



Kansas Respiratory Care Society

An Affiliate of the American Association for Respiratory Care

Mission: To educate, advocate, and promote the profession and practice of Respiratory Care

March 2012

Greetings fellow Respiratory Therapists!

The KRCS sponsored our 20th Annual Legislative Day at the State Capitol in Topeka on February 29, 2012. Under the leadership of Debbie Fox, our Advocacy Core Strategy Leader, we spent the morning visiting the offices of legislators on key committees that work with healthcare issues where we provided them with informational handouts on the KRCS, respiratory health issues, and ALA statistics. That same day Senator Vicki Schmidt introduced resolution SR 1826, a resolution encouraging the creation of a Kansas plan for comprehensive treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). She later provided the KRCS with a framed copy of the resolution that we will display at the KRCS booth at the April educational meeting (look on the website for pictures with Senator Schmidt taken in the Kansas Senate Chambers). I would encourage each of you to consider joining us at our next Legislative Day where you can make a difference in the recognition of your chosen profession as well as a difference in the lives of your patients.

On March 5th and 6th, Debbie Fox, Karen Schell, and I travelled to Washington D.C. to participate in the annual PACT (Political Action Contact Team) meeting and congressional visits. We were able to schedule meetings with the offices of both Kansas Senators and all four Representatives where we again shared information about the KRCS and respiratory healthcare issues in addition to advocating for their support of the Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative. Please go to the Advocate/PACT tab on our website for more information about this very important project and to see pictures of our visits. We were especially fortunate this year in that Kansas City resident Janet Henderson was able to travel and accompany us to all our legislative visits. Janet is an Alpha 1 patient and was able to not only give a face to the healthcare consumer we are advocating for but she also had some very eloquent comments and insight into the needs of the respiratory patient. Look for pictures of this year's PACT meeting on the website and also look for an article highlighting the KRCS in the AARC Times magazine in the next few months.

At the end of April, Treasurer-Elect Jeff Scobee and I will travel to Dallas, Texas to attend the AARC sponsored leadership workshop. Of course the annual KRCS Educational Seminar is scheduled for April 18-20th in Topeka so I encourage you to try and come. The meeting not only provides you with excellent continuing education and the chance to see the newest technologies and equipment in the vendor reception, it also gives you the opportunity to meet and network with all your peers and fellow professionals. Hope to see you there!

Again, always remember, contact information for your BOD representatives is on the website so please feel free to contact us by telephone or email if we can be of service to you or answer your questions.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bollig