

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

May 2012

Greetings fellow Respiratory Therapists!

Like many others, I have found the months of April and May to be filled with activities both at work and at home. Spring blew in with a vengeance in some areas of our state and I am hopeful that you all weathered the storms well. One of the benefits of AARC membership that we hope you never need to use is the Disaster Relief Fund. This fund was established by the AARC in 1992 and is replenished through donations. In the event you suffer losses in a federally declared disaster such as the Joplin, Missouri tornado last year you can apply for a grant up to \$500 and your next year's AARC membership dues are waived. Each year the KRCS donates at least \$500 to the fund. Just since 2003, the AARC has given out \$105,778. If you would like more information about the Disaster Relief fund or to make a personal donation to the fund, go to the AARC website or this link https://secure.aarc.org/disaster_fund/

On April 15th the AARC celebrated its 65th Birthday anniversary. Our webmaster Curtis Kidwell designed an animated birthday card using pictures of KRCS members in action. We placed the card on the home page of our website and also sent it directly to the AARC Executive office in Dallas, Texas along with a letter of appreciation. I hope you had the opportunity to look at the card and also wanted to let you know that I received a number of thank-you notes from the AARC staff. Thanks you Curtis for a job well-done!

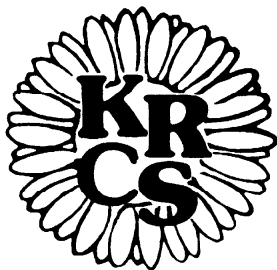
On April 18-20th we held the annual education meeting in Topeka. I want to personally thank all 235 attendees for their attendance and support of the KRCS. We had over 50 RT students attend as well, a record number. A word of appreciation to Pat Munzer and the planning committee for a great job and please look for pictures commemorating the event on the website.

At the annual education seminar the KRCS presented the Hugh Mathewson award to Don Richards, a long time KRCS member and proponent of respiratory care. Don was instrumental to the KRCS during our efforts to pursue state licensure and has volunteered his time and talents in the many positions he held not only on the KRCS Board of Directors but at the national AARC level as well. I extend my sincere congratulations to Don and want to let him know, we have more work for him in the future! Please see the pictures of Don receiving the Hugh Mathewson award on our website. Robert Thurm from the Kansas University program was awarded the KRCS Russ Babb Memorial Scholarship award and was presented a check for \$1,000 at the seminar. Congratulations to both of these fine men! I am honored to be numbered among their colleagues.

Immediately following the educational seminar on April 21st, Treasurer-elect Jeff Scobee and I travelled to Dallas, Texas to attend the AARC sponsored leadership workshop. The workshop is part of the AARC's efforts to ensure that affiliate leaders have the tools and resources they need to help make the affiliate a success. Jeff and I both learned some key business principles that we are eager to share with the Society to help make it an even bigger success. Shortly after my return from Dallas, I travelled to Kansas City to attend the annual spring NBRC Board of Trustees Meeting April 26th – 29th.

May is typically a slow month for KRCS business but I do not want to forget to congratulate the many RT students that are completing their programs. I want to encourage all students who are currently student AARC members to renew your membership before graduation if possible. Why? Because students can really make their dollar stretch when they renew *before* they graduate.

Every student can renew at the reduced student rate of \$50, if they act before graduation. So, if a student who is graduating in May renews in May before graduation, they will get their first year of Active



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membership for \$50 -- a savings of \$40 over the usual \$90 member dues. There is a bonus discount for students who have been members of the AARC for at least 3 months before graduating. Those eligible students receive a graduation gift from the AARC: a congratulations card with a coupon for \$40 off their next renewal as an Active member. The coupon is good for 11 months from graduation. The AARC tries to help people get the most discounts possible. By renewing before graduation and then using the coupon, students can save \$80 for two years of membership. There are always a lot of expenses for new graduates, so take advantage of the discounts offered and continue to support your profession and your professional organization.

KRCS Delegates Terri Lesser and Pat Munzer will attend the House of Delegates meeting to be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico July 16th and 17th immediately following Summer Forum. KRCS member Karen Schell will attend as the Speaker of the House and I will attend as the HOD Parliamentarian. The Summer Forum meeting is geared toward RT managers and educators but the presentation content is an excellent source of information for any practitioner. If you prefer a smaller meeting than the international Congress or want to bring your family along for a summer outing, Santa Fe may be the place to go. I hope to see many KRCS members there!

Last but not least, I want to remind everyone to put the date of September 20th and 21st on your calendar for the KRCS sponsored Western Kansas Respiratory Care Seminar which will be held in Dodge City at the Dodge House hotel. Due to a high volume of visitors in Dodge City, the Dodge house recommends booking your reservations well in advance. The WKS brochure with more specifics will be posted sometime in July.

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