

GOVERNOR RILEY APPOINTS RESPIRATORY THERAPY LICENSURE BOARD

by Ron Stansell, ASRC President

Governor Riley has made his selections for the Alabama State Board of Respiratory Therapy. The board is comprised of five members. The respiratory therapist members were nominated by the ASRC Board, the physician member was nominated by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, and the Chief Executive Officer member was nominated by the Alabama Hospital Association. The members are listed below:

Respiratory Therapist Members -

4 year term - Fred Hill, University of South Alabama, Mobile

2 year term - David Howard, Baptist Citizens Hospital, Talladega

2 year term - Ronda Hood, Helen Keller Memorial Hospital, Sheffield

Physician Member -

Dr. William Goetter, Fairhope - 4 year term

Chief Executive Officer Member -

Mrs. Linda Jordan, Ashland - 2 year term

Congratulations to our new Alabama State Board for Respiratory Therapy (ASBRT) members! We are very proud of all of our nominees and excited to know that our licensure board will soon be up and running. They will be writing the rules and regulations for licensure. Once this is finished, there will be a state-wide notification of the application process and deadlines. Also, the ASRC will be sending out updates via e-mail, The Airway, and the website to keep you informed.

If you are not an ASRC member, now is the time to join the AARC. AARC membership includes free membership in the ASRC. AARC/ASRC membership provides you with a voice in the future of respiratory therapy. For more information on joining the AARC/ASRC, go the ASRC website (www.alsrc.org) and link to AARC membership.

We are looking forward to a new era in Respiratory Therapy in Alabama.

**The Official Publication of the
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www.alsrc.org

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Medical Advisor:	Syed Raza, MD	
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Tristate Representatives:	Fred Hill	
	Ronda Hood	
	David Howard	

**The AIRWAY
Publication Policies**

The AIRWAY is published quarterly by the Alabama Society for Respiratory Care, Inc., a Chartered Affiliate of the American Association for Respiratory Care. All articles and materials submitted for publication become the property of the ASRC and cannot be returned. The Editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. Opinions expressed in The AIRWAY do not necessarily represent the views of the AARC, ASRC or the Editor. Publication of commercial advertisements does not constitute an endorsement of products appearing in The AIRWAY. The following are commercial and job placement ad rates:

Size	Single	2 Issues	4 Issues
Full Page	\$200	\$325	\$500
1/2 Page	\$150	\$250	\$375
1/4 Page	\$100	\$150	\$250
Business Card	\$50	\$85	\$120

Positions wanted which originate from the AARC/ASRC membership will be accepted free of charge one time per person. All others will be assessed at regular advertisement rates. Special rates will be granted to ASRC Annual Meeting exhibitors who also wish to advertise in The AIRWAY. A 20% discount will apply only to those exhibitors who wish to place a full, half, or quarter page yearly ad. Contact Deanna Winn 251-434-3405.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 16-17	ASRC Fall Meeting and Exhibits Birmingham, Alabama
October 24-30	Respiratory Care Week
December 4-7	AARC International Congress New Orleans, Louisiana

Recognizing Respiratory Therapists Under the Medicare Home Health Services Benefit

By: Ronda Hood, RRT

On March 6-8, Vicki Sellers and I had the opportunity to represent Alabama respiratory therapists as part of the AARC Political Action Team. Representatives from many states met in Washington D.C. to visit our U.S. Senators and Congressmen in support of legislation that would allow respiratory therapists to provide skilled home health care visits to our respiratory patients.

When the Medicare program was created in 1965, respiratory therapists were not included under the home health services benefit since we practiced exclusively in hospitals. Our practice has evolved since that time. Now, respiratory therapists' expertise is recognized in all care settings, including the home. However, Medicare policy has not kept pace with this change. We believe it is time to bring the respiratory therapy component of Medicare's Home Health Services benefit into the 21st century. Our home health bill (H.R. 2905) will do this.

Under current Medicare regulations, nurses and physical therapist are permitted to provide skilled visits to patients with respiratory diseases. H.R. 2905 will allow respiratory therapists to make some of these visits when the patient has a respiratory component as part of their disease process.

We believe that home health agencies should have the option of utilizing respiratory therapists if deemed appropriate by the attending physician. We do not want to restrict the ability of nurses and physical therapists to continue to provide this service. However, the more choices available to home health providers, attending physicians, and patients, the more health care resources can match patient needs.

Recognizing respiratory therapists under the home health services benefit should not result in an increase of overall Medicare expenditures.

Meetings with the following were held: Representatives Spencer Bachus, Jo Bonner, Terry Everett, Bud Cramer, Robert Alderholt, Michael Rogers and Senator Richard Shelby, or their office representatives who handles health issues.

Representative Arthur Davis and Senator Jeff Sessions, and their office staff, would not make an appointment to meet with us. Since then, Representative Michael Rogers has signed on as a cosponsor of this important legislation.

Alabama therapists have made 231 e-mail contacts with our U.S. Senators and Congressmen in support of this effort. We need to continue our efforts and encourage our U.S. representatives and senators to support HR 2905.



**Fall 2004 - Alabama Society for Respiratory Care
Annual Conference and Exhibits - September 16-17
Hill University Center Auditorium - Birmingham, Alabama**

CELEBRATING THE PROFESSION!

MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, Sept. 15

6:00 PM ASRC Board of Directors Meeting at the Radisson Hotel in The Board Room - Open to all therapists interested in ASRC activities. Call the ASRC at 251-434-3405 for information.

Thursday Sept. 16

7:30 AM On-site Registration

8:00 AM **Life After Licensure**, Duke Johns, *Corporate Sponsor: Medical Specialties*

9:00 AM **How To Start a Smoking Cessation Program**, Jonathan Waugh, PhD, RRT, RPFT
Corporate Sponsor: Sepracor

10:00 AM Coffee Break *Corporate Sponsor: Bayer*

10:10 AM **Where Are We with Cystic Fibrosis Research?**, J.P. Clancy, M.D.
Corporate Sponsor: Hill-Rom/Advance Resp.

11:10 AM **Licensure and Legislation** Senator Roger Bedford and Representative Jim McClendon
Corporate Sponsor: Medical Staffing Network

12:00 - 3:00 PM **VENDOR EXHIBITS/LUNCH** - See the latest equipment and supplies for cardiopulmonary care at over 40 booths plus get a **FREE LUNCH!** *Corporate Sponsor: Universal Hospital Services, Inc.*

3:00 PM **Pharmacotherapeutic Approach to Asthma Management**, Doris Rapp, PharmD., PA-C
Corporate Sponsor: King Systems Corp.

4:00 PM **Licensure Panel Discussion Q&A**, Ron Stansell, David Howard, Ronda Hood
Corporate Sponsor: Tri-anim

5:00 PM Adjourn

6:30 PM **Management/vendor reception** at the Stardome Comedy Club (for all department managers, supervisors, and educators) *Corporate Sponsor: BOC Medical*

8:00 PM **Comedy Performance** at the Stardome Comedy Club with comedian Jeff Dunham (for all ticket holders, open to all attendees). See meeting registration form to buy your ticket for the show.

Friday, Sept. 17

7:45 AM Registration

8:00 AM **ATS Criteria for Bedside & Office Spirometry**, Debra Laken, M.A.Ed., RRT
Corporate Sponsor: Smith/Portex

9:00 AM **The Deep Picture of O₂ Uptake, Transport and Delivery**, Robert Chatburn, RRT, FAARC
Corporate Sponsor: Radiometer

10:00 AM Coffee break, *Corporate Sponsor: MedicPRN*

10:10 AM **Allergic Asthma**, William Massey, M.D. *Corporate Sponsor: Novartis*

11:10 AM **Permissive Hypercapnia**, Bill Pruitt, MBA, RRT, CPFT, AE-C, *Corporate Sponsor: Air Gas*

12:00 PM Evaluation and adjourn

10 CRCE educational credit hours have been applied for through the AARC

HOTEL INFORMATION/DIRECTIONS

Radisson Hotel 205-933-9000 or 800-333-3333. Special rate for ASRC \$74.00 plus tax for single or double occupancy - 20th St. South at University Blvd.

Parking for the conference - Parking \$2.00 per day at the Radisson (free to hotel guests). Good exercise but a long walk to the Hill Auditorium (6 city blocks to walk).

StarDome Comedy Club: 1818 Data Drive 205-444-0008. Directions from UAB downtown; Take I-65 South to I-495 West and keep right. Take the first Exit 13B then turn left on Hwy 31 (you will go past the Galleria on your right). At the 5th traffic light, turn left on Lorna Rd. At the 2nd light turn right on Data Dr. 20 minutes from downtown in good traffic.

Hill University Center Auditorium is located at the corner of 8th St. South (Univ. Blvd) and 15th St. South.

The AIRWAY - The Alabama Society for Respiratory Care

ASRC Birmingham Conference - Registration Form

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

AARC Member # _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Institution: _____

Work Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

_____ ADD my name to the group email list for Alabama respiratory therapists to get ASRC announcements by email.

Conference Fee Schedule - Circle one:

	AARC member	Non-member
One day pre-registration*	\$35	\$45
Two day pre-registration*	\$50	\$70
**Students (Two day only)	\$20	\$30

**Students must pre-register through their Program Director

For single day registration please indicate day ___Thurs. ___Fri.

***Note: Pre-register postmarked by Wednesday, September 8. After September 8th, add \$10.00 to all registration fees.**

ADD _____ Ticket(s) to Comedy Club Performance - Include \$16.50 per ticket - Tickets will be distributed to the ASRC meeting attendees on Thursday afternoon.

Make checks payable to ASRC and mail to:

**ASRC
P.O. Box 7911
Mobile, AL 36670-0911**

General questions:

Call: 251-434-3405

E-mail: dwinn@usouthal.edu

Fax: 251-434-3941

We are "Celebrating the Profession" at this meeting - our first ASRC gathering since the passage of the Alabama Respiratory Therapist Practice Act. We have now joined the rest of the continental U.S. in recognizing respiratory therapy as a licensed profession and respiratory therapists as licensed professionals! We invite you to join us at this meeting... we have a few surprises for those who do!

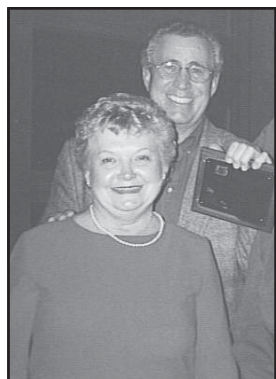
Lung Health for Life - National Respiratory Care Week

Respiratory Care Week is October 24-30, 2004. This year's theme is "Lung Health for Life." As most of you know, this week is a celebration. It is an opportunity for managers and administrators to acknowledge and thank the respiratory therapists at their facilities. RC Week is also a chance for RTs to educate their colleagues and the public about the value of quality respiratory care provided by respiratory professionals. Finally, RC Week is the time, once a year, when RTs from all over the US and many other countries come together to share their pride in their profession and themselves. This year, we have a special note of pride to celebrate...passage of the Alabama Respiratory Therapy Practice Act. We now join the rest of the continental United States as recognized, licensed professionals working in health care, sales, research, and education.

As you plan your schedule of activities for RC Week, please keep in mind that Wednesday, October 27, 2004 is National Lung Health Day. To commemorate Lung Health Day, we strongly urge all RC Week participants to designate Wednesday for public spirometry screenings. The AARC has an excellent source of 100 ideas on how to celebrate National Respiratory Care Week. (You must be an AARC member to access this list)

Go to <http://www.aarc.org/resources> and scroll down to Respiratory Care Week. Send photos and a short write-up of your event to the ASRC and we'll put in the next Airway. Now - go have some fun and celebrate our week!

PLAQUES PRESENTED IN LAS VEGAS



In December 2003, a reunion for former and current delegates to the AARC House of Delegates was held preceding the 49th AARC International Congress. Plaques were presented to Dot Penn and David

Rowland in recognition of Life Membership in the ASRC. Both Dot and David are former ASRC presidents and Delegates. David was the first Executive Director of the ASRC. Both Dot and David served the ASRC and the profession of respiratory therapy over a period of many years.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

Our condolences to **Linda Smith** and her family on the recent death of her husband. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Congratulations to **Tony Cowan** and his wife, Michelle, on the birth of their son, Paul Anthony Cowan. Paul Anthony was born on August 4th.

Tim Op't Holt, Professor, University of South Alabama, presented six lectures in China during his recent visit there. Dr. Op't Holt has been invited to present a seminar in October in Beijing at the 20th anniversary celebration of the China-Japan Friendship Hospital where he has been affiliated for the past 14 years.

Congratulations to employees at **Baptist Medical Center (BMC) in Montgomery** who recently passed their credentialing exams. **Laura Sons** received her CRT, **Kim Blount** received her RRT, and **Tracey Jones, RRT** received her NPS credential. **Jeff Witcher, RPFT**, is the new team leader on the night shift.

Congratulations also go to **Angela Jones** and Howard Wallace on their recent marriage.

Remember: People and Places is information provided by you to The Airway staff for publication. If you have information of interest please email to: dwinn@usouthal.edu.

As a reminder - Mike Dunnam, Webmaster for the ASRC, is always looking for pictures of "therapists in action" to post on the website. If you have any pictures you would like to send him, please email digital pictures to: mdunnam@comcast.net. Prints can be mailed to the ASRC, P.O. Box 7911, Mobile, Alabama, 36670, attention: Mike Dunnam.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The ASRC welcomes the following new members who joined the AARC from April 1st to June 30th, 2004.

New AARC Members*

Conni Carter
Cynthia Goff
Becky Yeager
Rebecca Tucker

Gary Fields
George Garnett
Lisa Kendrick
Derek Colburn

David Pitts
William Riddell
Asad Al-Rakan
Stephen Proctor

If you are interested in becoming a member of the ASRC/AARC please visit the Alabama Society for Respiratory Care website at: www.alsrc.org or the American Association for Respiratory Care at: www.AARC.org.

*As reported by the AARC.

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