

SPRING 2023

BLUEGRASS BREATHER

The Official Newsletter for the Kentucky Society of
Respiratory Care



Kentucky Society for
Respiratory Care

THE KSRC PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

BY LISA HOULE, RRT, KSRC PRESIDENT

First, I would like to thank the 2020-2021, KSRC board of directors and committee chairs for the hard work over the past two years. To those who have served multiple years in a variety of positions – a special thank you for the time you have volunteered to represent our profession and a special welcome to those who were new to the BOD in the 2021-2022 leadership. I hope you have found working with professionals across the commonwealth as rewarding as I have. Those who have come before this biennial board have set the groundwork for continued growth and development of the KSRC and the respiratory profession.

Next, congratulations and thank you to those who have been elected and/or accepted appointments to the 2023-2024 BOD. Together we can continue the work of those before us and highlight the importance of respiratory therapy to the health of individuals across Kentucky to government and community members. Additionally, working together we can also show respiratory therapists the importance and rewards of being involved in the KSRC/AARC, leading to membership growth and increased participation.

Additionally, I would like to congratulate Crystal Buck, Anna Jones and Jennifer Baker on a successful first KSRC district event of 2023. There were approximately 20 individuals who attended Linking RTs and Evidence this afternoon. An additional thank you to Lake Cumberland Hospital Respiratory and Executive leadership for hosting both the conference and the in-person portion of the KSRC BOD meeting. It is partners like Lake Cumberland Hospital that will continue to help the KSRC grow and allow us to offer opportunities to the respiratory therapists in Kentucky.

Lastly, what has been done so far this year:

1. I have signed both the co-marketing and revenue share agreements with the AARC. These come with certain stipulations including use of the KSRC Connect page for discussions and KSRC social media and website to promote Summer Forum/Congress. The additional requirement is that proof is provided for these activities. I am working with the appropriate committees to ensure we meet these standards so that we can receive our revenue share and co-marketing payments from the AARC.

This issue:

President's Report:

PAGE 01

KSRC Events

PAGE 02

KSRC 2022 Award Winners

PAGE 03

KSRC BOD Spotlight

PAGE 04

Kentucky RT Leader
Spotlight

PAGE 05

Cumberland Valley
T-shirt Sales

PAGE 06

Student Highlight
and General Info

PAGE 07

KSRC v. KBRC

PAGE 08

2. I met with the co-chairs for the program committee to establish the program budget which directly impacts the 2023 KSRC budget. Additionally, I developed and presented the KSRC budget to the Budget and Audit committee. This will be presented to the KSRC BOD for consideration of approval during new business.

3. I have reviewed past goals and developed 2023 committee goals, as well as identified chair/co-chairs for both standing and special committees. These committees are well on their way to meet and exceed established goals.

4. I have facilitated introductory meetings with newly elected BOD and those leaving the position for those who have not participated in the past. Additionally, Delilah Turner and I have met and corresponded frequently as the president and president-elect to ensure agreement of direction and future continuity. I am interested in knowing if current BOD members have the Robert's Rules information from my previous presidency and who needs the guide to help ensure we are all working with the same version and processes for an effective meeting. Additionally, I would like to determine if there is an interest in having a formal BOD orientation. I would suggest that the BOD members minimally review the bylaws (found on our website) to become familiar with them. This will also ensure we are following the expectations of our constituents who approved the bylaws.

5. The American Lung Association had a state advocacy day on February 16, 2023. I reached out to Shannon Baker with the ALA who provided this feedback: "I think it was our most successful advocacy day in my time with Lung, at least. Record registration plus those who joined us from ACS, great speakers, filled a hearing room where biomarker testing coverage bill was heard in committee and two of our participants testified in support (passed on a unanimous vote). Also, cleared the House yesterday on a unanimous vote." Thank you to those who attended on behalf of respiratory therapy and the KSRC.

I am excited for the upcoming year and hope to meet many of you as I travel to different KSRC events. You will be seeing information about upcoming events on our website, facebook and through AARConnect, Kentucky Community. If you are interested in becoming involved with the KSRC, please reach out. There are opportunities within your district and on several committees to share your passion about respiratory care.

If you would like to contact the KSRC President, please feel free to call at 330-209-5796 or email at lisa.houle@bhsi.com.



Lisa Houle, _____

Mark Your Calendars

- March 9: President Lisa Houle attended a Career Fair at the Arvin Center for Oldham County High School students to raise awareness about the RT profession and recruit future RT's.
- March 26: American Lung Association Fight for Air Climb at Lynn Family Stadium in Louisville, KY Register at https://action.lung.org/site/TR?fr_id=23553&pg=entry
- April 14: KSRC Mountain District presents Breathe Easy in the Mountains (10am-2:30 pm, 4 CEUs)
- April 25: (10 am – 12 pm EST) KSRC Virtual College Fair
- May 13: Lexington/Winchester Cystic Fibrosis Great Stride Walk
- May 21: Louisville Cystic Fibrosis Great Stride Walk. Register at: <https://www.cff.org/chapters/kentuckywest-virginia-chapter#events>
- June 3: Lexington/Winchester American Lung Association Lung Force Walk at Seneca Park in Louisville, KY. Register at Run/Walk Events | American Lung Association
- July 15-17: AARC Summer Forum in Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- September 28-29: KSRC Making the Connection Annual Conference at Owensboro Convention Center
- October 20: Explorer Conference (in-person/virtual) at St. Elizabeth Hospital
- November 5-8: AARC Congress in Nashville, TN

KSRC 2022 Award Winners

The KSRC Recognition Award recognizes the accomplishments and dedication of Respiratory Therapists in Kentucky. Directors, Managers, Educators, and co-workers are encouraged to nominate ANY deserving Respiratory Therapist.

Each annual award winner will be presented with an award, certificate, and AARC membership renewal plus free entry into next year's KSRC state conference and recognition at the conference.

More information to come in future newsletters about nominating an RT for the 2023 KSRC Awards and will be communicated through the website, Facebook, and AARC Connect for our Kentucky page.

THE 2022 KSRC RECOGNITION AWARD WINNER:
RICK BRYMER, UOFL HEALTH



Reason: Rick is a hard-working CRT who is a leader in the department and sets a standard for patient care. Rick is asked nightly to take our highest acuity patients and/or do charge duties as well. He is willing to help me with administrative tasks such as helping employees switch over to the new medication cabinet, training new employees, and helping to provide a positive workplace environment. Rick will stop and help his coworkers when they run into problems. He is counted on by his coworkers and leadership alike.

THE 2022 KSRC C.A.R.E. AWARD WINNER:
CHRIS JENKINS, OWENSBORO HEALTH



Reason: Never has Chris stood out more than in the past 2 years. I have watched him pull swing shifts on the floor as an R.T. performing patient care while simultaneously managing his department and accomplishing bringing forefront and up to date data and knowledge to nursing respiratory and physicians alike regarding covid best practice treatments. Chris exemplifies the word dedication, not only to his team but more importantly to his patients. Chris is a big patient advocate and never hesitates to intercede and educate both patients and other team members regarding best practice. Chris has given up his free time and family time to ensure patients have adequate care during staffing shortages. Please consider Chris for this award. I, this facility, and our community are so blessed to have him!

KSRC BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Have you ever wondered what being a part of the KSRC Board of Directors is all about? Join us as past and present board members highlight their roles and successes with the KSRC.

District Representatives

A GREAT WAY TO START YOUR INVOLVEMENT

"My name is Zach Simpson and I have served on the KSRC Board for several years now, alternating between the Senior and Junior Representative roles for the Bluegrass District. This is my first year serving as an Officer; Treasurer (2023). Serving as a District Representative is a great place to get started/involved; in these roles you have a great opportunity to learn about the ins & outs of the KSRC. The responsibilities/commitments are quite minimal; when you are the Senior Representative, your primary responsibilities are to hold two District Meetings each year, attend all quarterly District Affairs Meetings, as well as, all Board Meetings. When you attend Board meetings, you are the only one who has voting privileges (that is unless you are unable to be present, then the Junior Representative is eligible to vote in your stead). District Meetings can be fun (community/social involvement) and/or practical (conferences offering CEU's). The time commitment is ~4-6 hours every 3-4 months." - Zach Simpson, CREDENTIALS



Q & A with Rebecca A. Higdon, MS, RRT, RRT-NPS:

What was your role? District Rep

What were your responsibilities? Rally the district and hold at least one meeting per quarter.

Why did you choose that role? I wanted to be involved with the KSRC and this seemed like the perfect introductory role. I was encouraged by peers to take on the position.

What highlights/accomplishments would you like to share for your time on the board? I was able to hold more than one meeting – I did a CEU event at the college where I worked (JCTC at that time) and I also held a meeting at a local hospital. My meetings were free CEU events.



Treasurer

A VITAL ROLE TO THE BOARD

It is a joy & honor to participate on the BOD of the KSRC. I enjoy participating in this leadership role with our state society & being a part of the ongoing efforts to move our profession forward here in Kentucky. I've had the pleasure of serving as the treasurer for the past two years & in this capacity, it's my role to support all financial functions of the BOD. This includes financial oversight of our business & investment accounts, strategic planning & budgeting for the society each year, and more! My responsibilities also include reimbursement for society members travel (such as the house of delegates meetings, leadership bootcamp, etc.), and making payments on the society's behalf for things including but not limited to conference fees, meeting needs, and KSRC swag. I was asked to participate in this capacity to help fill a vacant role. The KSRC BOD is made up of a stellar group of individuals, however, we as a BOD do rotate among the roles. I encourage anyone reading this & interested in participating at the leadership level to reach out to one of us so we can get you involved — we need YOU! - Lee Wisdom (Outgoing Treasurer, Junior Delegate, KSRC BOD)

Q & A with Stephanie Brothers, MAE, RRT (Past Treasurer, Current Senior Delegate)

What was your role? Treasurer

What were your responsibilities? As Treasurer, I was to always maintain accurate financial records and compile quarterly reports for our business and investment accounts for each Board of Directors meeting. Also, I provided reimbursements for members to travel to events such as House of Delegates meetings or Leadership Bootcamp. I was involved with budget planning annually for the society.

Why did you choose that role? I chose this role due to the desire to stay involved. I was encouraged by fellow co-workers to pursue this role and the outgoing Treasurer helped to ease me into the position.

What highlights/accomplishments would you like to share for your time on the board? While on the Board as Treasurer, I fulfilled the duty of having our society bonded for financial stability. I set up the Amazon Smile and Kroger Community Reward programs to provide fundraising opportunities for the society. The time commitment was approximately 2 – 3 hours per month and a couple of hours quarterly for each Board meeting.



KSRC LEADER SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating the dedication and successes of Jim Matchuny, who recently retired from the profession.

- Jim started at the ECTC in the fall of 1987 (he is currently in his 36th Year)



- During his time at the college, he continued to acquire knowledge, skills, and experience to improve himself and the program, which was ultimately passed on to his students. This was over and above what was necessary for professional CEUs and the college professional development requirements. Among the knowledge and experience learned includes:
 1. Working in the UK NICU on weekends to allow the program to have a faculty member provide clinical instruction. This assured that he knew all of the respiratory aspects of the NICU and more importantly the nurses and physicians in the NICU. Later, he went on to obtain the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) Neonatal/Pediatric Specialty (NPS) credential. Obtaining both the NICU experience and the NPS credential helped me prepare students to enter the workforce.
 2. Because he taught the pulmonary function testing content for the program, he went on to obtain the NBRC Certified Pulmonary Function Technician (CPFT) and the Registered Pulmonary Function Technologist (RPFT) credentials.
 3. As the role for respiratory therapists grew in the area of advanced life support, he completed the requirements to become an instructor in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Life Support (PALS). Becoming an instructor in advanced life support for both adults and pediatrics allows provision of the didactic and lab instruction for the students to obtain the ACLS Provider and PALS Provider credentials, making them better prepared to enter the workforce.
- After the Respiratory Care Program Advisory Committee recommended the program develop a Polysomnographic (PSG) Technologist, he went way out of his comfort zone to gain the knowledge and experience required to obtain the Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT) credential. Once this credential was gained, he worked closely with the Kentucky Sleep Society to develop the curriculum for the BCTC PSG Certificate program. Following the development of the certificate came the even more difficult tasks of getting the curriculum approved in the KCTCS and finally external accreditation.

- During his time as a faculty member in the respiratory care program he has stepped up to “fill-in” when and where there was a need as evidenced by:
 1. Being the primary instructor in EVERY course in the curriculum.
 2. Teaching clinical in EVERY hospital in Lexington
 3. Assuming ALL of the positions in the program including the Director of Clinical Education and the Program Coordinator positions.
- As a faculty member, he took on leadership positions including:
 1. CPR Course Coordinator
 2. Secretary of the Faculty
 3. Member of the transition team when Lexington Community College remained with the University of Kentucky and the other community colleges became KCTCS.
 4. Faculty Assembly representative during the difficult time when Dr. Friedel was President.
- While he was the Respiratory Care Program Coordinator, the program had times when it was way ahead of its time. For example, recognizing the duplication of the Lexington Community College (LCC) and Central Kentucky Technical College (CKTC) Respiratory Care programs efforts were made by both programs to combine into one program; working with Rebecca Simms, who was the Program Coordinator at CKTC at the time, the advisory committees, and the administrations we effectively combined our programs BEFORE the colleges combined to become Bluegrass Community and Technical College.
- More importantly, he played a major role in so very many students’ professional education and success. He has always found it incredibly rewarding to see students transition from knowing nothing about respiratory care and see their knowledge, skills, and confidence increase as they progress through the program. All of this culminating in graduating competent respiratory care practitioners, with whom he is proud to work with as a peer and feels confident in the care they provide to their patients.
- I consider Jim to be among the hardest working, professional, always available, and helpful persons I have ever had the pleasure of working with!

Contributed by Jim Matchuny

Written and Submitted by Zachary Simpson

— HAPPY —
Retirement

Cumberland Valley KSRC T-Shirts

The Cumberland Valley district is selling t-shirts! If you are interested in pre-ordering and showing your support for the KSRC, here's how:

The price for the shirts will be:

- \$20.00 for Small- X-Large
- \$22.00 for 2XL
- \$24.00 for 3 XL

Please pay through Venmo (barcode to the right) and add in the comments the size and quantity. Email crystal.buck1976@gmail.com your name and shipping address.

Please contact Crystal with questions.



Crystal Buck
@Crystal-Buck-2



venmo

Kentucky RT Student Spotlight

AUSTIN DECKER

My name is Austin Decker, and I am a 4th semester Respiratory student at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College! I always knew Respiratory therapy was the field that I wanted to pursue, as growing up with asthma related issues lead me into the direction of Respiratory. However, before getting accepted into the program I was working in a factory and did not know if I would ever get the opportunity to pursue my dream of becoming a Respiratory Therapist until the day that I got my acceptance letter, which has most definitely changed my life! The experience, long days, and energy that was needed to succeed has molded me into a better overall person. I am currently working as a student extern at Baptist Health Hardin and feel that it has helped my bedside skills grow tremendously and continuing to grow my bedside skills helping others as an RRT after graduation is my number one priority. After getting more and more experience, A goal of mine is to become an advanced therapist by obtaining my ACCS as well as getting a bachelor's degree in respiratory. My class will be the first ever to graduate in an 18-month period at ECTC and I will be forever grateful for the memories and friends made along the way!

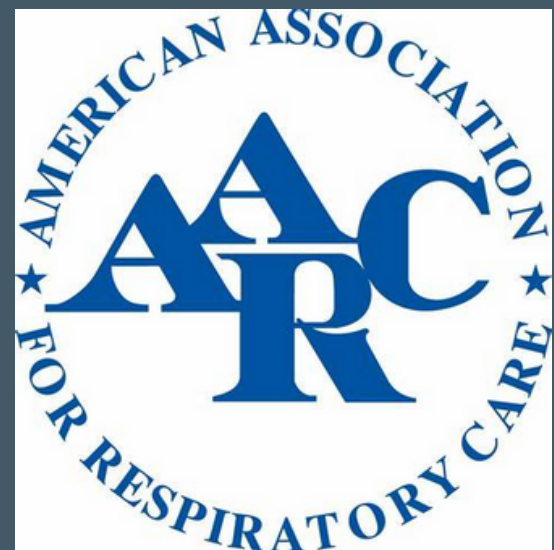
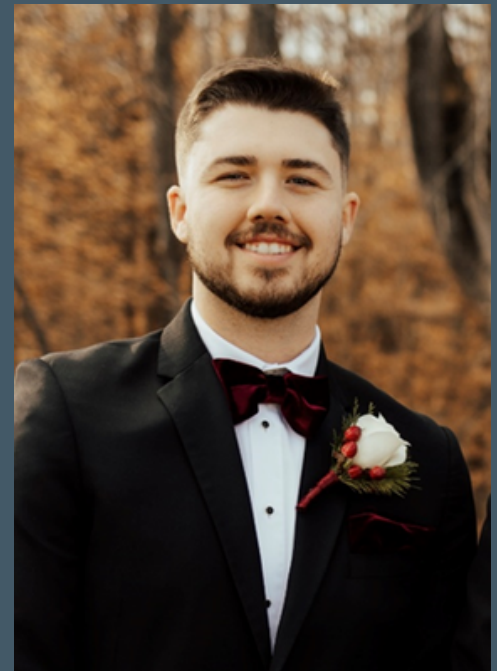
General Information

<https://www.kentuckysocietyforrespiratorycare.org/>

<https://www.aarc.org/>

<https://kbrc.ky.gov/Pages/index.aspx>

Kroger Community Rewards - - - WHO KNEW? SHOPPING CAN HELP THE KSRC! There are some great ways to support KSRC, and you can do so by simply shopping! We have collaborated with Kroger so that a portion of your purchases go to support your KSRC! To support the KSRC with Kroger, download the Kroger App on phone. Go to Settings. Scroll down to Community Rewards. Enter KSRC's number 74211.



Do You Know the Difference Between the KSRC and KBRC?

Advocates for the Respiratory Care profession in KY.

Promotes and provides continued education for no cost or at a low cost

Volunteer opportunities

Able to influence impactful change in Kentucky

Membership is optional and automatically a KSRC member when you become an AARC member



Kentucky Society for Respiratory Care

Learn more about your KSRC!



Learn more about your KBRC!

Manages your state license to practice in KY.

KBRC requires 24 CEUs every two years and who you turn your CEUs into.

Was established 30 years ago in 1990 and protects the public from unsafe practitioners

Is a state government agency that is completely funded through fees rather than tax appropriation

No membership, but must remain compliant in order to practice.

www.KentuckySocietyForRespiratoryCare.org

2023 Publications Committee

Stephanie Brothers
Sarah Pehlke
Rikki Cornett
Lisa Houle
Angela Love
Delilah Turner
Lee Wisdom

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE SHARED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BLUEGRASS BREATHER?

PLEASE EMAIL STEPHANIE BROTHERS AT STEPHANIE.BROTHERS@KCTCS.EDU