

Alaska Society of Radiologic Technologists

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Message from the Editor

Claudia Tessier
Editor

December 2014



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AKSRT Website

Please visit our
website and let us
know how we are
doing

AKSRT.COM

Our days are too busy the hours too few....but the AKSRT e-newsletter is past due! I had a busy November and December as the North Star Strings group I volunteer with plays at many of the holiday bazaars, Pioneer Home and Christmas parties around town. Lots of fun, but glad we had our last performance last Sunday evening! Now I will finally have a little free time to get e-newsletter items together in order to get it sent out before Christmas!?? I hope everyone had a great NRTW in November. Our Imaging Department had several catered lunches and breakfast one morning with our leadership doing the cooking/serving. One activity was a "Who's Who" game where we submitted 2 little known bits of information about ourselves and everyone received emails with these "hints" to see who knew who "outside of the workplace". It was fun to discover things we never knew about each other!

The House of Delegates will be meeting the end of June in Albuquerque, NM. This is a wonderful opportunity for our membership. There is information available at ASRT.org regarding the requirements to become a delegate or alternate. Students are not eligible but the ASRT does have a Student Leadership opportunity. AKSRT needs to fill 2 alternate positions for June 2015. Clyde will be attending for his second consecutive year. Maggie has moved out of state so Robert has volunteered to attend as our second delegate. Robert and I were alternates last year. If you are interested in becoming a delegate to represent AKSRT please contact one of the Board members. This is a wonderful opportunity to network and really see just how important the ASRT and Affiliate Societies are.

Nominations for officers will be coming up for AKSRT very soon! I hope everyone will seriously consider becoming more involved with our profession. Again, I would love to get some news items to share from you, the membership! It is difficult to keep a newsletter going without participation from everyone. The Anchorage students have really stepped up and should be commended for this! Thank you Donna and Clyde for your news items this month and as always, a huge thank you to Cecilia for all her hard work making this e-newsletter look so professional!

Donna has the PACS/Managers retreat coming up @ Alyeska in Girdwood ...and Anchorage is hosting our annual meeting and educational conference in April. Check out the Upcoming Events!

I hope everyone has Happy Holidays! Happy Hanukkah! Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you all!

Claudia ☺

AKSRT Officers



PRESIDENT: [Robert McClung](#)
 VICE-PRESIDENT: [Clyde Pearce](#)
 INTERIM SECRETARY: [Kathryn Slagle](#)
 TREASURER: [Claudia Tessier](#)

AKSRT COMMITTEES

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE 2015

Jackie Deal
 Jodi Izykowski
 Gini Mosley
 Tiffany Peterson

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Person:
 Donna Rufsholm,
 Rhonda Merrihew
 Claudia Tessier

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

(interim contact)
 Robert McClung

UPDATE BYLAWS

Robert McClung

INCORPORATION

Dale Collins

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Clyde Pearce
 Claudia Tessier
 Cecilia Del Rio

NEWSLETTER CO-ORDINATORS

Claudia Tessier
 Cecilia Del Rio



February 8th & 9th, 2015

Alaska Imaging Managers and PACS Administrators Seminar
 Alyeska Resort and Hotel Girdwood, Alaska
[Registration Form](#)

April 10th & 11th, 2015 Anchorage Crown Plaza
 AKSRT Annual Business Meeting and Educational Conference
 Co-chairs: Jackie Deal, Jodi Izykowski, Gini Mosley, Tiffany Peterson

June 25th -28th, 2015

2015 ASRT Educational Symposium and Annual Governance and House of
 Delegates Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico

January 16th to 18th, 2016 (proposed dates)

AKSRT Hawaii Workshop
 Clyde Pearce aksrtrtmaui@yahoo.com



Message from the President

Robert McClung



Fellow AKSRT members,

The society has done a good job of increasing membership. We now have 81 RT members (from a low of 28 in 2013) and 17 student members. This is great but I would like to continue adding members. As AKSRT members please encourage fellow techs to join. This year the AKSRT board approved water bottles (which we provided to fair goers at our booth) and T-shirts for new and renewing members. It is my desire new and renewing members receive something tangible each year when they renew or join. For 2016, I am thinking of scrub shirts printed with the AKSRT emblem and motto, so send me your suggestions.

This summer Maggie Willis, our AKSRT Secretary departed the Great Land for the Hot Land. Our fantastic secretary moved to Arizona. I cannot say enough about Maggie's enthusiasm and dedication to the society. She was instrumental in the society's rebirth and represented us at the last ASRT conference with dignity and honor. I wish nothing but the best for Maggie as she writes a new chapter to her life. She will be greatly missed.

Other notes, what a positive year we have had in our society. I would like to commend those members involved in the AKSRT over the past year. Some of the highlights are below;

- March, Clyde Pearce, our vice president attend the R.T. in D.C. program supporting passage of CARE Bill (Consistency, Accuracy, Responsibility, and Excellence in Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Act of 2013)
- Annual conference in May, thanks to Kathryn Slagle, Gini Mosley, Tiffany Peterson, and Jodi Izykowski for planning a great event. Already Tiffany, Jodi, Jill Siegel, Gini Mosley, and Jackie Deal are working on next year's conference to be held in Anchorage.
- Clyde Pearce and Maggie Willis represented the society at the Annual ASRT meeting in Orlando during the month of June.
- AKSRT sponsored a booth at the Alaska state fair in September. Volunteers provided information concerning licensure. Most people did not realize the person taking their x-rays did not have to be licensed or credentialed. If a member is aware of a conference or other public event we can convey our message please let me know. Thanks to Tiffany Peterson for organizing the fair event and kudos to the following fair booth volunteers; Tiffany Peterson, Diana Delarosa, Clyde Pearce, Donna Rufsholm, Rhonda Merrihew, Nancy Del Pesco, Michelle Stapley, Glenn Balagtas, and Victoria Swanson. Two UAA students also volunteered; June Berrett and Erica Shafer. Thanks to all.

Last, I hope each of you has a safe winter. We may be putting away our gardening tools, fishing equipment, and summer toys our work as a society commences. The legislative session begins in January. It is time now for our collective voices to be heard. We need to contact our legislatures not only after the session begins but before the election occurs. It is important for members to inquire about the candidate's position on licensure for radiology technologists.

Robert McClung



Message from AKSRT Vice President

Submitted by Clyde Pearce

[The ASRT has dropped the R.T. in D.C. program.](#) I went to the last one, not realizing it would truly be the very last one ever. Several million dollars were spent trying to lobby legislators nationwide without success. (Sure, there were a few small successes, but not enough to reach the goal of passing a CARE bill.) So the ASRT now will be focusing on helping those states that do not currently have licensure achieve that goal. Given the historical opposition to it in Alaska it is not clear to me

how they will be able to help us any more than in the past to achieve operator licensure in Alaska.

With the Affordable Care Act front and center now, and healthcare costs an even bigger issue than in the past it does not look like a very favorable prognosis for passing a national CARE Bill in the foreseeable future.

By the way, are you all aware that there has been another Bill in congress called the CARE Bill?

The department of Law for the state of Alaska continues to review the latest regulations, which went out for public comment a year ago this month. They were signed and adopted by the Commissioner in June and have been in Law ever since. The questions received in this office suggest that the review process is about half-way completed.

Changes in the future will be much more difficult to achieve given recent legislation that appears to put all regulations in a specific area on the line if you try to make any changes. So if, for example, we simply decided we could reduce the tube registration fee, the entire radiation control regulations would need to be reviewed, which could mean repealing portions that have been in place for years, and eliminating hard-fought and won items such as the requirement for a specific minimum level of training (the Basic Operator permit). It is the same kind of concerns Americans have about a U.S. Constitutional Convention. Once you open that door for small changes you create the possibility that a vested interest will exert power and money to demolish the entire program.

The Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) just completed its annual meeting in Chicago. It always occurs the first week after Thanksgiving and is the largest radiological event in the world, with 60,000 to 70,000 attendees each year from all over the world. I had lunch with two young physicians from China. An evening meal with doctors from Mexico, and a lively conversation with another from Indonesia. The RSNA reserves over 80 hotels in Chicago for attendees, with free shuttle service each day between the hotels and the McCormick Place Convention. Two huge exhibition halls present the very latest imaging and therapy technology, with companies represented from all over the world. I noticed a very strong Asian presence, which has been growing noticeable each year. A large display with photos of student radiologists who won research awards was dominated by Asian candidates. There is another whole area of posters submitted in every topical area in medical imaging.

There were an amazing number of ultrasound manufacturers, as well as many very small MRI units for extremities or pediatric skull imaging. Mobile fluoroscopy was also very much in vogue this year. There was also a focus on patient centered imaging that is a growing trend. And breast imaging has been trending toward more MRI versus traditional mammography, even preferring it to tomosynthesis. But it best displays dense breast tissue, which means its greatest value only applies to about half the population. If you have never been to the RSNA meeting it is a "must see" to put on your bucket list for a medical imaging or radiation therapy professional.

Clyde

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Alaska Licensure Legislation

Donna Rufsholm

Licensure Update December 2014

The AKSRT Legislative Affairs Committee and several AKSRT members have contacted Representatives and Senators from various districts of the state to enlist their help with sponsorship of the licensure bill. Two Representatives and one Senator have shown interest in helping with the legislation and are in the process of reviewing the past bill history before making a commitment to sponsor the legislation in the 29th Legislative session which will begin on January 20, 2015.

Please check out the latest version of the bill and additional legislative information at the links provided on the AKSRT website.

Donna Rufsholm, B.S., R.T. (R)(M)

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ASRT Student Leadership Development Program.



Applications are being accepted for the 2015 program. I provided this information to UAA Clinical Educators before the December deadline. I am providing this information hoping to spark interest for 2016?!

Program Highlights

The ASRT Student Leadership Development Program offers students a chance to get to know the ASRT, attend educational sessions and network with medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals.

Selected participants will attend the 2015 ASRT Educational Symposium and Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting, June 25-28, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, as well as orientation the evening of June 24.

Selected participants receive:

Airfare, housing, stipend for meals and other travel expenses

An educational program designed just for students

A professional mentor assigned for the meeting

An insider's look into the largest association for medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals

How to apply: Students may [apply](#) Aug. 15-Dec. 19, 2014.

Questions? Contact ASRT Practice Standards and Chapter Manager Becky Apodaca at bapodaca@asrt.org or 505-298-4500, Ext. 1285.

Funding provided by the [ASRT Board of Directors](#).

Looking for Job opportunities?

Look under the ASRT Job Bank®

For more information!

The AKSRT Students Scholarship

ALASKA SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS (AKSRT) SCHOLARSHIP

Purpose

The AKSRT is proud to offer a scholarship award to a student currently enrolled in the University of Alaska Anchorage Radiologic Technology Program. This scholarship will promote professionalism and highlight the importance of the program in the state.

Administration

The Board will review applications prior to the annual organization meeting. All applications must be emailed to the AKSRT President by 27 March 2015. The AKSRT President will share all applications with Board members via email. The Board will evaluate & score applications prior to the annual meeting. This will be completed through the use of e-mail or teleconferencing. During the annual meeting the winner will be announced. A check will be written directly to the applicant.

Source

The initial funds for this scholarship were donated by Dr. Ian Hamilton. His contributions were \$500 in 2008 and \$500 in 2009. The AKSRT has assumed responsibility for maintaining this fund.

Eligibility UAA instructors will not provide recommendations for this scholarship

Requirements for eligibility:

- successful completion of one semester in the UAA Radiology Program
- maintained a 3.0 grade point average (includes pre-program college courses)
- 2 letters of recommendation from ARRT registered technologists (only one recommendation from any clinical educator)
- completed application form

Scholarship funds used exclusively for the payment of tuition and textbooks are normally not taxable. The scholarship recipient is responsible for taxes, if any, that may be assessed against your scholarship award. We recommend consulting your tax advisor for more guidance.

Email completed applications to:
Robert McClung, AKSRT President
E mail: remclung@uaa.edu

Students Corner



UAA Rad Tech Club Lends a Helping Hand

by Erica Shafer



Members of the UAA Radiologic Technologist Club lent a charitable hand this holiday season to bring joy to underprivileged children in the Anchorage area. They participated in the Anchorage Home Builders Association's (AHBA) Shoebox Program, which was created by the association in 2002 as a way to bring holiday cheer to less fortunate children. Every winter the AHBA works with nurses and family school service coordinators from local elementary schools to compile a list of students identified as "in-need." These children are typically homeless and/or living in shelters, and would not ordinarily receive Christmas gifts and basic necessity items that every child should have. The program initially started with 40 children, but it grows and evolves every year – the Shoebox Program graduated from shoeboxes to backpacks, and has grown to 668 children sponsored this year.

AHBA members are the predominant sponsors; however, word has traveled in the past few years and members of the community now participate as well. Sponsoring a child involves a monetary donation of \$50 or taking a pre-purchased backpack and filling it with about \$50-worth in gifts. For those children who were sponsored monetarily, members of the association gather at a local retailer to shop for gifts to fill their backpacks. A "stuffing" party follows, at which volunteers fill packs with the recently purchased gifts and pre-purchased basic necessity items (a winter hat, gloves, toothbrush, toothpaste, and soap). School nurses pick up the filled backpacks the following day and discretely distribute them to the children prior to their holiday break.

The Rad Tech Club members had a blast on their all-expense-paid shopping spree! They were grateful to help with the AHBA Shoebox Program and hope that their efforts make this Christmas a memorable one for many Anchorage children. Happy Holidays to all!!

The Anchorage Home Builders Association is a non-profit trade association whose mission is to provide safe and affordable housing. More information can be found at www.ahba.net or by calling the office at (907) 522-3605.

Students Corner

The Radiologic Technologist Club at the University of Alaska Anchorage was excited to help celebrate the annual reorganization of the vital work from local Radiologic Technologists. As a group, we baked yummy pumpkin chocolate chip loaves to extend our appreciation to the clinical sites we are attending. We added festive artwork on the tags and provided cream cheese frosting which filled all the recipients with joy. As

students, we wanted to extend our appreciation to the radiologic technologists that have helped inspire and encourage us during our clinical rotations. Each radiologic technologist that we have encountered has taught us something unique and impacted our educational journey in a positive manner. We hoped to brighten their week and recognize them for all the hard work they put forth. We



L to R: June Berrett (President), Hannah Lee (Treasurer), Ashely Mueller (Vice President), Erica Shafer (Member)

are grateful for the extra time they set aside for teaching moments and the patience they have while we adapted to our new career environment. We feel privileged to be a part of such a wonderful community that supports the exponential growth and education of new students entering in their field of expertise.

For UAA's Radiologic Technology Program, there are at least a few get togethers that are held where the first and second-year students get a chance to mingle. At the beginning of the year, there was a "meet and greet" where all students introduced themselves, and the senior class passed down their words of

wisdom for the new incoming class. The first-

year students also received goody bags filled with clinical survival kit necessities, such as hand sanitizer, cough drops, and pens.

Right before Thanksgiving break, the two classes came together once again for a potluck. Students brought many quintessential Thanksgiving dishes, but also provided some not-so-traditional sides, like spicy corn with cream cheese, and stuffing with caribou meat. And of course, there was a plethora of desserts at the potluck as well. These gatherings aren't just class parties, it's an opportunity for both classes to make connections and bond. Not only do the first-year students receive insight for what future semesters and clinical rotations might hold, but the second-year students also get a chance to reflect back on how far they have come in the program.



L to R Back: Marlene Acord, Erica Shafer, June Berrett, Carolyn Percy ~ Front: Crystal Collard, Hannah Lee, Whitney Martinez, Kristen Bell, Madison Swiderski