



# Lobestergram

Official Newsletter of the Maine Society for Respiratory Care  
Fall 2016

## Education Committee Update



Happy Summer Everyone!

I would like to start out by saying a big THANK YOU to all the educational committee members, board members, speakers and volunteers who helped make The Maine Event 2016 so successful! A lot of work goes into putting a conference together, and every role counts. It was a beautiful weekend in Boothbay Harbor at the Spruce Point Inn. We were able to meet and greet AARC President Frank Salvatore, who also was a big help with the sputum bowl. The new (to us) band, 'Nikki Hunt Band', was awesome-- they had us hula-hooping and dancing until the end of the night! The trial 1.5 day conference was a success. Before we know it, we will be starting to plan for our next conference in 2017. We thank our attendees for their feedback about the conference on their evaluation forms. If anyone has any additional feedback, please feel free to email me at any time. Enjoy the hot weather!☀

Hannah Keaney, RRT  
Educational Committee Chair  
hannah.keaney@maine.edu

## KVCC News



As many of you already know, KVCC has not accepted a new class for Fall 2016. Despite valiant efforts by our advisory board members, we were not able to secure funding to continue the program. There is still a small chance that we can secure grant monies and restart in Fall 2017. Our current senior class will be graduating May 2017. While we are not accepting a new class, we are strongly committed to our current class. I'm sure they would appreciate words of encouragement if you have the opportunity to see them at clinical. On with happier news...7 of our 11 May graduates have already passed their RRT exams! Congratulations to them all. We here at KVCC are confident they will be a productive and welcome addition to the field of Respiratory Care. Enjoy the Summer months!  
Danielle Schryver BAS, RRT

## Lobestergram info

If anyone is interested in submitting an article for an upcoming edition of the Lobestergram, please contact me at: [bobbie.crocllett12@gmail.com](mailto:bobbie.crocllett12@gmail.com)



## Government Affairs



Just wanted to let you all know that Congresswoman Chellie Pingree (D-ME) just signed on as a co-sponsor of HR 2948. This represents a real victory, because in all the years I have been going to DC for PACT, I believe this is the first time a member of the Maine Congressional delegation has ever signed on to one of our bills (not from lack of effort on our part!).

Keith Siegel, MBA, RRT, CPFT  
Director, Respiratory Care & Neurodiagnostics  
Pen Bay Medical Center

## Summer Delegates Report



I am pleased to report I've just returned from our House of Delegates Meeting in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida on June 29th & 30th. Although Florida is seriously hot and humid this time of

year, we were able to get a lot of work done at the conference hall of the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort and Spa. While, I don't play golf, I highly recommend this resort for their superb customer service and location.

There were no specific resolutions discussed or voted on this meeting but we did vote on a key proposition from the head table relating to extending the term lengths of a few HOD positions. The House voted in favor of extending the terms of Speaker-Elect, Speaker and Past Speaker to 2 years each. This makes serving this role a 6 year total commitment. The terms are to coincide directly with the AARC BOD President's term and will start with the current Speaker-Elect, Maine's Keith Siegel. Keith will continue on to be Speaker of the House for 2017 but will serve for 2 yrs and another 2 yrs as Past Speaker. The House also voted in favor of extending the Treasurer and Secretary positions to two years to coincide with this change. Everyone was in agreement the longer terms would allow for increased stability and continuity, rather than changing speakers half way through the President's term when some felt they were just achieving a greater understanding of their respective roles.

As always, it's awe-inspiring to find out what the AARC is doing across the country to keep our profession strong and advancing in today's healthcare setting. One of the areas I took specific interest in learning about were the specialty sections available within an AARC membership. For little over a dollar a month members can get access to specialty sections such as Adult Acute Care, Management, Homecare, Education and NeoPeds. Members get current articles, newsletters and updates within their specialty fields. After hearing each section chair give their respective reports with such dedication and enthusiasm, I can't wait to add one or two to my AARC membership.

The HOD meeting held on October 13-14th prior to the AARC International Congress in San Antonio, Texas was productive and inspiring. Cynthia Carlton and I watched our very own Keith Siegel sworn in as Speaker of the House! It is always a huge advantage to be able to network with other RT professionals from around the country.

Respectively Submitted,

Amanda S. Albee, RRT  
MeSRC Delegate & Educational Co-Chair

## SMCC News



The summer semester at Southern Maine Community College is underway and the first year students are excelling. They are ready to start their summer clinical practice at the following sites;

Eastern Maine Medical Center, Maine General, Wentworth-Douglas Hospital, Southern Maine Health Care, Central Maine Medical Center, St. Mary's Hospital, and Maine Medical Center. Thank you for welcoming the SMCC respiratory therapy students and for assisting them as they develop their clinical skills.

*(Continued....)*

*The MeSRC  
would like to take this  
opportunity to  
sincerely thank our  
2016 corporate  
sponsors!*



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Taylor Steeves is serving as the SMCC student liaison to the Maine Society for Respiratory Care Board of Directors. This is a great opportunity to foster student engagement in the AARC. We are grateful to the Maine Society for supporting this growth opportunity and for supporting our profession.

SMCC graduated 13 students on May 22, 2016. As of this writing, eight of them have obtained their RRT credential and they are all employed! The new RRTs and their employers are... Jasmine Burgess, Brittany Cyr, Scott Doyle -Maine Medical Center; Sam Dressel , Jennifer Ross - Central Maine Medical Center; Caroline Tuttle, Michelle McCutcheon - Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center; and Makayla White - Maine General Hospital. Congratulations to all the members of the SMCC Respiratory Therapy Program Class of 2016.

The Maine Community College System had a challenging academic year (2015/2016). Student numbers have declined and operating costs have remained high. This has resulted in some closures of Allied Health Programs and college layoffs. KVCC will not be accepting a new class this fall. SMCC is working to fill all seats in our program but this has been a challenge. We do a lot to recruit strong students into the program but we need your help. We think it is important for every Respiratory Therapist in the state of Maine to join us in our recruitment efforts. If you like what you do, if you want good therapists working with you in the near future, recruit a respiratory therapy program student. We do not know if **one** program will meet the employment needs in the state of Maine going forward. SMCC needs to start with a full class and graduate more students. Please assist us by recruiting good candidates.

SMCC has developed a new Health Science degree. It is our belief that this new program will help students find the right career, maybe as a respiratory therapist, or in one of the many other career opportunities. I will be chairing that department next year. I will be working on articulating that program with other BS degree programs. That will support the AARC's initiative for BS education among our members. I believe it will help us recruit more students if they know they can get a great

job and easily transition for BS education. Heather Higgins MS, RRT has taken my position as Program Director. Kathy Roy BA, RRT will be the Director of Clinical Education. I will continue to teach in the program. The program will graduate a strong class in 2017 and beyond. We are asking that you as a member of the profession, and as an AARC member, work with us to accomplish our goal of preparing future Registered Respiratory Therapists. Our profession depends on it.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen McDonald*

Karen McDonald MS, RRT-NPS, RPFT  
SMCC Respiratory Therapy Program Director  
Health Sciences Division Chair

## **What's Happening Around the State?**

### **St. Joseph Hospital**

Denver Price, RPFT has moved onto a new position in North Carolina and Chad Woodard, RRT is now performing PFTs full time at St. Joes in Bangor.

Elizabeth Deane, RRT is now working for Regional Home Care, a new phase in her respiratory life.

A big welcome to new staff at St. Joes:

Kathy Hooper, RRT  
Deanna Clark, RRT  
Vu Nguyen

Peggy Innocenti, RRT

### **Maine General**

New hires: Keith Englehart, Jeff Reed, Makayla White, Jeremy Labonte, and Cristin Markey

Victoria Jewett-Dionne

### **Aroostook Medical Center**

Doug Charette is dropping to casual part time status to spend more time with his children.

Tom Puzewski, RRT



## 2016 COPD Educator Institute

The American Lung Association is proud to again sponsor the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Educator Institute (COPDEI)

It will be held **October 27-28, 2016**, at MaineHealth, 110 Free Street, Portland, ME

The purpose of the 1 ½ day institute is to provide an overview of COPD for healthcare and health professionals who provide or are preparing to provide, self-management education for individuals diagnosed with COPD. The training will include practical information to be used when working with this population.

Specific attention will be given to providing an overview, including the treatment of COPD, the role of spirometry, patient self-management and daily living strategies, tobacco treatment resources, oxygen therapy and palliative care.

**For More Information:  
email Lee B. Gilman at  
Lee.Gilman@Lung.org**

**CEUs:** All participants will receive a certificate of attendance for 10.5 contact hours.

**Food:** Lunch, beverages/snacks for both days will be provided.

**Registration Fee:** \$125 will cover all costs including resource materials

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### ***IN MEMORY***

**Elizabeth Terwilliger**

1961-2016



Mercy Hospital has lost a great respiratory therapist and amazing human being. Those of us who have been fortunate enough to know and work with Liz have lost a dear friend and colleague. Liz had started working at Mercy Hospital 9 years ago. (2007)

## **Happy Respiratory Care Week!** **October 23-30, 2016**

Go to our [Facebook](#) page, The Maine Society for Respiratory Care, and share your RT week happenings.



For great RT themed products, follow the link below to the AARC store!



<https://www.jimcolemanstore.com/rcweek/respiratory-care-week-gifts-and-products.html>

### **Enter to Win Nashville Experience Package: Proceeds Go to the ARCF**

Country singer and songwriter Billy Dawson was at the AARC Congress in San Antonio, and he's letting everyone know about his "Once in a Lifetime Nashville Recording and Songwriting Package" — a fundraising raffle sponsored by Billy and the AARC, with all the proceedings going to the American Respiratory Care Foundation (ARCF) to support research and scholarship important to the advancement of the profession.

#### **[Purchase \\$25 Raffle Ticket](#)**

But you didn't have to be in San Antonio to enter the drawing for this fantastic prize! In fact, you don't even have to be an AARC member, or even a member of the respiratory care profession! Tickets are available online to anyone who would like to get in the running for the package, which will include:

- Free airfare and a two night stay for two at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville.
- A songwriting session with Billy Dawson, with the song of Billy's choice to be recorded and taken home by the winner.
- A 30 minute private show featuring Billy Dawson during the trip.
- An autographed, limited edition Billy Dawson CD.
- An autographed copy of Billy's bestselling children's book, "You Never Know," which focuses on bullying, racism, and other societal issues involving kids.
- A Billy Dawson t-shirt.

So purchase your ticket today and share this link with all of your colleagues, friends, and family to support the good work done every day by the ARCF — all proceeds for this contest will benefit folks like you who have devoted their lives to caring for people who struggle to breathe.

The drawing for the "Once in a Lifetime Nashville Recording and Songwriting Package" will take place on Friday, October 28, at the AARC Executive Office in Irving, TX. You need not be present to win!

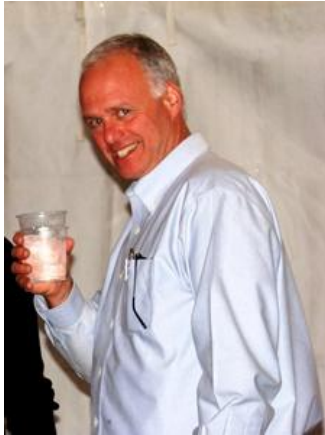


American Respiratory Care Foundation  
9425 N MacArthur Blvd, STE 100  
Irving, TX 75063

Watch the announcement at the link below!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=5DaYc3QhiE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=5DaYc3QhiE)

## Jack Higgins 1954-2016



Keith and Jack on one of their many trips to Washington D.C.

It is with great sadness that I tell you Jack has lost his battle with glioblastoma. He died October 19<sup>th</sup>. For those of you who never met or worked with Jack, you missed seeing a wonderful example of dedication to our profession and the furtherance of such. He was our “go to” guy for the political action team and went every spring to Washington D.C., often at his own expense, to canvas our legislators regarding healthcare bills. He was a huge supporter of the AARC and its mission to further Respiratory Care as a recognized profession. He was an avid outdoorsman, sailor and devoted family man. He was a beautiful person and will be sorely missed.

Thank you for all of the kind and supportive words you have shared via our Facebook page and emails. For those who would like to remember Jack in a more tangible way you may donate in his memory to:

Coastal Mountains Land Trust ([coastalmountains.org](http://coastalmountains.org))  
Or  
National Brain Tumor Society ([braintumor.org](http://braintumor.org))

Cynthia Carlton

I am saddened beyond words at the loss of my dear friend and professional mentor, Jack Higgins. Anyone who knows me knows how much I love being a respiratory therapist. When I was a teenager and decided that I wanted to be an RT, I introduced myself to Jack, who was practicing in Camden, Maine. Jack was so kind to me. He took me under his wing, encouraged me all through RT school, and became my lifelong mentor and one of my best friends in the world.

I was honored to serve with Jack on the Board of Directors of the Maine Society for Respiratory Care, and to travel with Jack to Washington, DC every year for many years where we advocated for our patients. Jack cared so deeply about his patients, and they loved him. In fact, everyone who came into contact with Jack loved him.

My words cannot begin to express how much I am going to miss this amazing, kind, and generous man. He leaves a void that cannot be filled. Thank you for your friendship, Jack. I love you, my friend!

Keith Siegel