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FSRC Respiratory in Review

Quarterly Newsletter

January 2008

PO Box 2500 · Lutz · Florida 33548-2500

fsrc@fsrc.org Phone: 1-866-534-6172 Fax 813-426-3323

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Welcome to 2008!!!!

Dear Fellow Respiratory Care Practitioners,

Congratulations on another very successful year not only in our profession but in our personal lives as well. The FSRC has grown both in scope and membership due only to your efforts and contributions. 2007 realized the expansion of Board-appointed committees and their responsibilities which have impacted co-workers, friends, families and communities throughout the state of Florida and beyond. The introduction of the FSRC Ambassador Program has uncovered a new-found-interest in the profession with Respiratory Therapists eager to exhibit their pride and participate more actively in their profession. The AARC/FSRC Combo membership continues to make it easier and less costly to maintain active memberships in both your state and national organizations.

Congratulations and thank you so much for continuing to support Respiratory Therapy. Should you wish to become more active, or if we can assist you in any way, please contact the Executive Office through the contact information listed above.

Leta (Kelli) LeRoux-President

2007 Respiratory Highlights

Many notable events that directly or indirectly impacted Respiratory Therapy took place in 2007. For your reflection, the following is a brief recap of those happenings.

- The first Surgeon General took office in the state of Florida.
- The American Thoracic Society rescinded its letter of understanding to the American Academy of Sleep.
- The FSRC established Historical Committee: appoints AARC Delegate Dan Maddalino as Historian charged with the preservation of historical records and memorabilia.
- The 5 year AARC mandated update of the FSRC bylaws was submitted to the AARC.
- The AARC initiated and utilized online voting for its Officers and Directors for the first time.
- The Florida 2005-2007 licensure biennium ended on May 31, 2007 and the new 2007-2009 licensure biennium began June 1, 2007.
- The Florida Board of Respiratory Care eliminated HIV/AIDS as a mandatory CEU requirement and added 2 hours of Disaster Preparedness for the 2007-2009 biennium. Two hours of Medical Error Prevention are still required as well.
- The FSRC swears in its new Executive Board and Chapter Directors, and a record number of Associate Chapter Directors are welcomed.
- The FSRC Ventilator Task Team becomes a model for other states and the national program. ———>>>>>>>>>>

FLORIDA BOARD OF RESPIRATORY CARE RULING ON NBRC RE-CREDENTIALING

With regard to the NBRC Continuing Competency Program, the Florida BRC has issued the following statement: "Section 468.355, "Florida Statutes requires an applicant to be a 'certified respiratory therapist', or a 'registered respiratory therapist', as designated by NBRC to be eligible for INITIAL licensure. After initial licensure, this NBRC designation is not required to maintain or renew a license. However, should a licensee lose his or her license for any reason (discipline, null and void, etc.) the NBRC designation would be needed to reapply for licensure". As this statement may be subject to change you are strongly urged to maintain your credential.

- Homecare Medicaid reimbursement for Respiratory is brought to the forefront .
- Polysymnographers seek licensure and are approved in several U.S. states.
- Brewton Plante, PA is selected and contracted to represent the FSRC and Florida RT's in the Tallahassee legislature.
- Respiratory Care week enjoys many celebratory and educational events throughout the state including 7 sponsored by the FSRC.
- At the request of the FSRC, Governor Crist proclaims November 2007 as COPD awareness month.
- The AARC holds its 53rd International Respiratory Congress in Orlando Dec 1-4, 2007.
- The Education Committee of the FSRC Ventilator Task Team headed by FSRC Chapter 4 Director Melanie McDonough presents abstract of Study Pilot for a Presenters Guide regarding the role of an RT during a disaster.
- For many, NBRC 3 year CRT to Registry eligibility expired on December 31, 2007.
- The NBRC Continuing Competency Program became effective. The FSRC works actively with the Florida Board of Respiratory Care to identify the affects of the CCP on the Florida Respiratory Practice Act.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

FSRC Board Meeting
February 29, 2008
Florida Hospital East,
Orlando, FL

RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS IN THE NEWS

- **Kelley Sebree**, RRT, Director of Respiratory Care at Lawnwood Regional MC was interviewed by TCPalm.com regarding Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), the season and its affects on children and infants. A link to the interview is also posted on the AARC website home page under Good Press: AARC Members in the news Dec. 17, 2007. Great Job Kelley!
- **Yvonne Cosme**, RRT, Program Manager, Respiratory Care Program, Broward Community College was working to publish an article for the Palm Beach Herald and organized a student group to visit local high schools to emphasize the addictive effects of cigarette smoking. It was so successful that they were invited back to speak about careers in Respiratory. The finished article was submitted and published on the BCC website, but due to an oversight was never submitted to the Herald. Great job Yvonne; your work is known and appreciated.

The primary goal of the Executive Office is to enhance and to master "COMMUNICATION"!!!!

The following are a number of things it would be helpful for you to know.

On-line access to your profile

You must be at the computer where your FSRC profile e-mail address originates, or access will be denied. **Please do not create a new profile; call for assistance.**

Please verify that your correct e-mail address as well as other contact info is included in your on-line profile. We guarantee no Junk

Membership Cards/Newsletter

For cost reasons, it is necessary to batch membership cards to print in quantity. They are printed and mailed with the Quarterly Newsletter in January, April, July and October.

Web-site fsrc.org

This is your single most important source of Respiratory related information. You will find sources for CEU's, law changes and links to important sites such as AARC, DOH, CE Broker and much more!

Call Us

If you haven't heard from us lately, **PLEASE CALL**. Every

RECOGNITION!!

PAUL DURFEY an AARC/FSRC Combo member, and respiratory therapist of 15 years receives the "Doc Coggins Award of Excellence". The highest award given by the Lee Health System based on commitment, goals of quality, service, community, people, and finance. The honor includes a "Doc Coggins" sculptured glass keepsake, a limo ride to a gala dinner, a lifetime membership in the Alumni Circle, a one-term seat on the "Doc Coggins" Selection Review Committee and a sizeable check. Congratulations Paul! Your work and dedication demonstrates the abilities and contributions of Respiratory Therapists.

**2007 FSRC PROVIDES RESPIRATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION
IN RECORD FASHION**

In conjunction with its host partners the FSRC sponsored 3 multi-day events including the River City Symposium in Jacksonville, the Spacecoast Cardiopulmonary Conference in Cocoa Beach and the Sunshine Seminar in Miami. Additionally, 18 one day CE seminars were offered within the state of Florida. The 21 events attracted 1638 attendees who were awarded 16,594 hours of Respiratory continuing education credits. Attendees who registered as FSRC members vs. non-members saved \$73,710. There's more than one good reason to be an FSRC member. We would like to thank and acknowledge our host partners for their tireless efforts and continued support of the FSRC and the Respiratory Profession.

University of Central Florida, Orlando St Vincents Hospital, Jacksonville Mease Countryside Hospital
Osceola Regional Med Center Boca Raton Community Hospital Mt Sinai Med Center, Miami
Morton Plant Hospital, Clearwater University Community Hospital, Tampa Cape Coral Hospital
Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa Bayfront Medical Center/Tri-anim, Clearwater Mease Dunedin Hospital
Health South Ridgelake, Sarasota Bethesda Memorial Hospital, Boynton Bch St Josephs Hospital, Tampa
Health Park Med Center, Ft Myers South Miami Hospital/Harry Kapp Symposium, Miami
North Florida Regional Med Center, Gainesville Lakeland Regional Med Center- January 4, First in 2008 !!!

**FSRC VENTILATOR TASK TEAM SHIFTS FOCUS TO
NEW HOSPITAL SURGE CAPABILITY TEAM.**

During the Fall of 2007, the FSRC Ventilator Task Team (VTT) began the process of merging the membership into the newly formed Hospital Surge Capability Team (HSCT). The VTT worked independently with the Florida DOH on ventilator stockpile and purchases through federal funding. The goal of the VTT was to build Florida's capacity and capability to respond to mass casualty events and/or pandemics that resulted in large numbers of ventilated patients.

The HSCT is one in a group of several teams charged with implementing the newly released Florida DOH "2007-2010 Public Health and Medical Preparedness Strategic Plan". The plan itself is a roadmap for developing capabilities and assuring that the public health system has the capacity to respond to any and all possible disaster events. As part of the HSCT, the VTT will play a pivotal role addressing issues such as personnel readiness, clinical standards, facilities, equipment, supplies and healthcare system planning. The HSCT aligns its efforts with the Community Surge Capability Team (CSCT) to establish a comprehensive approach to health system preparedness.

The HSCT will meet in February 2008 to begin development of projects for 2008-2009 for the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and the Health Preparedness Program funds to address critical tasks of medical surge. The FSRC will continue to be actively involved with the HSCT on your behalf.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The legislative committee has developed a position statement and an advocacy agenda for the 2008 state legislative session. The advocacy agenda clearly states the position of the Respiratory profession on a wide variety of topics including monitoring of the Agency for Health Care Administration's (AHCA) program changes to therapy utilization management for Medicaid providers, establishing a local grass roots campaign for notifying representatives of issues and acquiring feedback, and monitoring changes to utilization of the the NBRC's CRT and RRT designations to name a few. In February members of the legislative committee will be meeting with state representatives in Tallahassee to convey the interests of Respiratory Therapists. They will also participate with the AARC PACT trip to Washington, DC in March to assure your interests are heard.

CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS 2008

April 24-25, 2008 Space Coast Cardiopulmonary Symposium—Double Tree Hotel Oceanfront, Cocoa Beach, FL

May 27-29, 2008 Sunshine Seminar—Buena Vista Palace Resort & Spa, Downtown Disney Orlando, FL

July 24-28, 2008 River City Symposium—4 Day Cruise from Tampa to Cozumel, Mexico

Visit fsrc.org for additional information, or call (866) 534-6172- For cruise information call Cruise Center at (800) 995-3401