



KENTUCKY SOCIETY FOR RESPIRATORY CARE NEWSLETTER

Fall 2010



SKCTC respiratory students Cindy Jones (left) and Brandy Smith (right) demonstrate at Bell County High School career days.

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President's Corner

2010: The Year of the Lung. Kind of strikes a cord with most of us Respiratory Care Practitioners doesn't it.? As President of the Kentucky Society for Respiratory Care, representing over 3,300 active RCP's; it does make me think. It makes me wonder what we as a professional society are doing to help support all those RCP's that are working every day in the bluegrass state, fighting lung disease. Those are on the front lines treating the citizens of Kentucky who are afflicted with COPD, asthma, cystic fibrosis and other disease processes need this support. From the city hospital's in Louisville, Ashland, Bowling Green and Lexington to the rural hospitals in Pike, Harrison, Marshall and Russell counties... RCP's are there.

The KSRC, in conjunction with the American Association for Respiratory Care is there for those RCP's. Together, we are working to provide the tools necessary for everyone to do the best that they can do in this fight. Whether it is an on-line CEU opportunity or a local conference, new and cutting edge knowledge is made available. The KSRC

has sponsored several local conferences throughout the state for every RCP to have the opportunity to gain this knowledge.

In government, the KSRC is there. Lobbying side by side with the Kentucky Board for Respiratory Care and the AARC to get laws passed that benefit the patients and the RCP's of our state. We continue to support the mission of the AARC as well. This year has brought hope and optimism as well as fear and concern with the passage of a sweeping Health Care Reform bill. No matter what side of the fence you reside on, Republican or Democrat, this will affect you. As a professional healthcare provider, we were represented well during the debates. Provisions and language was heard by your congressman during the debate as well; brought to them through the efforts of the KSRC and the AARC. Recently, during a nationally sponsored "Virtual Lobby Day" in support of the Respiratory Care Medicare Initiative (s 343 and hr1077) Kentucky finished 17th in the number of advocacy messages sent to

Continued inside...

Congratulations Graduates

Congratulations to the December 2009 graduates all there hard work and dedication ha paid off.

Pictured at right are graduates from Elizabethtown Community & Technical College. Graduates: *Michelle Bailey, Jacqui Blodgett, Melissa Bowles, Nikki Cook, Anna Crenshaw, Victoria Fox, Emily Higdon, Chris Hudson, Victoria Newton, Amy Sharp, Rachel Smallwood, Chip Smith, & Laura Spivey.*



Left are graduates from Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College. *Front row sitting left to right: Josh Bowman, Tommy Frazier, Todd Smith, Bryan Cox, Allie Manning, Michelle Hensley, Nancy Miles Last Row: Margie Huff, Gina Grubbs, Ashley Allen, Brandy Smith, Julia Miniard, Cindy Jones, Tracy Michael, Ashley Veach and Mike Good*

President's Corner cont...

our representatives in Washington! The debate on Healthcare will continue to go on, and none of us can predict what will happen; however rest assured that the KSRC will be there.

In serving as your board, the KSRC, from President to local Sr. and Jr. Representatives are here to serve you. We want to be involved in what is going on regionally and statewide in the greatest profession in the world, Respiratory Care; to do that we need every RCP in the state to join the AARC. Membership is the key folks! Nationally the AARC eclipsed a milestone this year, by going over 50,000 members. As great as an accomplishment as this is sadly, it still only represents 1/3'rd of the practicing RCP's in the country.

In Kentucky we have over 3,300 active RCP's and over 6,000 that are in the books as licensed RCP's, yet our membership continues to hover around 500. I'll say it again, membership is the key folks! The KSRC along with the AARC continues to provide tools to every RCP to help promote membership. Upon joining the AARC, you automatically become a member of the KSRC and all the benefits that membership provides. If you want a full list of those benefits, visit www.aarc.org and click on the value of membership icon right on the top of the page (it has a piggy bank icon!) and review all the reasons to become part of your professional society. While you are on that site, take some time to look at all the things that the AARC is doing. Visit the American Foundation for

Respiratory Care's link and see what CEU's they are offering or the Drive for COPD to see what is happening. There is a lot to see and opportunities to get involved through aarc.org alone!

We have grown in numbers in Kentucky this year; however, we cannot be satisfied and must continue to work hard! Wouldn't it be nice to say the Governor and the state legislature that 50, 75 or 100% of all the RCP's in Kentucky are members of the Kentucky Society for Respiratory Care? Can you imagine the lobbying power that would bring, if we could show those kinds of numbers? Wow. Our voice would resonate throughout the halls of local government with effervescence! Together we as Respiratory Care Practitioner's can and will have an impact on healthcare in Kentucky! We can continue to be an advocate for every person suffering with lung disease and the Respiratory Care they receive. As your President, I would like to encourage each and every one of you to get involved. Start locally, run for Jr. Representative or what ever position intrigues you and see how the KSRC works. If you need help or have any questions, feel free to contact any member of the KSRC board or visit our website at, www.ksrc.com, where you will find all of our contact information. If you would like to speak with any of us personally, just call! It is an honor to serve others, especially those who are fellow RCP's and I look forward to continuing to do so for the remainder of this year and for years to come.

Changes at the KBRC

Hello from the Kentucky Board of Respiratory Care. I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you about some changes at the KBRC. First, our offices have moved. We are no longer located on Research Park Drive across from Kentucky Horse Park. In 2009 the Governor announced a new project for our building and we had to move. We are now located in downtown Lexington at 163 West Short Street. The office is located in the Traditional Bank building and we are in suite 350.

A change that will affect everyone is the strict enforcement of the regulations on CEU submissions during renewal. The actual law has not changed but the enforcement of it has. The KBRC will no longer be allowing CEUs which were obtained after Dec. 31 for use during the renewal cycle. The basis for this is in KY Administrative Regulation 29:050 Section 2. Accrual of Continuing Education Units Mandatory; Computation of Accrual. The law states:(1) A minimum of twenty-four (24) continuing education units shall be accrued by each person holding mandatory certification during the two (2) year certification period for renewal.(2) The certification period shall be January 1 of one (1) year through December 31 of the following calendar year. (3) All units shall be in or related to the field of respiratory care.

This new enforcement of continuing education does not change the renewal date as it remains Jan. 30th. There are

penalties associated with non compliance of the law so make sure you have your CEU's finished by Dec. 31st.

One very important part of making sure you are ready to renew is to make sure that your CEU's are approved by the KBRC. If you have obtained CEU's that are approved by the AARC, they are automatically accepted by the KBRC. If they are not AARC approved CEU's then you must look on the KBRC web site www.kbrc.ky.gov to see if they have been approved. If you do not see your courses on the website then follow the instructions on turning in the CEU's for approval.

Another change is that for the first time in many years, the Kentucky Legislature did not take monies from independent boards and commissions such as the KBRC to place in the general fund to balance the state budget. As you know, the KBRC receives no money from the state. We operate solely from the licensing fees paid by you.

The KBRC alongside other licensing boards lobbied legislatures to stop the practice and this year the state budget was balanced without sweeping our funds.

I hope this update has been helpful to you. As always if you have any questions feel free to call the KBRC offices and speak to the Executive Director, Peggy Moore or Rick Rose, Administrative Assistant.

- Tamara McDaniel, RRT, KBRC Chairman

2010 Explorer Conference: Navigating Change; Best Ever!

The 5th annual Explorer Conference was held at NKU's Student Union this past May 19 and 20th. Attendance this year was amazing, as over 330 Respiratory Care Practitioners, Students and others came to the conference. Several walked away with fabulous door prizes including Cincinnati Reds tickets, \$100 gift cards and a free night in a hotel suite!

They were treated to lectures ranging from Rapid Sequence Intubations to Electronic Medical Record keeping. This year specialty break out sessions was held on Thursday to focus on Respiratory Care Management and Respiratory Specialties.

The speakers were outstanding as well and they ranged from local Physicians and Respiratory Therapists to regional and national speakers. Attendees were treated to understanding Radiation to traveling around the world with international RCP's.

Exhibitors again were displaying the newest in Respiratory Care equipment, medications and modalities throughout both days. The award for the most outstanding exhibitor award went to Cardinal Hill Specialty Hospital

and was accepted by Ms. Carol Shannon.

The newest addition to the Explorer Conference was the "Tenacious Trivia" contest held on Wednesday afternoon. Eight teams representing five Respiratory Care programs participated in this inaugural event. At the end of the night, the "Grand Finale" team from Cincinnati State came out the winner. They defeated the "Blue Bloaters" from NKU in a hard fought match. They took home a trophy and a \$500 scholarship for their school.

Overall it was the best Explorer Conference ever! Save the date for 2011, May 20 and 21st for the 6th annual conference, "New Horizons"

Here is what some RCP's are saying about the Explorer Conference:

- *"Great conference! Congrats on terrific educational experience. Good speakers"*
- *"Enjoyable, I come here every year!"*
- *"Nice conference, good flow. Very organized"*
- *"All the speakers were fantastic!"*

Upcoming Events

- **October 8, 2010**—COPD 2010 & Beyond - Challenges & Opportunities— London Community Center, London, Ky—6 CEU's *For more information or to register visit: www.soahec.org*
- **October 24–30, 2010** — Respiratory Care Week 2010 — www.aarc.org/rcweek
- **October 29, 2010** — The Latest Advances in Diabetes Management, Corbin Technology & Community Activities Center—Corbin, Ky *For more information or to register visit: www.soahec.org*
- **November 8, 9, 10, and 11th, 2010**—Kettering 4-day Comprehensive Review (CRT/RRT), Health Sciences Building on the North Laurel Campus of Somerset Community College in London, KY For more information contact: Jess Hoskins (606) 878-4815

Who's my district representative?

Bluegrass District

Sr. Rep. June Sorenson
Jr. Rep. Jennifer Chism

Cumberland Valley District

Sr. Rep. Anna Jones
Jr. Rep. James Jones

Jefferson District

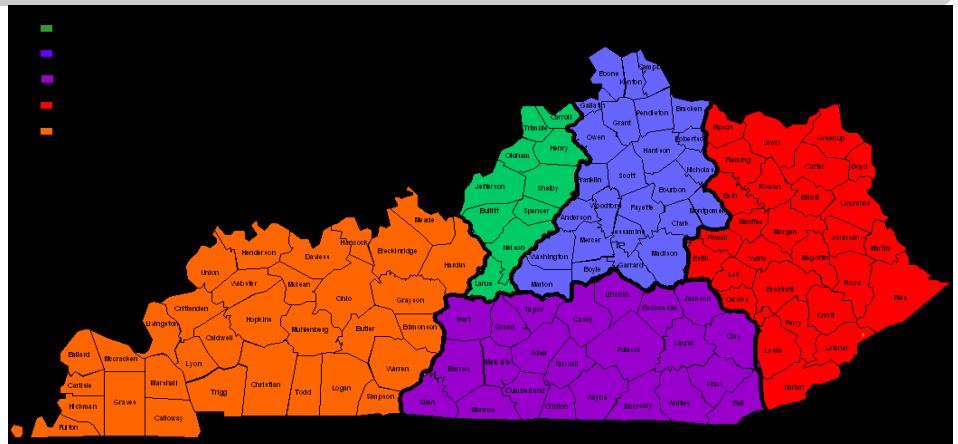
Sr. Rep. Ken Clay
Jr. Rep. Peggy Spears Davis

Mountain District

Sr. Rep. Missy Skeens
Jr. Rep. Brandy Damron

West Central District

Jr. Rep. Stephanie Young



**KENTUCKY SOCIETY FOR RESPIRATORY
CARE**

Visit us on the web: www.ksrc.com.