

Interested in running for office?

It's time for everyone to be thinking about running for MSRT office in the spring.

If you're interested, contact Ben Morris for more information:

Benjamin.Morris@
CoxHealth.com



Volunteers needed for vacant rep positions

Help!!!

We need volunteers to fill the currently (and perennially) vacant district positions for Districts 1, 2, and 6.

For more information, contact the district president or any board member. You can also check out our website for contact info:

www.mosrt.org

Letter from the President

Dear MSRT members,

Wow! The summer has flown by! I hope everyone had a good one. Not only is it time for back to school it is time to get back to work on our legislative efforts!

The MSRT legislative activities committee has been busy and we have a sponsor for a licensure bill in the Missouri House of Representatives, Dr. Rob Schaaf from the St. Joseph area. Kudos' to Shirley Erickson for working with Dr. Schaaf and securing our sponsor! Now it is time for all of us to get to work finding co-sponsors for the bill. Please keep contacting your representative and ask him/her to contact Dr. Schaaf to sign on as a co-sponsor. Don't give up until he/she signs on! We also need to secure a sponsor in the Missouri Senate so we can have companion legislation. Write those letters!

The Board is going ahead with the planning of our RT in JC event. The details are not all worked out, but we do have a preliminary plan. RT in JC will probably be a one-day event on a Monday in February. We plan to meet in the

morning for information and legislative training and then visit with our legislators in the afternoon. We are really hoping for a good turn out so every MO legislator can get a personal visit from an RT. Please plan to be there. We will get the details to you as soon as we have them and check the website, www.mosrt.org, for current updates.

When we have final plans it will be on the homepage! Plan to be there!

As for ASRT news, we need to congratulate our very own Cindy Daniels who was installed as the ASRT secretary/treasurer at the annual meeting in June. Congratulations Cindy!

You should also be aware of the change in the air in ASRT House of Delegates. Check out the ASRT website to view the governance restructuring plan and voice your opinion. The ASRT is your national professional organization, be involved and know what is going on!

Have a good back to school/ write your legislator season.

*Anne Rutz PhD RT(R)(M)
MSRT President*



Attention, new or soon-to-be grads!

Under a pilot program, you can join MSRT during the first year after you graduate at a discounted rate!

If you have a copy of your student membership card and diploma, you can join for just \$20 the first year. If you don't have a student membership card, but do have your diploma, you can join for \$30.

This is a 25-50% savings over regular MSRT membership fees, so don't delay...savings are only good if you join within the first year after graduation.



Affiliate delegate report to the MSRT: 75th annual ASRT conference June 2003

The House of Delegates (hereinafter referred to as the HOD) met on June 15 and June 18, 2003, in Las Vegas, NV. There were several highlights of activity this year on the floor.

The hottest topic debated in the HOD this year was the governance restructuring model that was proposed by the Governance Restructuring Task Force. Of particular interest were the issues of the continuance of the "good ol' boy" method of choosing the national slate of officers by the Nominating Committee.

Kelly Thomalla, chairwoman of the task force, spoke informally at the Region V meeting. After getting deluged at the general Open Forum discussions with questions and statements regarding the issues of restructuring, she was finally able to clarify that the HOD was actually voting only on the structure or framework. Fleshing it out will and can only be accomplished by bylaw changes. If the HOD had failed to accept it, it would effectively lose control of the finished product, because then it would be returned to the ASRT BOD, who would then have total control over the finished governance.

Input is encouraged to the task force, which is now charged with bringing the draft of the proposed bylaw changes to the HOD for its discussion and vote at the next annual conference of the ASRT in 2004.

Another hot issue under the gun was the Military Chapter. The general consensus was that each of the three separate branches should have its own chapter delegate under a special dispensation, no matter how many delegates are allowed other chapters, if, indeed, the chapter system of representation is retained.

It was also the general consensus that a senior as well as a junior delegate repre-

sent each affiliate with the junior delegate being allowed to sit on the House floor with the senior representative, as is current practice, in order to embrace the mentoring system that everyone espouses.

The Radiology Assistant (hereinafter known as RA) got lots of attention also. The HOD was brought up to date by a representative of an advisory panel consisting of well known entities such as the ASRT, ARRT, ACR, the National Society of RPA's Educational panel. There are currently three programs already in place: University of Kentucky, Duke University, and Weber State University.

The roles and responsibilities are so far being defined as:

- Perform patient assessment, management, and patient education
- Perform selected radiologic procedures including, but not limited to, fluoroscopy
- Evaluate image quality
- Make an initial observation, i.e. report

The RA will have an increased level of knowledge, responsibility, and accountability. The RA will have:

- Minimum baccalaureate degree
- Clinical preceptorship with a supervising radiologist
- Certification method will be based a standard national exam

The RA, by regulation, is an extension, or continuation of the Radiologic Technologist, so that separate licensure will not be required.

Missouri was well represented at the national level, when two of our own, Cindy Daniels of St. Louis and Donita Shipman of Sedalia, were put into the national spotlight.

- Cindy Daniels was sworn in as the new secretary-treasurer of the ASRT for

2003-2004 at a delightful presidential reception, which was a major shift from the formal banquet of past years, and was very well received by all.

- Donita Shipman was nominated to be vice speaker of the HOD for 2003-2004, and made a very good showing with the number of ballots captured running against an incumbent. Donita made a very insightful speech to the HOD, so that should insure she'll be well received next year if she chooses to run again.

- The MSRT received the first-ever Affiliate Grass Roots Advocacy award from the ASRT for our efforts to get the C.A.R.E. bill out of committee and onto the floor of the Senate and House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. We've sent a delegation to RT in DC for each of the five years it's been done.

We're also leading the way with the implementation of an RT in JC program, to try to get licensure passed in the state of Missouri. We are patterning it after the RT in DC program by the ASRT, but adapting it to a smaller-scale state level.

These were by no means all that was accomplished by the HOD. It was definitely a meeting of setting priorities for the ASRT, as well as setting direction for the future of the profession, and one we are proud to be a part of.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of reporting to you.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sandy Keeth RT (R) (M) (CT)
Senior ASRT Affiliate Delegate*

*Debra Hurst RT BS(R) (CT) (MR)
Junior ASRT Affiliate Delegate*

**MSRT toll-free Hotline:
1 (877) 353-3599**

Senators Enzi, Kennedy introduce bill to improve quality of radiologic exams

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Senators Michael Enzi, R-Wyo., and Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., on June 5 introduced a bill in the U.S. Senate that would improve the quality of the nation's radiologic examinations by increasing the educational standards for personnel who perform them.

The Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence bill, or RadCARE bill, directs the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish minimum educational and credentialing standards for personnel who plan and deliver radiation therapy and perform all types of diagnostic imaging procedures except medical ultrasound.

Under current law, basic training standards are voluntary in some states, which allows individuals to perform radiologic procedures without any formal education and sometimes after only a few weeks of on-the-job training.

The bill would amend the Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act, a 1981 law that established federal minimum standards for the education and credentialing of radiologic technologists. Sen. Kennedy was one of the original cosponsors of the 1981 bill. When it was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan, compliance by the states was made voluntary rather than mandatory. As a result of this federal initiative, 37 states have enacted full licensure laws or regulations for radiographers, 29 states have enacted licensure laws for radiation therapists, and 23 states have enacted licensure laws for nuclear medicine technologists. In states without regulations, individuals are permitted to perform radiologic procedures without any formal

education.

“The RadCARE bill would improve the quality of patient care by ensuring that personnel who perform radiologic exams and procedures are well-trained, and the legislation also would protect taxpayer money by limiting Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement only to facilities whose

personnel are properly qualified,” said Sen. Enzi. “The measure also would allow for alternative standards if the minimum federal standard isn't working for rural areas.”

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists and its 104,000 members worked with Sens. Enzi and Kennedy to introduce the bill. Other original cosponsors of the bill are Sens. Tom Daschle, D-S.D.; Byron Dorgan, D-N.D.; and Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J.

Rep. Heather Wilson, R-N.M., introduced a similar bill last month in the House of Representatives. The House version of the bill, H.R. 1214, has more than 25 bipartisan cosponsors. The House bill has a slightly different title—it is



known as the CARE bill, without the “Rad” prefix.

In addition to the ASRT, the RadCARE bill also is backed by the Alliance for Quality Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy, a coalition of radiologic science organizations that represents more than 275,000 health care professionals.

The bill also has support from a number of patient groups and health care organizations, including the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association's Council on Cardiovascular Radiology, the Cancer Research Foundation of America, the American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology and the American College of Radiology.

Note...note...note

Dr. Rob Schaaf, St. Joseph, Mo., has agreed to sponsor a licensure bill for the MSRT.

All members need to contact their state representatives and ask them to contact Dr. Schaaf and sign on to co-sponsor the bill.

U.S. Rep. Skelton visits BRHC in Sedalia

SEDALIA—Donita Shipman, RT(R)(M)(QM), is doing her part to fight for the passage of minimum standards for training skilled radiologic technologists.

At her invitation, U.S. Rep. Ike Skelton toured the Radiology Department at Bothwell Regional Health Center May 28 to talk with the staff about their concerns.

“In Missouri, anyone can legally take x-rays and administer radiation therapy without any training or proof of experience,” Shipman explained to Skelton. “Missouri is one of only 13 states that still doesn't have minimum standards.”

All BRHC staff who perform medical

imaging and administer radiation therapy have completed training, are nationally certified, or have degrees in their fields, says Shipman.

Shipman has e-mailed Skelton about once a month for the past year, and sporadically before that, to lobby for passage of the CARE bill. She also has lobbied at the state level for the last 11 years, including testifying before a committee at the Capitol. Skelton's staff contacted Shipman and said he would like to visit her at BRHC May 28.

Shipman is MSRT treasurer and membership chair for 2003-2004.

Urge Sen. Bond to cosponsor RadCARE bill (S. 1197)

Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY), sponsor of the Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence (RadCARE) bill (S. 1197) is hoping to gain more cosponsors for RadCARE bill and generate some activity for a hearing on Capitol Hill.

The CARE bill (H.R. 1214) has 41 bipartisan cosponsors in the House, and we now have the momentum to move the RadCARE/CARE bills forward. Since your senator is a member of the Senate HELP (Health, Education, Labor and Pensions) Committee—the committee that will hold hearings on the RadCARE bill—it's imperative that he contacts Senator Enzi's office and signs on as a cosponsor to S. 1197.

Please contact Sen. Christopher Bond and ask him to contact Steve Northrup in Senator Enzi's office to cosponsor this important radiologic patient care legislation.

You can email Senator Bond directly from ASRT's website www.asrt.org. Just log on to the new E-advocacy site in the "Members Only" section by

using your ASRT member ID number as your User Name and your social security number as the password. Select the "Senate RadCARE bill" link and follow the prompts to email or print the letter and fax it to your senator.

If you're unable to email your senator directly from the ASRT website, please copy and paste the RadCARE bill message into the "write your senator" form on your senator's web site at www.senate.gov.

If you have recently emailed or faxed Sen. Bond, follow up with his office (202-224-5721) to voice your support of the RadCARE bill. Sen. Bond needs to know that his constituents support the RadCARE bill. More information on the RadCARE bill is available at www.asrt.org.

Thank you for your speedy response.

Christine J. Lung

Director of Government Relations

ASRT

cjlung@asrt.org / www.asrt.org

District 8 sets mammography meeting

District 8 will host a Mammography meeting Sept. 27 at St. Mary's in Jefferson City.

For more information, contact Brenda Matthews at:
bmatt50@hotmail.com

RT in JC... new next year!

Plan now to attend RT in JC, a new lobbying event sponsored by the MSRT board.

RTs from across the state of Missouri will come to Jefferson City to lobby our legislators regarding our issues—particularly licensure.

We are planning the event for a Monday in February 2004.

Watch the website and mail for more information!

www.mosrt.org

~ A letter of thanks from Henry Cashion ~

May 5, 2003

MSRT Board of Directors
Anne Rutz, President
500 Forum
Rolla, MO 65401



I wish to thank each of you, past and present for the prestigious honor that was bestowed on me at the 2003 MSRT meeting this past April. I have always been very proud to have been an active and life member of the MSRT for the past 46 years, and have received much more from this membership than I could ever give back in my lifetime.

I only wish I could get every R.T. (R) in the State to be half as active as I have been, so they too could reap the wonderful rewards that come from this active involvement. The fellowship, education, and seeing the results of one's work are very rewarding. I do not know any other profession that offers one so much joy in helping and caring, the profession of Radiologic Technology has to offer.

I have always told my students, "One will never work a day in their life if they enjoy the profession they like". You see, it is not the work that you go to each day, it

is the knowing, sharing, and enjoying what you do helping someone else that make each day a joy.

I am very proud that the MSRT Board elected to develop future leaders for the Society, and in so doing have set up an "Internship Program". What better way to learn than to have a chance to work and study under the "Best" Missouri has to offer as the officers of the MSRT.

I thank all the MSRT membership for having the opportunity to have been selected as the namesake for this outstanding program, which will prove to be a very valuable asset to the future of this Society.

Henry Y. Cashion

ASRT responds to federal proposal to change overtime regulations

The American Society of Radiologic Technologists has asked the federal government to evaluate the impact that a proposed change to overtime laws will have on health care workers.

As part of a plan to revise the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the U.S. Department of Labor has proposed expanding the classification of "professional" workers who are exempt from receiving overtime pay. Under the Labor Department proposal, workers who gain "knowledge and skill through a combination of job experience, military training, attending a technical school or attending a community college" would be considered "learned professionals" who do not qualify for overtime. Analysts say the change could affect as many as 8 million American workers, possibly including radiologic technologists.

"The proposed changes moved through quickly, and there is still uncertainty over who will ultimately be affected by them," said ASRT Chief Executive Officer Lynn May. "However, it appears that radiologic technologists might fall under the 'learned professionals' classification, making them exempt from overtime. As a result, the ASRT has taken a number of actions in an attempt to ensure that compensation remains fair for radiologic technologists."

The ASRT wrote to Congressional leaders expressing support for any effort to block the Department of Labor proposal. It also wrote to Labor Department Secretary Elaine Chao, asking for a further evaluation of the impact that the proposed FLSA change will have on the health care work force and the delivery of patient care.

"The ASRT is concerned that the possible loss of overtime pay could hinder efforts to recruit and retain employees, thus exacerbating the personnel shortage and endangering the quality of patient

care," ASRT President Eileen Maloney, M.Ed., R.T.(R)(M), FASRT, wrote in the letter. "For these reasons, the ASRT requests that the Department of Labor evaluate the impact that the proposed FLSA changes will have on the entire allied health care work force, particularly on radiologic technologists. Their ability to deliver patient care in a timely, efficient manner should not be compromised."

Ms. Maloney said that the ASRT welcomes the classification of radiologic technologists as professional-level employees. "We believe their education, credentialing and skills warrant professional status," she said in the letter to the Labor Secretary. "But we also believe that radiologic technologists should be fairly compensated."

The ASRT also sent a letter to the American Hospital Association expressing its concern about the impact on "morale, job satisfaction, recruitment and retention" if employers stop paying overtime to radiologic technologists. In the letter, ASRT asked the AHA to issue a statement to its members regarding compensation for radiologic technologists.

"We ask that the AHA recommend that hospitals maintain fair compensation levels for R.T.s by continuing to pay them an hourly wage plus overtime—as the majority of hospitals currently do for registered nurses—or by adjusting annual salary levels so that R.T.s do not incur any loss in overall income," Ms. Maloney wrote. Registered nurses have been considered professional-level employees since the 1940s and are exempt from overtime regulations. However, the majority of hospitals continue to pay overtime to nurses because of market conditions and competition for workers.

Unless Congress is successful in blocking the Labor Department proposal, the changes in overtime rules could take

effect as early as the end of this year.

More information is available on the ASRT Web site, www.asrt.org, and will be published in the August and September issues of *ASRT Scanner*.

For a copy of the Department of Labor's proposed revisions to the Fair Labor Standards Act, go to www.dol.gov/esa/regs/fedreg/proposed/2003033101.htm.

Military seeks delegate help

Once again, the Military Chapter is seeking your support to increase the number of our delegates proposed in the restructuring model and allow each branch of service (Army, Navy and Air Force) to represent itself with one dedicated delegate, giving the Military Chapter a total of three delegates.

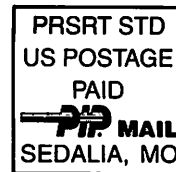
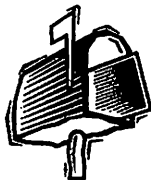
Just cut and paste to a new message addressed to Kelly Thomalla at kjthomalla@yahoo.com. Please include your name and chapter or affiliate.

Dear Task Force on Restructuring,
I would like to express my support for the military chapter's request to have 3 delegates. I believe the chapter has a valid point that each branch of service is uniquely different and should be allowed to represent itself within the military chapter.

*Your name and credentials
Your chapter or affiliate*

Thank you for your support
*Rick A. Brittain SFC ARRT
(R)(CT)
NCOIC, Radiology*

The Radiographer
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MSRT President Rutz graduates from first ASRT Leadership Academy for Educators

Anne Rutz, Ph.D., R.T.(R)(M), recently graduated from the first ASRT Leadership Academy for Educators, an innovative three-day program designed to support the instructional needs of radiologic science educators. Dr. Rutz lives in St. James, Mo., and is clinical coordinator of the educational program in radiography at Rolla Technical Center in Rolla.

The Leadership Academy for Educators was sponsored by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, which selected the 20 participants and paid their travel expenses to attend the July 10-12 academy in Albuquerque, N.M.

During the Leadership Academy,

educators polished their instructional skills, shared teaching strategies and learned to use the latest Web-based tools.

The academy's featured speaker was Stephen Dunnivant, director of instructional technology at Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, Fla. Mr. Dunnivant discussed the relationships between the learning environment, student learning styles and effective teaching. Highlights of his presentation included strategies for engaging students in the process of learning.

"I was interested in attending the Leadership Academy because I wanted the opportunity to learn and share educational

experiences with my peers," said Dr. Rutz. "Through the academy, I have new knowledge of teaching techniques that will enable me to become a more effective educator."

There are more than 600 accredited radiologic science programs in the United States, ranging from two-year hospital-based programs to bachelor's and master's degree programs. The ASRT Leadership Academy for Educators is the profession's first effort to bring together instructors from these programs in a setting where they can share strategies to improve education for radiologic science students. To participate, educators must have held a full-time faculty position for a minimum of two years and be an active ASRT member.

The academy included hands-on sessions using educational software tools that aid in the development of problem-based learning and web-based exercises. Each academy graduate also received a CD-ROM of resources for their personal use.

MSRT seeking leadership for District 7

District 7 is currently without leadership. Kay Glass, longtime District 7 representative and president, has resigned due to family obligations, which she felt kept her from serving the district well. The MSRT Board of

Directors is seeking an individual to complete the rest of her term, which expires at the annual meeting in April 2004. Interested persons may contact Stephanie Whisler at:

whislera@mail.avila.edu