and a state budget crisis. Over one billion-dollar deficient! Ballot items include: 1. Healthy Arizona – 100% eligibility to people living in poverty. This would have full coverage for all children and a sliding fee scale for payment of services. 2. Limited health insurance – to include pre-existing conditions. 3. Increase liquid tax as an effort to provide this limited health insurance. Joe also stated that the political action committee is considering contribution limits.

B. 1. Publications/Marketing Committee.

Ron Evans presented report.

The third quarter Airway has been mailed. He also is requesting assistance with marketing. It would be lucrative for additional adds to be placed in the newsletter or on the AzSRC web site.

2. Web Committee.

Ron Evans presented report.

The web site will be updated with the listing of new 2008 AzSRC officers'. Advertisement space is available on the web site. Marie Fenske has agreed to continue to field the questions that various state wide practitioner may ask.

C. PACT:

Jim Love presented report.

He stated that a meeting will be held in Washington DC in March 2008. He is setting appointments now with the state representatives to discuss health care issues and the role of the Respiratory Care Practitioner.

D. 1. Annual Seminar Committee:

Chuck Ramirez presented report.

He announced that Amy Bardin would be the chairperson for a two-year period. He suggested that a co-chairperson be identified and requested volunteers or recommendations. A strategic planning meeting needs to be organized. Agenda items need to include: dates of conference, location of conference within the metropolitan Phoenix area – bids from several resorts (location remains consistent throughout this two year period), speaker topics. He also commented that a large contingency from the AzSRC board should be represented on this committee.

Discussion ensued.

Marie – planning meeting can be held at Gateway Community College.

A tentative planning meeting was suggested for 1/9/08.

Ron Evans reported that Sleep Conference held in 9/2007 had 65-70 Respiratory and Sleep professionals attend. He identified that 75% of the attendees registered for the conference with credit cards. He also found that many either registered or inquired about registering for the conference online. He believes that this increased attendance and increased availability of funds. The credit cards can be verified quickly. He announced that a check for \$1000.00 will be given to the AzSRC. He is also donating a 19-inch flat screen monitor to the AzSRC.

2. Membership Committee:

Laura Mast presented report.

The AARC provides a membership list. A computer download problem has occurred and she has not been able to get this information. Ed Thomas volunteered to assist Laura with this problem. She also stated that a \$2600.00 check has been received from the AARC – highest one in our history.

VII. Old Business:

1. Ratification of email vote – Franklin Miller

Chuck Ramirez motioned that we ratify the email vote, Jeanette Kieffer seconded, no discussion. Motion passed.

2. CEU

Ron Evans stated that the 2008 CEU application forms are available on the AzSRC web site. A slight price change has occurred.

3. Ratification of email vote - Medical Director

Dr. Gregory Chu is a pulmonary physician and intensivist.

Discussion ensued.

Chuck – suggested that we send Dr. Chu a listing of our meeting dates.

Ron – suggested that the AzSRC pay for his membership to the AARC and ask him to speak at our next conference

Laura – volunteered to provide completed AARC application to Charez

Edward Hoskins motioned that we ratify the email vote to include these discussed items, Ed Thomas seconded, no discussion, motion passed.

4. Adopt a Highway

Marie mentioned that the equipment for this project remains in her garage. This topic was discussed and determined that although it is a good idea but because of lack of participation, the AzSRC will no longer sponsor this project.

VIII. New Business:

1. Settlement with Franklin Miller.

The AzSRC board agreed to a settlement with former society president, Frank Miller, of \$22,304 for the recovery of misappropriated funds and legal fees. Mr. Miller provided two written apologies. The first to the AzSRC board for his misuse of funds for a tuition payment to Grand Canyon College and a second to the Society members and the Board for his inappropriate actions that occurred while president and for his inappropriate response to the Board during the inquiry of his expensed while president.

2. 2008 Budget (handout)

Chuck presented three proposed budgets. The significant difference between these budgets are either positive or negative operational revenue. To achieve this positive operational revenue, the lobbyist fee would be changed to a \$5000.00 retainer only.

Joe Abate presented his history/interest/desire to work with the AzSRC. He also stated that he would not work on a retainer status only.

Lengthy lively discussion ensued.

In addition to the technique to have a lobbyist, other points of interest were shared; Should the treasurer be bonded?, Should AzSRC have a audit done yearly?, Should two signatures be required for a legal transaction to occur? What other revenue streams can we develop? Reduce cost by placing Airways on the web site instead of mailing to the state wide RCP's.

Marie Fenske motioned that the budget identified as #2,(one-day conference and lobbyist on retainer only) be approved, seconded by Chuck Ramirez, no further discussion, motion passed.

3. Welcome Newly Elected Officials.

Ron Evans welcomes Edward Hoskins into a different role – Director.

Bill Sayers into a different role – President Elect.

Shannon Miranda – Treasurer

Chuck Ramirez into a different role - 2008 AzSRC President

4. Awards

Ron Evans passed out plaques to 2007 AzSRC board members and thanks each for the efforts this past year.

5. Hall of Fame Proposal.

Ed Thomas referred to the honor that Mr. Harry McAlpine felt when he received the lifetime membership at the seminar in 8/2008. He also stated that there have been countless others that have contributed to the development of professionalism in the field of Respiratory Care. He proposed a Hall of Fame to be placed on the AzSRC Web-site.

Discussion ensued.

Ron – great idea, many details to be worked out.

Edward – needs to be official, form to identify why this person is being nominated, what is the level on the contribution? AzSRC should make the selection.

Chuck – nomination forms can be placed on the web site.

Ed stated that he would formalize this idea and email the AzSRC board more information.

6. Open

Chuck Ramirez stated that a swearing in ceremony would take place at the first AzSRC meeting in 2008.

XI. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1217.

See you at 0900 on 1/26/08 at Casa Grande Regional Medical Center for our next meeting.