

Pulmonary Press

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ISRC President Donates Respiratory Care Quilt to AARC

By Ross Havens



At the 2006 International Congress in Las Vegas, ISRC President Mary Todd donated a quilt she had made honoring Respiratory Care throughout the United States. AARC Executive Director Sam Giordano accepted the quilt on behalf of the AARC.

This is not Mary's first Respiratory Care quilt. She has made two similar quilts, using swatches from various Respiratory Care Week shirts she had collected. They were auctioned at the 2005 and 2006 ISRC Fall Seminars.

Mary presented her idea at the AARC Presidents meeting in Dallas in March of 2006. She asked each state president to donate a shirt that had been used to promote their Society over the years.

The quilt is made up of swatches of Respiratory Care shirts donated by the state societies. All but two state societies eventually donated shirts for the project.

Mary's quilt will hang in the AARC Executive office in Irving, Texas.

Indiana
Society for
Respiratory
Care



Legislative Update

By Mark Scherer

The new Indiana General Assembly that convened on January 8 has many new faces from the previous session due to the results of November election. While the Indiana Senate remained in Republican control by a 33-17 margin, the House of Representatives switched from Republican control to Democratic control, with a 51-49 Democratic majority.

The election for the House seats contained an interesting side note for respiratory care practitioners. A respiratory care practitioner in House District 35, Lee Ann Mengelt, ran unsuccessfully against incumbent Rep. Jack Lutz. This district lies between Anderson and Muncie and contains parts of Delaware, Hamilton, Madison, and Tipton counties.

Perhaps the biggest change that this election cycle brought, however, is the change in leadership for both chambers of the General Assembly at the same time, something that has not been seen in Indiana for decades. Since the Democrats won the House, Rep. Pat Bauer of South Bend became the new Speaker of the House of Representatives, replacing Rep. Brian Bosma of Indianapolis. Rep. Bauer held the post when the Democrats last held (continued on page2)

Legislative Update

(continued from page 1)

power in the House in the 1990's. In the Senate, new leadership was elected for the first time in three decades. Sen. Robert Garton of Columbus, the previous Senate Pro Tem, was defeated in the primary election last May. Thus, when the Republicans organized the Senate after the November elections, they elected Sen. David Long of Fort Wayne as the new Senate Pro Tem.

In Indiana the odd years are budget years, meaning that legislators will have to develop a new 2-year state budget. With split control in the General Assembly, this means that the odds increase for budgetary disputes along the way. While the state is in better financial condition that it has been in for several years, the state's fiscal condition still is not rosy. Thus, the many diverse fiscal priorities of legislators will have to compete for relatively scarce resources.

While priorities such as full day kindergarten, reducing Indiana's dependence upon the property tax, and new toll roads are receiving much consideration, one of the more intriguing initiatives is the proposal by Governor Mitch Daniels to provide health insurance coverage for low income Hoosiers who can't afford to buy their own insurance but don't qualify for Medicaid. The Governor proposes to fund this initiative with a 25¢ per pack increase in the cigarette tax, an amount that some think should be increased to as much as \$1 per pack.

Whatever the outcome of the various legislative ideas that have been proposed or will still be proposed, keep in mind that legislators do listen to your input.

Because so few citizens take the time to contact their legislators, those citizens who do contact their legislators have the opportunity to make a significant impact. During the 4-month legislative session that ends in April legislators will be back home in their districts on weekends, often making appearances at chamber of commerce, service club, and other similar events. If you don't know your state senator and state representative already, this is a perfect time to meet them and to introduce yourself as a constituent and respiratory care practitioner.

If you want to express an opinion on a bill or an issue, the General Assembly has established a web site for you to contact them at:

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/contact/index.html>.

If you don't know the names of your legislators, you can find them at:

<http://www.in.gov/apps/sos/legislator/search/>.

Keep in mind that legislators won't know your opinions unless you make the modest effort necessary to contact them, so let them know what matters to you as a citizen and as a respiratory care practitioner.

Message from the President

Mary Todd RRT

Welcome to our second issue of the Pulmonary Press! Everyone needs to give Ross Havens a big pat on the back for resurrecting the press.

This past year has flown by quickly. A lot of things have happened, some good and some bad.

I attended the President's meeting in Dallas, TX in March and meet some of the big names in the AARC: Sam Giordano, Pat Lee, Sherry Milligan, Mike Runge, Toni Rodriguez, just to name a few! I met many other state presidents at the meeting and we discussed happenings and activities in our individual states. It was one of the most informative meetings I have ever attended!

Next was our annual state seminar. What a fun town Bloomington is. There were no tornados during the seminar this year. We held our 3rd annual silent auction which benefits scholarships and asthma education.

Our ISRC election in 2006 had a slight glitch with the envelope stuffing and re-mailed out the ballots. The ISRC wanted to make it easy for everyone to send the ballots back. We put the return address of the accountant on the envelope and put stamps on all the envelopes. However, we only had between 200-250 ballots returned. I wonder what happened to the other 750-1000?

In December I went to the AARC International Congress in Las Vegas! WOW! That one word describes it all. Everyone needs to try to attend the International Congress at least once. It is unbelievable. You hear nationally known speakers, sit in on the swearing in of the AARC officers, and then there are the exhibits. A person could spend three days just at the exhibits and still might not see all of them. I have never seen anything like it. Once they cut the ribbon to let participants in, it takes at least 15-30 minutes to get inside. The vendors had awesome give-aways, all their new products, and some even offered CEU's.

I am ready to embark on my last year as president and want to hear from practitioners through out the state. Let me know how the ISRC can better serve you.



"Nurse, get on the internet, go to SURGERY.COM, scroll down and click on the 'Are you totally lost?' icon."

ISRC Election 2006

By Ross havens

There were no “hanging chads”, no falsified candidate qualifications, no sinister conspiracy to “steal” the election. So why was the 2006 ISRC election halted, then re-conducted?

The answer is simple. Some members inadvertently received ballots without return envelopes. In order for the accountant who is counting ballots to verify the authenticity of each ballot, she is instructed to count only those ballots which come to her in specified pre-addressed envelopes.

To assure that each ISRC member’s vote would be counted, the IRSC Executive Committee and Board of Directors made the decision to re-conduct the entire election. We also took the unusual step of providing stamped return envelopes.

The 2006 election results are:

- President-Elect Jennifer Brink
- Delegate..... Ross Havens
- Treasurer..... Craig Traxler
- Chapter 1 Director Laura Graber
- Chapter 2 Director Jackie Hanlon
- Chapter 3 DirectorGreg Woodsmall
- Chapter 4 Director Jodi Barko
- Chapter 5 Director Jayne Steed
- Chapter 6 Director Amy Susott
- Chapter 7 DirectorSusan Wynn

Delegates Report

By Candy Schladenhauffen and Ross Havens

The AARC House of Delegates met in Las Vegas on December 9 & 10, 2006. The following is a summary of the activities of that meeting.

AARC membership passed the 42,000 mark. Indiana remains the 8th largest affiliate, with 1028 active members.

Sam Giordano reported that the AARC’s newest product, the Reimbursement College, was being introduced. It is free to members via the AARC website. He also reported that the RRT Preparation Course is ready to be launched..

Cheryl West reported on state and federal legislative activities, and Frank Salvatore updated the House on the 435 Plan. Cheryl also discussed state mass casualty preparation.

The NBRC is studying the feasibility of specialty exams in sleep and critical care.

Resolutions. The House acted on four resolutions, passing two and sending them on to the AARC Board of Directors. One suggests that the AARC offer on-line voting to state affiliates, while the other encourages the AARC to offer an internet domain for state affiliates to use in maintaining Society websites. Both were referred by the Board to the Executive Office for cost and feasibility analysis.

Board Notes

By Ross Havens

The ISRC Board of Directors met in Indianapolis on Friday, January 12, 2007. This was the first meeting of the year, and was largely organizational in nature. The 2007 budget was approved, and financial rates were set for the year. Committee Chairs and other Presidential appointments were approved. The Board also validated the results of the 2006 election.

Mark Sherer, our lobbyist, discussed the bills that had been introduced in the legislature that could possibly impact the respiratory care profession. He stated that this is a “long session” for the legislature, that it is early in the legislative process, and that other bills will be introduced, which he will monitor for us.

Charity Bowling, chair of the Respiratory Initiative, discussed high school recruiting initiatives planned for the year.

AARC 435 Plan

By Pat Ingle

The AARC works in conjunction with each state society, to advocate for the recognition of the value of respiratory therapy and therapists in all areas of public policy.

The AARC and ISRC deal with all three levels of government (local, state and federal), promoting the right of respiratory patients to receive competent respiratory care.

In order for our voices to be heard at the federal level, the AARC Governmental Affairs Committee is implementing the “435 Plan,” which seeks to enlist therapists and patients in each US Congressional District who are willing to contact their congressperson to advocate for legislation that will impact how respiratory care is delivered. At this time, we do not have 435 Plan volunteers (continued page 4)

AARC 435 Plan (continued from page 3)
in all of the Indiana Congressional Districts. If you are interested, please contact Pat Ingle at pingle@in-isrc.org. Your e-mail address will never be shared with any other organizations, and will be used only to send you information regarding legislative activities.

The ISRC website at www.in-isrc.org also contains a link to the AARC Capital Connection, which makes it easier for you to contact your Congressperson, Senator, or even the President. Sample letters are available at the Capital Connection. We urge all respiratory therapists to become politically involved in issues affecting our patients and our profession.

Indiana Society for Respiratory Care

2007 Board of Director's Meetings

May 11, 2007
Ivy Tech - Lawrence Campus
Indianapolis

September 19, 2007
Radisson Hotel City Centre
Indianapolis

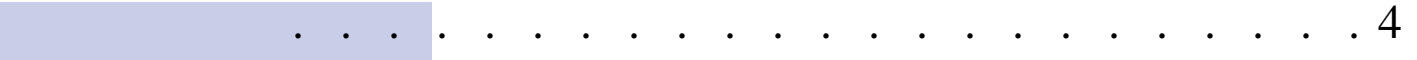
November 16, 2007
Ivy Tech - Lawrence Campus
Indianapolis

**Are you a member of
the AARC/ISRC?**

Visit

www.AARC.org

**to find out how to you
can become one!**



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