

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE
Board of Directors Meeting, Marco Island, Florida
July 20, 2009

Minutes

Attendance

Tim Myers, BS, RRT-NPS, President
Toni Rodriguez, EdD, RRT, Past President
George Gaebler, MEd, RRT, FAARC, VP/Internal Affairs
Joseph Lewarski, BS, RRT, FAARC, VP/External Affairs
Karen Stewart, MS, RRT, FAARC, Secretary-Treasurer
Frank Salvatore, BS, RRT, FAARC, Past Speaker
Patricia Doorley, MS, RRT, FAARC
Debbie Fox, MBA, RRT-NPS
Lynda Goodfellow, EdD, RRT, FAARC
Michael Hewitt, RRT-NPS, FAARC, FCCM
Denise Johnson, BS, RRT
Ruth Krueger, RRT, MS, CHC
Douglas Laher, BSRT, RRT, MBA
John Lindsey, RRT
Robert McCoy, RRT, FAARC
Doug McIntyre, MS, RRT, FAARC
James Taylor, MA, RRT
Michael Tracy, BA, RRT-NPS, CPFT
Brian Walsh, RRT-NPS, RPFT

Guests

Mike Runge
Jerome Sullivan
Tom Smalling
Shelley Mishoe
Mikki Thompson

Consultant

John Hiser, MEd, RRT, FAARC, Parliamentarian
Dianne Lewis, MS, RRT, FAARC, President/Presidents Council
Kent Christopher, MD, RRT FAARC, BOMA Chair

Staff

Sam Giordano, MBA, RRT, FAARC, Executive Director
Tom Kallstrom, BS, RRT, AE-C, FAARC, Chief Operating Officer
Ray Masferrer, RRT, FAARC, Associate Executive Director
Steve Nelson, RRT, FAARC, Associate Executive Director
Sherry Milligan, MEd, Associate Executive Director
William Dubbs, MHA, MEd, RRT, Director of Education and Management
Ann Marie Hummel, Regulatory Affairs Director
Miriam O'Day, Federal Government Affairs Director
Cheryl West, State Government Affairs Director
Tony Lovio, Controller
Brenda DeMayo, Administrative Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

President Tim Myers called the meeting of the AARC Board of Directors to order at 8:05 a.m. CST, Monday, July 20, 2009.

Secretary-Treasurer, Karen Stewart, called the roll and declared a quorum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Tim Myers advised members that the AARC received confirmation from the Department of the Army, Arlington National Cemetery, that the PACT was approved to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on March 8, 2010.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

George Gaebler moved "To accept the minutes of the March 27, 2009 meeting of the AARC Board of Directors as amended."

Motion Carried

George Gaebler moved "To accept the minutes of the March 28, 2009 meeting of the AARC Board of Directors as amended."

Motion Carried

E-MOTION RATIFICATION

George Gaebler moved "To accept the following E-Motions discussed over the BOD Listserv since March, 2009."

EM - 09-2-3a.1 "To approve the application for government affairs funding of \$10,000 (60% grant and 40% no interest loan payable over two years) to assist the Minnesota Society for Respiratory Care in moving their licensure status from registration to full licensure."

EM - 09-2-15.1 "That the 2013 AARC International Respiratory Congress be held November 16-18 in Anaheim, California."

EM - 09-2-57.1 "That the AARC Board approve the appointment of Sherry Tooley-Peters, BS, RRT-NPS, CPFT, AEC to fill an interim term as the AARC Sleep Section Chair that was vacated by Karen Allen CRT, RPSGT until the new Chair is sworn in at the San Antonio meeting in December, 2009."

Motion Carried

GENERAL REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Tim Myers reported that currently membership is hovering at 48,000, and further stated this will be a challenging year in which to meet the goal of 50,000 due to the current economy. AARC is still working on Medicare Part B of which Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) are supportive. President Myers and Sam Giordano traveled to Chattanooga to meet with a contingency who wanted the current sleep legislation to pass as is. However, due to a good lobbyist with numerous contacts and the support of Representative Diane Watson (D-CA) and State Representative Debra Maggart, we were able to negotiate a compromise to this bill. We have had contact with the AASM and will have a face-to-face meeting with them again in Chicago on September 30th.

RECESS

President Tim Myers recessed the meeting of the AARC Board of Directors at 9:35 a.m. EST, Sunday, July 20, 2009.

RECONVENE

President Tim Myers reconvened the meeting of the AARC Board of Directors at 9:50 a.m. EST, Sunday, July 20, 2009.

Mike Tracy moved to accept **FM 09-2-04.1** "To reaffirm that the affiliates are separate corporations and the AARC BOD can advise but not mandate their actions, and that the AARC leadership continue to follow and support the actions and philosophies of the BOD when they meet with the AASM in September 2009.

Toni Rodriguez moved "To table **FM 09-2-04.1** until the New Business segment of this meeting."

Motion to Table Carried

COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION FOR RESPIRATORY CARE REPORT

CoARC Chair, Shelley Mishoe reported CoARC has 376 accredited programs with 7 stand-alone programs, 12 polysom add-ons and one international satellite. CoARC elected new members at their last meeting. They signed the separation agreement and will soon be functioning as the "Commission" on Accreditation for Respiratory Care. The second draft of the standards will be mailed in 2 weeks. CoARC is working on the final draft of the bylaws for the "Commission." They are in the process of forming an appeals panel and looking at current CoARC site visitors to invite. They are developing

the Policy & Procedures for the Commission and overhaul of their website. David Bowton, MD, will be the new Chair of the Commission effective November 15, 2009.

BOARD OF MEDICAL ADVISORS (BOMA) REPORT

Dr. Kent Christopher reported that CoARC unfortunately was obligated to put the Army education program back on probation. The Army is now pushing for warrant officer status for RTs. BOMA is looking at a homecare approach to oxygen reimbursement. Dr. Christopher has invited Jerome Sullivan, Dr. Hector Garza and John Hiser to attend the next BOMA meeting in December to brief BOMA on International matters. Also invited is Brian Walsh to discuss neonatal/pediatric issues. BOMA adopted a new Conflict of Interest statement during its June meeting. As a result of lagging attendance, two BOMA members will give up their seat on BOMA in favor of ones who will regularly attend meetings. He hopes to see some women appointed to BOMA since it's been over a decade since BOMA has had a female medical advisor on its Board. Dr. Joe Sokolowski will be the 2011 Chair, and Dr. Cliff Boehm will Chair BOMA in 2010.

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

President's Council President, Dianne Lewis, reported Dr. Forest M. Bird will be the recipient of the Jimmy A. Young medal in 2009.

Karen Stewart moved "To accept **Recommendation 09-2-8.1** "That the AARC Board of Directors approve the position description for the AARC historian."

Karen Stewart moved "To refer **Recommendation 09-2-8.1** to the President for consideration for appointment of a person to fulfill the role of AARC historian and for 2010 budget consideration."

Motion to Refer Carried

Karen Stewart moved "To accept **Recommendation 09-2-8.2** "That the AARC Board of Directors investigate the feasibility of creating a 'virtual museum' for the Association and the profession of respiratory care."

George Gaebler moved "To refer **Recommendation 09-2-8.2** to the Executive Office for feasibility and cost analysis and report back by the December meeting."

Motion to Refer Carried

Karen Stewart moved to accept **Recommendation 09-2-8.3** "That the AARC Board investigate the feasibility of creating and sustaining a museum for respiratory care in proximity to the AARC Executive Office."

George Gaebler moved “To refer **Recommendation 09-2-8.3** to the Executive Office for feasibility and cost analysis and report back by the December meeting.”

Motion to Refer Carried

BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

George Gaebler moved to accept **FM 09-2-9.1** “That the Bylaws recommendations concerning the bylaws of Florida, Connecticut and Arkansas be addressed via e-vote.”

Motion Carried

STANDING COMMITTEES

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Frank Salvatore reported that the number of members using Capitol Connection has decreased.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

George Gaebler moved to accept **Recommendation 09-2-12.1** “That the AARC approve the expense of software (\$4,871.25) and training (\$10,141.86) for a total of \$15,013.11.”

Motion Carried

George Gaebler moved to accept **Recommendation 09-2-12.2** “That the AARC approve the expense of a defibrillator AED for the Executive Office for a total cost of \$1,318.45.”

Motion Carried

Michael Hewitt moved to accept **FM 08-2-12.3** “That the Investment report be reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Executive Committee.”

Motion Carried

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Ray Masferrer stated that in spite of the present economic status, attendance at this year’s Summer Forum was good with 375 people registered for Summer Forum with 21 registrants for the Pediatric course, and 76 for the Mechanical Ventilation course.

ACCEPTANCE OF STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Karen Stewart moved “To accept the Standing Committee reports as presented.”

Motion Carried

HOUSE OF DELEGATES REPORT

Cam McLaughlin reported on house activity related to polysom issues and affiliation with state medical boards.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

George Gaebler moved to accept **Recommendation 09-2-23.1** “That the AARC approve the proposed International Guest Program pending funding by the ARCF.”

Motion Carried

The International Fellowship program is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2009. This year there was a total of 44 applicants from 26 countries. Six Fellows were accepted as noted below:

China	Yue-hua Yuan
Paraguay	Adriana Maria Davalos Goiriz
Japan	Keiko Hasegawa
Belarus	Aliaksandr Makarevich
UAE	Noel Tiburcio
Nigeria	Bolanle Adefuye

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESPIRATORY CARE (ICRC) REPORT

ICRC Chair Jerome Sullivan reported the ICRC has tightened its bylaws. There is a resurgence of interest in creating International affiliates. He will travel to China for an Intercoastal Conference on Respiratory Care in November.

FLORIDA WELCOME

Florida Delegate, Mikki Thompson, welcomed the Board of Directors to Florida.

RECESS

President Tim Myers recessed the meeting of the AARC Board of Directors at 11:55 a.m. EST, Monday, July 20, 2009.

JOINT SESSION CONVENED

President Tim Myers convened the Joint Session of the AARC Board of Directors at 1:45 p.m. EST, Monday July 20, 2009.

Secretary-Treasurer Karen Stewart called the roll and declared a quorum

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Tim Myers highlighted two of his goals for 2009-2010. The first was “To promote patient access to respiratory therapists as medically necessary in all care settings through appropriate vehicles at local, regional and national venues.” He stated the Association needs to be mindful of health care legislation in the individual states so that other groups aren’t able to insert any legislation that may restrict RTs from their scope of practice. He asked members to engage their licensing boards.

The second goal was “To maintain and expand relevant communication and alliances with key allies and organizations within our communities of interest.” As follow-up to this, President Myers advised that the Association has received support letters from ACCP and NAMDRRC regarding sleep as a part of the RT scope of practice. Furthermore, we’ve established dialogue with the AASM where it was agreed by both sides to institute a 90-day moratorium until September 30th when AARC and the AASM will meet face-to-face.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

President Tim Myers spoke in lieu of Vijay Deshpande who is the Elections Committee Chair. He advised of the following slate of candidates for 2010:

President-elect	George Gaebler Karen Stewart
Director at Large	Charles McArthur Frank Salvatore Albert Moss
Continuing Care Rehab Section	Timothy Buckley Greg Spratt
Sleep Specialty Section	Karen Pfister-Fegeley Tony Stigall
Neonatal Pediatrics Section	Natalie Napolitano Tiffany Mabe

SECRETARY-TREASURER FINANCIAL UPDATE

Secretary-Treasurer Karen Stewart reported on the current budget as of June 30 and reviewed the proposed budget for 2010.

STATE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Government Affairs Director Cheryl West updated the report on state legislative and regulatory issues occurring in the states. Oregon enacted a law that revises the duties and composition of the RT Licensure Board. Most, but not all, of the state legislatures have recessed for the year. The efforts of the polysomnography industry continues to affect numerous states and impact the profession of respiratory care. After extensive work, including AARC hiring a lobbyist based in Tennessee, the Tennessee polysomnography licensure law was amended to prevent RTs from having to take an additional exam to continue to provide the sleep disorder services.

REGULATORY AFFAIRS REPORT

Anne Marie Hummel, Director of Federal Affairs stated that CMS has released the proposed regulations for Medicare coverage of pulmonary rehab. The proposed regulations are significantly flawed and must be changed. AARC, along with its public relations partners, ACCP, ATS, AACVPR and NAMDRC will meet with CMS staff to discuss the issues. All these organizations will submit joint comments to CMS.

Ann Marie and Miriam O'Day continue to participate in the Oxygen Reform Coalition. This group initiated by the DME stakeholders aims to have Congress remove Medicare coverage for home oxygen therapy and create a new cost neutral benefit. The goal would be to remove oxygen equipment services from the 36-month cap and prevent oxygen from becoming part of DME competitive bidding. Disagreements among the parties continue to exist and it is unclear if the initiative can move forward legislatively.

It was noted that Ann Marie Hummel will be the liaison to the Special Committee on Billing Codes.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Director of Legislative Affairs Miriam O'Day provided an update on Capitol Hill activities. The focus this summer is entirely on health care reform. The wider initiative will be the legislative vehicle which all Medicare legislation (having nothing to do with health reform) will be attached. As noted above, the oxygen reform effort aim is to be introduced by Congressman Ross as an amendment to health reform if the parties can reach agreement. Congressman Ross who is also the sponsor of the RT Initiative, intends to add our RT Initiative bill onto the health reform package. It is unclear at this time, due to the controversial nature of the sweeping health reform if any health reform will be enacted.

435 PLAN REPORT

Frank Salvatore stated that HR 1077, the Medicare RT Initiative bill in the House and S-343 in the Senate will likely be included with the health reform bill. He stated that while some letters were sent by members through Capitol Connection to their legislators, a greater effort needs to be made in contacting legislators.

RT 2015 AND BEYOND REPORT

Director of Education and Management, Bill Dubbs, reported on the two 2015 Conferences already completed and the final conference to be presented in 2010. The first Conference defined the future of the profession, while seven groups of competencies were identified in the second Conference. The final conference will identify the remaining competencies and provide a transition from the present to the future without negatively impacting on the workforce during the transition years and beyond.

Karen Stewart moved "To adjourn the Joint Session of the Board of Directors."

Motion Carried

JOINT SESSION ADJOURNED

President Tim Myers adjourned the Joint Session of the Board of Directors at 3:30 p.m. EST, Monday, July 20, 2009.

RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION

President Tim Myers reconvened the meeting of the AARC Board of Directors at 3:55 p.m. EST, Monday, July 20, 2009.

SOCIAL NETWORKING PRESENTATION

Sherry Milligan and Steve Nelson gave a presentation on social networking, a means of engaging members in communication, retention and recruitment and affiliate participation via entry into Web 2.0. Phase I consists of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc. The AARC is looking at software called Higher Logic which will integrate well with the current member database and creates a nice presence on the website. Members would post a profile, pictures, interaction with friends, etc.

Current AARC programs such as Listservs require significant maintenance whereas groups can be set up in the Higher Logic software that would be maintenance-free. Another advantage is Microsites which enable a state society to use our site as their state site.

Sherry Milligan hopes to have stations set up at this year's International Congress to illustrate this concept and show people how this software can work to their advantage.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

President Tim Myers stated the Association's current Conflict of Interest statement is in need of revision to compensate for members who may have any interest in research grants, or have participation in advisory boards, or may be a consultant, or are directly or indirectly affiliated with boards of competing organizations. Furthermore, he feels a verbal disclosure during a Board meeting is in order.

President Myers stated he and Sam Giordano are looking at revisions of this document along with related policies from the Policy & Procedure Manual and will bring back to the BOD for review. Tim Myers advised that should the Association be found to be in direct violation, we could lose our not-for-profit status.

Sam Giordano stated that when a Board member is in a consultant role, he should act as himself and not as a representative of the AARC, and furthermore to protect one's self with a paper trail.

President Myers asked members interested in participating in the revision process to advise him at this meeting.

Karen Stewart moved "To recess the meeting of the AARC Board of Directors."

Motion Carried

RECESS

President Tim Myers recessed the meeting of the AARC Board of Directors at 5:15 p.m. EST, Monday, July 20, 2009."