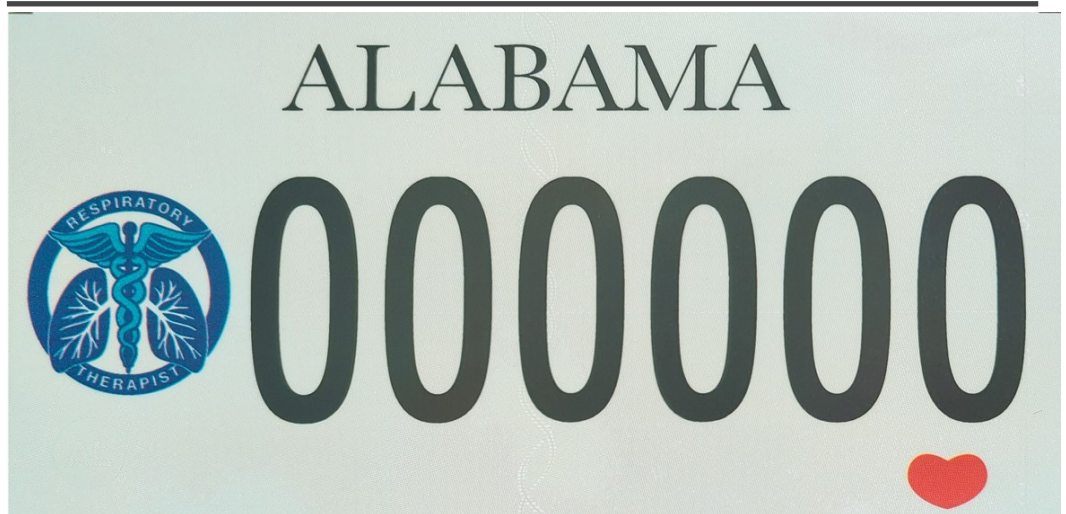


Alabama Society for Respiratory Care

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

RT License Plate Now Available for Pre-Commitment Orders!



We are thrilled to introduce the brand-new Respiratory Therapy distinctive license plate, now available for pre-commitment orders on the Alabama Department of Revenue website!

Pre-commitment is a wonderful way to show your support for our profession. Whether you're a respiratory therapist, a healthcare advocate, or simply someone who values the vital work done in this field, this plate is for you.

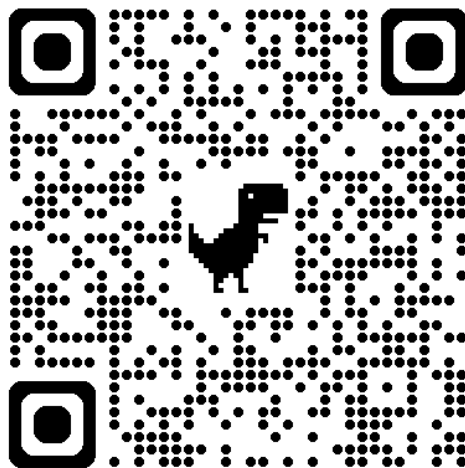
You don't need to be a respiratory therapist to order and anyone can show their support!

How to Pre-Commit:

1. Visit the Alabama Department of Revenue website at:

<https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/division/motor-vehicle/>

Or scan this code:



2. Navigate to: "Reserve a Pre-commitment Plate" towards the center bottom of the page



Plates

Perform actions available to the public without the need to provide proof of vehicle ownership.

- > Request a Personalized Plate
- > Reserve a Pre-Commitment Plate
- > Sample Plate Order Request
- > Register to Obtain Government Tags
- > Submit a Distinctive Plate Application

3. Certify you're not a robot! Then click "Next"

4. On the Plate Type drop down, select "Alabama Society for Respiratory Care"

5. Complete the application! You will need name, address, and vehicle information like make, model, year, and VIN for each vehicle. Also the plate can be personalized if you would like!

By pre-committing to this custom plate, you'll help us reach our goal of 250 plates, which is the number of orders required to make this design a reality. Once we meet our goal, your custom plate will be produced and shipped to you.

Join us in celebrating and supporting the work of respiratory therapy professionals. Let's hit the road with pride and spread awareness!

ASRC Upcoming Events!!

The ASRC board is excited to announce our new plans to make professional development more accessible and organized for respiratory therapists across the state! We're introducing a consistent schedule for our key events, making it easier for you to earn CEU/CRCE and plan ahead to join us for everything we have planned.

Mark Your Calendars: Here's a sneak peek at our annual event lineup:

Annual Conference at the Beach – Join us every April to combine learning with the relaxing backdrop of the beach. This year the annual conference will be April 7-9th.

Early Professionals Conference – Held in February, this event will alternate locations between Montgomery and Birmingham each year. This year the early professionals conference will be February 21st in Montgomery.

Montgomery Mini-Conference – Set for June, offering centralized learning

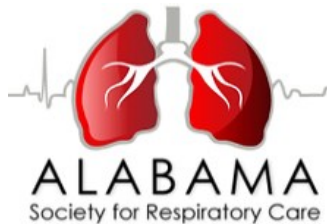
opportunities. This year the conference will be June 19th.

Huntsville Mini-Conference – Happening in August, perfect for our North AL therapists. Date TBA.

Birmingham Mini-Conference – Concluding our mini-conference series in September each year. This year the conference will be September 17th.

By standardizing our event schedule, we aim to make it easier for you to stay on top of your professional development. We look forward to seeing you at these events and continuing to support your growth in respiratory therapy!

More information on at <https://asrc.regfox.com/2025-asrc-annual-conference-and-exhibits->



Tuesday Talks Continue: We're also thrilled to keep our Tuesday Talks going strong! These insightful sessions feature exceptional presenters, brought to you by your dedicated district representatives. They're a great way to stay engaged and informed throughout the year. This is our exciting schedule:

- Tuesday, January 21st - Dr. Ellen Buckner and Ms. Jabril Cooper-Diamond with "Interprofessional Collaboration in Asthma: Reaching Health Equity Across Our Rural Communities" - 2025 ASRC Tuesday Talk - January 21st, 2025
- Tuesday, February 18th - Lexie Caraway with "Thermographic Imaging to Detect and Prevent Pressure Injury"
- Tuesday, March 11th - Dr. R Simpson will present "Pressure Support: The Forgotten Breath" - for **NPS credential** CEU/CRCE

AARC Activates Disaster Relief

We are proud to announce that the ASRC board recently voted to donate \$1,000 to the AARC Disaster Relief Fund, thanks to the generous support of Alabama RTs.

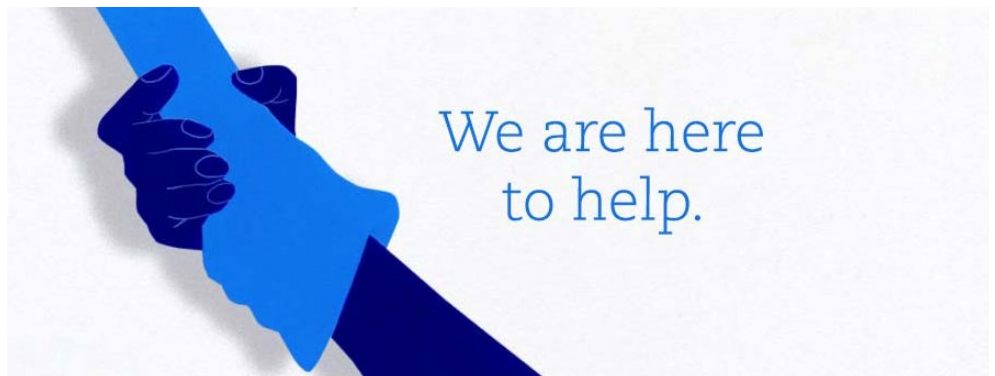
The AARC Disaster Relief Fund was launched in 1992 to assist members who suffer damage to their homes or other personal property as a result of federally declared natural disasters.

AARC members living in officially declared disaster areas may apply for a grant of up to \$500, either online at <https://www.aarc.org/aarc-membership/aarc-membership-benefits/aarc-disaster-relief-fund/>, or by calling (972) 406-4682.

If you know of a fellow member who has been affected by wildfires, storms, flooding, or landslides, please relay this message to them, as they may not have access to the internet. Currently, the disaster area includes California and Connecticut

The fund is all about AARC members helping members.

If you would like to contribute to the AARC's Disaster Relief Fund, donate online at <https://my.aarc.org/Donate>



Early Professionals Committee Update

We are thrilled to announce that the Early Professionals Committee has successfully begun meeting, with student and graduate representation from respiratory therapy programs across Alabama.

The Early Professionals Committee is vital, because it's designed encourage involvement from students and new graduates in professional activities early in their careers, helping them build a strong professional identity. It Provides a platform for new professionals to voice their ideas and contribute to the ASRC. And finally, it enhances the transition from academic settings to professional practice, ensuring new

therapists are well-prepared and confident as they enter the workforce.

By engaging with this committee, both students and new graduates gain invaluable experience, exposure to the broader respiratory therapy community, and a head start on their professional journey. We are excited to see how this committee will continue to grow and impact the future of our profession.

Congratulations to everyone involved, and we look forward to the positive changes this committee will bring to our community!

UNA Representatives: Megan Curtis & Alexandria Hyde

WSCC Representatives: Karra Bearden & Chris Weems

SSCC: Crystal Henderson & Tamia Spencer

JSCC: Madiosn Littleton, Audrey Nick, Kahayla Best, Ava Bosshart, Darian Manassa

JSU: Tameia Armstead & Brandon Harper

TSCC: Cami Welsh & Yancey Northington

WCC: Jessica Bradley, Shakira Upshaw, & Anna Dozier

CACC: Raye Murrill

Faculty and Student Update

Congratulations to the UWA Respiratory Therapy Program which received Initial Accreditation and started their first cohort January 15th!!

Jefferson State Community College
Associate Degree
Respiratory Therapy
Class of 2024
Shelby-Hoover Campus

Amber Billingsley, Madison Littleton (CLASS REPRESENTATIVE), Audrey Nick (CLASS REPRESENTATIVE), Stephanie Black, Mashaela Charles, Idalianna Johnson, Dontrina Hardy, Mary Jones, Mario Mendez, Morgan Rudloff, Alicia Walkshaw, Shanda Wilkins

Not Pictured: Christian King, Kourney Stewart

Pictured Right: Congratulations to the Jefferson State 2024 graduating class! As a group, they exceeded the CoARC threshold for high cut score. Way to go and congratulations!

Faculty and Student Update

The Shelton State Community College Respiratory Therapy Program staff proudly hosted the Class of 2024 Pinning Ceremony on Thursday, December 12, 2024 and graduation was held on Friday, December 13, 2024. Photos Below. Congrats to all of the December 2024 Respiratory Therapy Program school graduates!



At the Pinning Ceremony, graduate Isis Marizette was presented with the Academic Excellence & Clinical Excellence Award (pictured above middle), Crystal Henderson with the Leadership Excellence & SSARCS Outstanding Service Award (above bottom), and Baleigh Walters with the Peer Excellence Award (above top top).

ASRC Board Member Highlight: Carlos Taylor



What is your favorite thing about your career?

One of my favorite aspects of respiratory therapy career is the opportunity to make a significant impact on patient's lives. Helping individuals who struggle with breathing difficulties and seeing them improve can be incredibly rewarding. Collaboration with other clinicians and the continuous learning involved in the field.

ASRC Board Member Highlight: Ken Thigpen, BS, RRT, FAARC

What started my path in Respiratory Therapy?

I got off to somewhat of an auspicious beginning in the genesis of my path. I had a close friend who was in a car accident and burned over 60% of his body. I spent a lot of time with him in the hospital and watched how the respiratory therapist worked with him. His lungs were rattling and junky when they came in – he was never happy to see them but he always breathed a lot easier when they left. Witnessing that firsthand planted the seed for my future. I could help people!

What is my favorite thing about my career?

There's never a dull moment! I've worked at every level within the RT department beginning as an OJT while in RT school. I worked as a staff therapist, shift supervisor, coordinator, assistant director, technical director and administrative director before retiring and going to work as a Territory Manager for Monaghan Medical for the last eight plus years. I've gotten to be involved professionally at the local (region/chapter) level of multiple state societies as well as Affiliate President along with the AARC House of Delegates and Board of Direc-

Has anyone impacted your career in a meaningful way and how?

While working at UAB Hospital, Robert Johnson had a profound impact on my respiratory therapy career. Robert provided guidance, shared valuable experiences, and offered insights regarding Respiratory Care. Also, Robert was very supportive and encouraging when I transi-



This Quarter we are highlighting Ken Thigpen and Carlos Taylor. Both serve as Industrial Representatives to the ASRC Board and we can't thank them enough for their participation. We hope you enjoy getting to know your representatives !

tioned to the Inhaled Nitric Oxide pharmaceutical industry.

What is your proudest accomplishment? The recipient of the 2024 Industrial Rep of the Year Award (pictured left)

What is your favorite hobby? Traveling



tors. I've had the opportunity to publish numerous articles and abstracts and serve as an expert witness in court cases. There's always a new area to explore!

Has anyone impacted your career in a meaningful way and how?

I've been fortunate enough to have several informal as well as formal leaders pour themselves into my life. I cut my teeth on being involved in a state society back in 1985 with the AISRC and a bike-a-thon to raise money for a wheelchair for a pediatric patient with a rare neuromuscular disease. Fred Hill, Jimmy Norwood, and a handful of others showed me how much fun being involved could be! Shortly after leaving Alabama, some good folks in Louisiana continued the journey. After several years there, I moved back to Mississippi and found another gang of folks ready to help. I could fill up a page if I were to name all the past and present folks who had made a difference in my professional life.

What is my favorite part of being on the ASRC Board?

I always like to be involved in mapping out my own future and believe my job provides an opportunity for me to have a good idea of what the pulse of my col-

leagues is; whether we're talking about therapists, managers, or my vendor peers. I love to watch the way our leaders bounce ideas off one another and slowly mold raw ideas into meaningful events and concepts. It's poetry in motion.

What did I want to do when I was young?

As a young person, I was all over the map on my future. I dreamt of being an accountant (I was pretty good with numbers), a physical therapist (until I witnessed debridement on burn patients), a pressman in a print shop (my high school part-time job), sports photographer, contractor, and a pastor. It's been amazing on how I was drawn back to respiratory therapy (after my exposure as a high school sophomore) and as I've gotten older had the opportunity to weave some of the aspects of ministry into how I delivered care and performed my duties most every day. I'm constantly reminded that as respiratory therapists we have been given the privilege of caring for God's best creation – His people!

Looking Ahead: Respiratory Holidays Next Quarter

As we dive into the new year, the next quarter brings two significant opportunities to spotlight respiratory health and the incredible work of respiratory care professionals:

Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week (Second Full Week of March)

Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week celebrates the transformative impact of pulmonary rehab programs, which empower individuals with chronic lung conditions—like COPD, pulmonary fibrosis, and asthma—to reclaim their lives. Through tailored exercise plans, education, and support, these programs help patients breathe easier and thrive. It's also the perfect time to applaud the dedicated professionals behind this vital work.

World Tuberculosis Day (March 24)

On March 24, we honor the discovery



of the TB bacterium by Dr. Robert Koch and rally global efforts to eliminate tuberculosis. This preventable and treatable disease continues to affect millions worldwide, reminding us of the critical role respiratory professionals play in promoting education, early detection, and treatment adherence. This year's theme emphasizes equity

and solidarity, inspiring us to take action toward a TB-free future.

These upcoming observances provide a great opportunity to raise awareness, celebrate progress, and recommit to improving respiratory health—one breath at a time!



President's Corner

Happy New Year!!!!

I hope everyone is staying warm and dry. As we all are dreaming of warmer weather, it's not long before the ASRC Annual Conference at Orange Beach, April 7th, 8th, and 9th. The ASRC Board is working on the speakers and agenda to make this conference a great experience. If you have a subject or speaker you would like to see at this or one of the other future ASRC events, please reach out to me or other board members. We are going to be asking for ASRC Award nominations soon, so start thinking about who you would like to nominate.

It is humbling for me to serve as the President for the Society, representing such outstanding group of Respiratory Therapists that we have here in Alabama. Thanks to Ed Goodwin and the ASRC Board of Directors, our Society is on very strong ground today and moving forward.

My goal over the next two years, is to continue the phenomenal work done by past ASRC Board members and continue moving us forward. I look forward to a great term together and am excited to see what the future holds for our profession in the state and nationally. If you ever need anything or have any questions, please call me at 205-396-9089.

Thank you,
Robert

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