

A Note from TSRC President Mary Hart

Dear Texas RCPs

It's that time of year again that we begin to focus on Giving Thanks, . . .and Celebrating Christmas – a time for love and peace and happiness to be shared with family and friends. It is that time of year that those working in hospitals spend holiday time with their work friends (giving up their family time) taking care of those who are so ill they must remain in the hospital and may even be holding on to life by a thread. . . .of hope and faith and depending on the team of health providers to help them. It is a special time of year for some and a sad time for others. Let us all be Thankful and Grateful for the gifts we've been given to provide care for people through our medical knowledge, skills, and the compassion we feel for them and their families.

I want to take this time to thank you all for the work you do in caring for those living in Texas with lung disease. As others have said "When you can't breathe, nothing else matters". The work that we do affects so many more people than we can even imagine. Every act of kindness and just doing what we do as Respiratory Therapists is so important. I am Proud to be a Respiratory Therapist and I am very proud of to represent you all as the TSRC President!

I have a few things I want to share with you:

- The TSRC BOD voted this year to combine our membership with the AARC membership. That means that when you sign up for membership with the AARC you will automatically become a member of the TSRC. There is no additional cost for the dual membership. You get both for the price of the AARC membership. We will no longer offer just the TSRC membership. This takes effect January 1, 2019.
- The Texas Medical Board now requires 2 hours of Ethics be included in your Continuing Education Respiratory Care Practitioner hours. You will find these hours offered at all the TSRC sponsored programs and our State Convention this coming year in Waco, Texas.
- The Texas Medical Board has changed the criteria for license renewal for those Respiratory Therapists who have been out of practice for 5 years or more. Please refer to the Texas Medical Board for more details. One item that was a problem for many RCPs trying to get back into practice was "shadowing" in the hospital. The hospitals across Texas have changed their rules for shadowing over the years due to new regulations and patient privacy. The TMB has removed "shadowing" from the criteria according to the Sept. 27th meeting minutes. This change is partly due the work by a TSRC ad hoc committee who presented their study of Texas Hospital practice to the TMB/RCB and from those of you who contacted the TMB directly and were formally placed on their meeting agenda to discuss the issues with shadowing. Please remember the TSRC has no authority over the TMB. If licensure issues arise, please take them up with the TMB. Learn more about the TMB and RCB.
- The TSRC BOD is working on the strategic plan for the coming year and will meet in January 2019 for a 2-day BOD meeting to discuss the plan and how we move the TSRC forward in the coming years. Texas is a big state and we have lots of people with chronic lung disease living here. Many RCPs practice in remote areas, others in large cities. How do we meet the needs of such a diverse state? Logistically? Our goal has been to provide education and up to date practice to our RCPs. I would love to hear feedback from members as to what they might like to see in the future for the TSRC. You can email me at: mary.hart@tsrc.org.

The TSRC BOD wishes Ya'll a Very Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!



Back row: Tommy Rust- Parliamentarian, Dr. Mark Millard-Medical Advisor, Chris Russian-Delegate, Kristina Ramirez-South Region Director, Jennifer Anderson-Sr. Delegate, Steve Acton-North Region Director, Mabry McKinney- Central Region Director
Front row: Vangie De Luna- West Region Director, Richard Hernandez-Vice President, Mary Hart-President, Tammy Kurszewski-Secretary

Missing from photo: Russell Graham-Past President, Dan Perrine-Treasurer, Julia Downs-Industry Representative, John Raimondo-Industry Representative