

Alaska Society of Radiologic Technologists

April 29, 2014
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Message from the Editor

Claudia Tessier
Editor

April 2014

Arctic Winter Games
Fairbanks, AK



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MAKE PLANS NOW!!! ATTEND THE AKSRT ANNUAL MEETING!

The conference committee has been hard at work planning what will be a fun couple of days combined with our annual membership meeting and of course, some quality educational presentations.

SAVE THE DATES:

May 9th and 10th, 2014 in Anchorage

Please refer to the pages dedicated to this event included in this e-newsletter. Also in this issue, we have photos and the report Clyde Pearce submitted after he attended R.T. in D.C.

Claudia Joan Tessier, R.T. (R)(M) CBDT

R.T. in D.C. By Clyde Pearce

Offices visited in Washington D.C.:

- Congressman Don Young, met with Alex Ortiz, Legislative Assistant, 2314 Rayburn Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515 - (202) 225-5765. Alex.ortiz@mail.house.gov
- Senator Lisa Murkowski, met with John-Michael C. Villarma, Legislative Correspondent, 709 Hart Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510 - (202) 224-6665.
John-michael_villarama@murkowski.senate.gov
- Senator Mark Begich, met with Rosalie Abbott, Legislative Aide, 111 Russell Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-0204 (202) 224-3004. Rosalie_abbott@begich.senate.gov

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AKSRT Officers



PRESIDENT: [Robert McClung](#)
 VICE-PRESIDENT: [Clyde Pearce](#)
 SECRETARY: [Maggie Willis](#)
 TREASURER: [Claudia Tessier](#)

AKSRT COMMITTEES

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE 2014

Robert McClung
 Kathryn Slagle
 Tiffany Peterson
 Jodi Izykowski

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Person:
 Donna Rufsholm,
 Rhonda Merrihew
 Claudia Tessier

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Maggie Willis

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Dale Collins

INCORPORATION

Dale Collins

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Clyde Pearce
 Claudia Tessier
 Cecilia Del Rio

NEWSLETTER CO-ORDINATORS

Claudia Tessier
 Cecilia Del Rio



Upcoming Events

May 9th-10th, 2014
 Anchorage hosts
 AKSRT annual meeting & Educational Conference

May 10th, 2014
 Fairbanks Annual Breast Health Symposium

June 27th to 29th, 2014
 Clyde Pearce and Maggie Willis will be attending the ASRT Annual House of Delegates Meeting, in Orlando, FL

September 5th, 2014
 AHEC: Breast Imaging Companions: Mammography & Ultrasound
 Anchorage, AK

September 6th, 2014
 AHEC: Mastering the Art of Mammography
 Anchorage, AK



Membership Committee Update

Maggie Willis, Chairperson
[AKSRT Secretary](#)

As of this publication, AKSRT 2014 is 65 members strong!
 Thank you to all the renewing members and welcome to all our new members.

Way to go Maggie!

2014 AKSRT Maui, HI Workshop: leisure time
 Photo taken on the road to Hana.

AKSRT New Website

Please visit our website and let us know how we are



*Looking for Job opportunities?
Look under the ASRT [Job Bank®](#)
For more information!*

Alaska Licensure Legislation

Click on link to view full text [HB 323](#)

House Labor and Commerce Committee Members:

Rep. Kurt Olson 800-463-2693

Rep.Kurt.Olson@akleg.gov

Rep. Lora Reinbold 800-770-3822

Rep.Lora.Reinbold@akleg.gov

Rep. Mike Chenault 800-469-3779

Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov

Rep. Bob Herron 800-323-4942

Rep.Bob.Herron@akleg.gov

Rep. Charisse Millett 888-269-3879

Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov

Rep. Dan Saddler 877-460-3783

Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov

Rep. Andy Josephson 800-465-4939

Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov

Rep. Craig Johnson 866-465-4993

Rep.craig.johnson@akleg.gov

If you have questions or concerns about the legislation, do not hesitate to contact one of the following individuals.

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Legislative Affairs Committee Member

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AKSRT Happenings: R.T. in D.C.

Message from Vice President

Clyde Pearce

Report March 20, 2014



The Alaska Society of Radiologic Technologists had one representative travel to Washington, D.C. this year to participate in the R.T. in D.C program. There were technologists from throughout the U.S., although not all states were represented this time. Some of the largest states, such as California, Florida, and Hawaii, did not send representatives which may have to do with the fact those states already have well established programs for licensing medical imaging specialists.

There were three Bills being promoted by the technologists who visited the offices of their state representatives to the federal government. The CARE Bill (Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility, and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Act of 2013) was H.R. 1146 and a Senate Bill S. 642 addressed image quality, safety, and cost savings. These would independently extend the current federal regulations setting standards for mammography under the FDA (MQSA) and the new advanced imaging standards under Medicare that refer to CT, MRI and PET imaging. What is different about the CARE Bill is that it would apply to all medical imaging procedures rather than the limited scope of those others. This Bill was originally proposed and sponsored sixteen years ago, and continues to evolve as the political situation changes.

The third Bill is referred to as MARCA (Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act of 2013) H.R. 1148 and applies only to Radiology Assistants, their level of independence when performing their work, and reimbursement for their services. The focus of the action has changed from the original goal of establishing federal minimum standards for those who operate radiation devices in a health care setting. The group effort now is narrowed to establishing minimum competencies and certification for medical imaging specialists who perform procedures reimbursed by Medicare (CMS). If the procedures are not performed by competent, certified medical imaging specialists Medicare would not pay. If the Bill passes states would not be forced to establish a license program. A second goal was to pursue acceptance by Medicare of advanced (super) technologists who are referred to as RA's, or radiologist Assistants.

In some states the RA must be personally supervised by the radiologist, which means the radiologist may as well do the work him or herself. There is no savings in time or work to have an RA perform the procedures. As a result about half the current 600+ certified RA's do not work in that role. The MARCA Bill would allow RA's to work under radiologist supervision, but perform specific procedures independent of direct personal supervision. They would still be supervised, but more on the level of the standard physician assistant. Under Medicare the RA services would be reimbursed at 85% of the radiologist reimbursement rate, allowing for a significant cost savings in the Medicare program. Estimates of that cost savings were in excess of one-hundred million dollars.



Legislative Correspondent for Sen. Murkowski, John-Michael Villarama.

Prior to the actual activities in Washington, D.C., there were two mandatory webinars conducted by Christine Lung of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT). There were also many documents that were required to be studied and that were downloaded from the ASRT website. Then our representative from Alaska flew to Washington, D.C. on Sunday, March 16, 2014 and attended orientation sessions the next day. Since this was a first time experience for the Alaska representative (but not for Alaska) he was paired up with an experienced technologist from Oregon. Together they visited four legislative offices of Oregon Senators and Congressmen/women the morning of Tuesday, March 18th. This was followed up by visits to each of the Alaska delegation offices of Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Mark Begich and Congressman Don Young.



Rosalie Abbott, aide to Senator Begich

Since Congress was not in session at this time none of the actual U.S. Senators or Congressman was available, but meetings were conducted with legislative aids at each office. This was true for all the states. Christine Lung was present at the first meeting in Don Young's office. The other two were solo. There was also one session where David Hill, R.T., who lobbies for the ASRT and what he had to say to justify the Bills was impressive.

Each office had been contacted prior to arrival to set up appointments and provide a preview of what would happen. The meeting consisted of advising the aide about who we are and why we wanted to talk to them. Although it may sound like we missed the mark by not being able to speak with the legislator directly the aides

actually pre-screen and summarize everything which is then reported to their "boss" in briefing sessions. All three Aides in the Alaska offices were from Alaska. The purpose of the Bills was presented and a pamphlet explaining more about who radiologic technologists are was left with them, along with a full copy of each Bill. The ASRT also had a full page ad in the legislative daily paper, the Roll Call, and this was pointed out and left at each office. For the Alaska visits a sample set of images of unacceptable imaging was also left at each office. The three points emphasized were quality, safety, and cost. At the end of the interview a request was made for them to support the Bill and become a sponsor. Each person interviewed seemed to be very interested and particularly excited about the Bills after seeing the horrible examples of "radiography" in particular. The meeting was closed with a plan to re-contact in two weeks (the legislators won't be getting back for another week) and a squeeze doll figure representing a medical imaging specialist (with a chest x-ray image on the chest) was left as a gift. The people serving as aides were young and all appeared to really like the doll. It appeared to be a tradition in Washington.



Alex Ortiz, Legislative Assistant for Representative Don Young.

Following the meetings all participants completed a form providing details of each meeting and verifying there would be follow up. The most enthusiastic aide was Rosalie Abbott in Sen. Begich's office. She asked many thoughtful questions and assured that Sen. Begich would get the information and would be very interested in the topic. He is up for re-election this year and faces strong contention in Alaska for his position. The aide to Sen. Murkowski, John-Michael Villarama, was also very interested felt that the senator would be as well. He confirmed that the senator had been a supporter and advocate in the past. It was not clear if she had been a co-sponsor. The aide for Don Young, Alex Ortiz, took many notes and was very positive in his response to the presentation. All promised to ask their legislator to become a co-sponsor or at least support it. The follow up will be to determine if that took place.

Submitted by Clyde E. Pearce, R.T., on March 20, 2014

AKSRT Happenings, R.T. in D.C. snapshots



Found snow in Washington D.C. after leaving Alaska.





AKSRT 2014 Conference May 9th & 10th

The 2014 AKSRT Conference will be held Friday May 9th and Saturday May 10th. The speakers will cover a wide range of topics and offer technologists opportunities to gain continuing education credits.

The conference will be on the campus of the University of Alaska, Anchorage. UAA will provide conference and catering services for the conference. Parking will be free on campus for both days. Reserve these dates in your schedule now and plan to attend the annual gathering of technologist from across the state in beautiful Anchorage.

Meals included in the conference fees include breakfast, lunch, morning and afternoon breaks on both days. The Friday evening banquet is included in the fees. You may bring a guest with you to the banquet for an additional cost. In order to reduce paper usage, it is preferred to send registration confirmations through email so a valid email address must be provided.

Click for [REGISTRATION FORM](#)

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Spring Hill Suites Anchorage University Lake

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/maps/travel/ancum-springhill-suites-anchorage-university-lake/>

4050 University Lake Drive

Anchorage, Alaska 99508 USA

Phone: 1-907-751-6300

Check-in: 3:00 PM Check-out: 12:00 PM

Free Breakfast

High-Speed Internet Access: Guest Rooms Lobby and public areas Complimentary Wireless

Complimentary on-site parking

[This hotel has a smoke-free policy](#)

Pets not allowed

AIRLINE INFORMATION:

Alaska Airlines is providing a discount rate.

Discount Code is ECMU930 and is available for booking.

To use the Discount Code go online to alaskaair.com and input the Discount Code when searching for flights. The discount will be applied to any flights meeting the contract parameters. By clicking the "?" next to the discount code box after entering the code you may view a detailed description of the rules.

You may also use the Discount Code by calling Alaska Airlines Group Desk; however a \$15.00 per person ticketing fee will apply.

Please check for validity dates, rules and restrictions.

Friday, May 9th 2014	
Time	
0730 - 0800	Registration
0800 - 0820	Welcome Robert McClung AKSRT President
0820 - 0830	Break
0830 - 0950 1.5 CE	Speaker: Dennis Bowman Topic: Mastering the Art of Digital Radiography & Radiation Protection Part 1
0950 - 1000	Break
1000 - 1130 1.5 CE	Speaker: Dennis Bowman Topic: Mastering the Art of Digital Radiography & Radiation Protection Part 2
1130 - 1230	Lunch Provided
1230 - 1330 1 CE	Speaker: Dennis Bowman Topic: Adaptive Radiography
130 - 1:40	Break
1340 - 1430 1 CE	Speaker: Dr. Ian Hamilton Topic: Principals of Doppler Ultrasound
1430 - 1440	Break
1440 - 1530 1 CE	Speaker: Dr. Ian Hamilton Topic: Frontiers In Molecular Imaging & Medicine
1530 - 1540	Break
1540 - 1630 1 CE	Speaker: Dr. Ian Hamilton Topic: Fundamentals of Positron Imaging Tomography
6:00 – 8:00 PM	Texas BBQ

Saturday May 10th, 2014	
Time	
0730 - 0800	Registration
0800 - 0850 1 CE	Speaker: Denise Davidson Topic: Breast Tomosynthesis
0850 - 0900	Break
0900 - 0950	AKSRT General Business Meeting
0950 - 1000	Break
1000 - 1050 1 CE	Speaker: Dr. Jeff Killion Topic: Ionizing Radiation: Past, Present and Future Part 1
1050 - 1100	Break
1100 - 1150 1 CE	Speaker: Dr. Jeff Killion Topic: Ionizing Radiation: Past, Present and Future Part 2
1150 - 1300	Lunch provided
1300 - 1350 1 CE	Speaker: Dr. Jeff Killion Topic: Cumulative Hazards in the Radiology Department
1350 - 1400	Break
1400 - 1450 1 CE	Speaker: Donna Rufsholm and Honora Drew Topic: Preparing for Older Workers in the Workforce
1450 - 1530	Ice cream social
1530 - 1630 1 CE	Speaker: Clyde Pearce Topic: "How Much Did I Get?" The Patient Asks.



Registration Form

Alaska Society of Radiologic Technologists
Annual Conference
Anchorage, Alaska
May 9th and 10th, 2014

Attendee Information * Minimum required fields.		
In order to reduce our carbon footprint, registration confirmation and all other correspondences will be via email if possible. Be sure to print email address very carefully and clearly		
* Full name		
* Address		
* City, State Zip Code		
* Home phone		
Cellular phone		
Work phone		
* e-mail address		
Conference Fees:		
Two Day Conference		
AKSRT Member (banquet fee for attendee is included)	\$200	
Please indicate (circle) if you will be attending banquet	No	Yes
Non-Member (banquet fee for attendee is included)	\$225	
Please indicate (circle) if you will be attending banquet	No	Yes
Additional Banquet Guest (<i>number of guests not including yourself</i>)	\$ 20.- each	
One Day Conference - Friday		
AKSRT Member (banquet fee for attendee is included)	\$100	
Please indicate (circle) if you will be attending banquet	No	Yes
Non-Member (banquet fee for attendee is included)	\$125	
Please indicate (circle) if you will be attending banquet	No	Yes
Additional Banquet Guest (<i>number of guests not including yourself</i>)	\$ 20.- each	
One Day Conference – Saturday		
AKSRT Member	\$100	
Non-Member	\$125	
In order to receive all information regarding the conference please register by April 15th, 2014. After May 1st a \$20 late fee will be added. On Site Registration will be allowed (to include the \$20 late fee).		

Total amount enclosed: _____

Special Military Discount of 10% on Attendance fee only. (Proof of valid Military ID required with application, subjected to approval)

Please, make checks payable to AKSRT.

Mail check and your registration form postmarked by April 15th to:

AKSRT 2014 Conference

Attention: Kathryn Slagle
1780 El Cadore Drive #12
Anchorage, AK 99507

Payment: Full payment must accompany all registrations. Those registrations without full payment will be held and the registrant notified. No further action will be taken for registrants until all fees are paid.

Member: Any person who is a current, paid member in good standing of AKSRT.

Nonmember: Any person not a member of the AKSRT.

Students Corner

According to the U.S. Education Department, only 29% of today's undergraduates are "traditional" students. These students are the ones who enroll in a four-year public or non-profit institution straight out of high school. Most of the students that are enrolled in University of Alaska Anchorage's Radiologic Technology program can be considered "adult students," which is a new way of expanding on the term "non-traditional students." This demographic consist of students who are older, working full-time jobs, or have children.

Parents who are also college students face a variety of unique challenges. These individuals share the commonality of juggling family, work, and life circumstances that can interfere with successful completion of academic goals. Finding a perfect balance between their educational and household responsibilities can be stressful.

It is also evident that there is a strong military presence in Alaska. With Anchorage's Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), it is hard to go anywhere without spotting someone in uniform. A significant percentage of UAA students are active-duty military, veterans or military family members. These military-affiliated individuals would also be grouped under the umbrella of "non-traditional" students.

UAA not only offers academic advising specifically for non-traditional students, but they also participate in the Service Members Opportunity Colleges program, which caters to military students. Resources like these can aid this population of students to academic success.

Both of the classmates that we are featuring in the April Student Spotlight are students of the non-traditional variety. They discuss with us their lives as parents with military backgrounds, but from a student's perspective.



First-year student **Madison Swiderski** had always wanted to work in the medical field. She was influenced by her father-in-law, who started his career in the medical imaging field as a radiologic technologist. "I enjoy challenging myself and learning a variety of skills, so I enjoy the fact that there is more than one path in medical imaging to study," says Madison. It is unmistakable that family plays a vital role in Madison's life, in and out of the classroom. Being married, and also caring for a young daughter, Madison must deal with numerous other responsibilities that her "traditional" counterparts in the classroom may not have to worry about. "As students we all have to balance everyday life and the life of a college student. Being a wife and mother does have extra duties, but I am fortunate to have my husband and extended family that are always willing to help. Without that great support it would be a lot harder for me to continue pursuing my career," says Madison.

Madison grew up in a military home and is also a military spouse. JBER Hospital was her first clinical rotation. "Beginning to x-ray real patients for the first time was nerve-racking, but military life is the only life I've ever known so I feel like it was much easier for me to get comfortable at JBER because it was a familiar environment." For our other classmates who have yet to be scheduled at JBER's hospital, she tell us that as civilians, we do not have to salute or call patients by rank. This would be different if we were technologists in the military of course.

Students Corner

Madison also mentions that although the military base has particular rules for the personnel, as students, this does not apply to us. She does say that she has enjoyed her interactions with patients and seeing where their military life has taken them.

This semester, Madison has learned the importance of having self-confidence in her work, and that there is always something to be learned from another technologist. Although Madison is barely halfway through the program, she has gained a great deal of knowledge and experience. “My advice to anyone wanting to be in the program would be to commit yourself 100% to the program. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication. For us parents, we have to take that a step further because we must care for our family as well. So my advice would be to accept and embrace the fact that you will have little to no free time, but in the end it will be well worth it.”

Evan Miller, class of 2015 Radiologic Technologist, wears many hats. Not only is he the sole male student in the Anchorage classroom, he is also a father and a military veteran. One of the reasons he applied to the program was because he wanted a job that he felt had meaning; having a standard desk job in a cubicle wasn't appealing to him. Evan enjoys the critical thinking element that the Radiologic Technology program embodies. He puts his skills to use at Providence Imaging Center, which is where he is at his first clinical rotation. For the upcoming summer semester, he will be at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Hospital, which won't be a far drive for him since he lives on base with his family.



He met his wife of five years, Alissa, while they were both stationed at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, Nevada. They have a two year-old girl named Riley, and another baby girl due any day now. Knowing it can be challenging at times to balance all of life's commitments, Evan seems to embrace it. He explains, “Sure, I would say that although being a parent is very demanding and it takes up a huge portion of my day, this is time when I'm not thinking about school and not stressing out about that aspect of my life.” Evan was able to give some useful tips for students who are parents. “I think the most important thing is to make sure you have a good schedule. Do not try to study and do homework while your kids are running around; wait until they are asleep and get your assignments done early. Also, go to sleep early yourself because there is no telling when you might be up all night with a sick kid and have class the next day.”



Evan joined the Air Force right out of high school in 2004. He became a Helicopter Flight Engineer after a lengthy time in tech-school and was stationed at Nellis AFB in Nevada. He flew a HH-60G Pavehawk, which mainly focused on combat search and rescue mission. The job as a flight engineer was the most humbling experience according to Evan. “Having to know everything about everything on that helicopter inside and out and knowing that lives depended on my knowledge and actions really increased my attention to detail.”