

Virginia Society for Respiratory Care
Central District Newsletter
February 2009



Your Central District Directors:

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Join us for 1.5 hours CRCEs and Pizza

February 25, 5:30 pm at CJW Medical Center, Chippenham Campus,
Bosher Auditorium, "Trach & Laryngectomy Tubes: Eliminate Fear of the Unknown" by Lois Rowland
RSVP to Hanns or Lois by Friday, Feb. 20 so we can make sure there is pizza for all!
Free to AARC Members and \$15 for non-AARC members.

Congrats to Hanns being re-elected to his second term as Central District Director! Lois's term will expire in December 2009, so please consider running or nominating a fellow professional for a two year term starting January 2010.

Your 2009 VSRC Executive Board:

President Shane Blake, President-Elect Wes Mullins, Past President Natalie Napolitano, Vice President Pamela Niblett, Treasurer Paul Dalby, Secretary Shelia Mullins, AARC House of Delegates for Virginia: Tom Malinowski and Dan Rowley.

Central District members also on the 2009 Board of Directors:

Education Co-chair Sherry Compton, Legislative Co-Chair Jolynn Hamelman, COPD Summit Co-chair Nathalie Dodson, Industrial Co-chair Tom Leonard.

Political Advocacy News in Virginia: On January 21st VSRC members met at the Virginia General Assembly Building to spread awareness of lung disease and to support a smoke free Virginia and an increase in the state tobacco tax. A health fair with simple spirometry, blood pressure, and pulse oximetry checks evaluated forty attendees over a two hour period. See photos on the www.vsrc.org.

YOUR ADVOCACY HELP IS STILL NEEDED BOTH IN VIRGINIA AND THE U.S.!

This will take less time for you to do than it takes to read this newsletter!

It is true that the squeaky wheel gets the grease! Your elected officials really do track your opinions when you contact them, even if through an email template. Sign up for the alerts sent out by the American Lung Assn. to keep you informed of current legislative happenings and you can choose to send a message to your elected officials within a minute to have your voice heard: <http://lungaction.org>

The AARC also tracks legislation important to RCPs and posts up to date information on the website. Log onto www.aarc.org and click "Government Affairs." Currently, the Medicare Respiratory Therapy Initiative was reintroduced into the U.S. Senate as S. 343 on Jan. 30. If enacted, the legislation will significantly improve the ability of qualified respiratory therapists to provide smoking cessation, asthma management, medication education, inhaler training, and other important services. Through the AARC website you can write an electronic letter to your U.S. elected officials to support this bill.

Kindred Hospital Wins GEM Trophy

The VSRC Central District awarded the Going the Extra Mile Trophy to the Kindred Hospital team at the Central District educational meeting in November. Rob Kennedy accepted the trophy for his team for collecting \$1667 for the American Lung Association Asthma Walk in October 2008.

The Capital City Symposium 2008 was held in September in Richmond. This one day conference offered 6 CRCEs and was co-sponsored by the Central District and the J.Sargeant Reynolds chapter of the Lambda Beta Society (the National Honor Society for the Respiratory Care Profession). The VSRC and all the attendees sincerely appreciate the support which made the symposium possible from:

Tom Trenis, Cardinal Healthcare/Viasys Healthcare
Steve Chaucer and Tim Rossman, Hamilton Medical
Tim Socia, Medical Marketing, Pulmonetics
Pam Dunn, Hill Rom
Mark Fleshman and Hanns Billmayer, Philips Healthcare (formerly Respiroics)
Dianne McKee and Tom Malinowski, Mary Washington Hospital
John Gay, Bridge-Tech Medical
Derek Scott, Apria Healthcare
J.B. Brooks, a great DJ!

We hope you will join us at the Capital City Symposium 2009 (date to be announced)!