

JULY 2020

NSRT FOCAL SPOT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NEBRASKA SOCIETY OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS



-ATTENTION-

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the NSRT has made the decision to cancel the 2020 Annual Conference.

The Board of Directors is currently working on having virtual education session webinars this fall.

Updates for these sessions will be posted on the NSRT website and Facebook page, as soon as they become available. Registration mailings will be sent out after all details are finalized.

Letter from the President

Nolan Vasa BSRT(R)(CT)(MR) – NSRT President

Hello to all fellow members, students, and friends of the Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists. I truly hope this letter finds you in good health and peace of mind in this turbulent year. My name is Nolan Vasa and I represent you in the NSRT as President of the society. I want to briefly touch on subjects the NSRT has encountered this year as well as how you can expect the NSRT to continue its service to its members throughout the remainder.

Earlier this year the NSRT hosted its Education Saturday on February 22nd. The presentations and speakers were hosted mainly at one site; however, technologists were able to live stream into the event from a presentation center nearest them. General feedback and comments were on the positive side, and we obtained a plethora of ideas for future presentations! These Education Saturday events would not be possible without its members, and we would encourage you to invite your fellow technologists to attend, along with you, an upcoming educational session. Lists of attendance sites, speakers, and topics are listed on our website: www.NSRT.net.

More recently on April 20th, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists and their Board of Directors met to discuss the feasibility of the 2020 ASRT Educational Symposium and Annual House of Delegates Meeting. After exhausting all other options for the meeting, Melissa Jackowski, ASRT Chairman of the Board, announced the cancellation due to the increased stay-at-home orders from the Governor of New Mexico. The ASRT hosted a virtual special meeting of the House of Delegates on **Saturday, June 27th 2020**. Nebraska was represented by Nebraska Affiliate Delegates, Stephanie Cannon and myself. A live stream of the meeting was available for any member or nonmember who wished to observe the proceedings.

The NSRT Board of Directors held an emergency meeting on March 13th, 2020 to discuss the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our society including safety of membership, travel restrictions, board of directors' positions, and various other topics. This meeting followed multiple articles being written from other societies struggling with the same issues. Due to the increased risk to membership and the travel ban put on by multiple educational facilities, the NSRT 2020 Conference and Student Symposium was voted to be postponed until October 2020. Ultimately it was the safety of our membership that deterred us from commencing as scheduled.

The NSRT Board of Directors elected to host the conference as an educational event only because students in attendance would be graduated by then. It would also be a time where the society could host the business session as required by NSRT bylaws. The business session would commence as usual, except the insertion of election of new officers. It was consensus of the those in attendance that all the executive officers would continue in their current roles until April 2021. The thought process behind this was given that if we elected new officers during our, now October, business session they would only serve their position for a portion of a year. This would not give them appropriate time to adjust and perform as an active role in their positions.

Lastly, The NSRT has also been saddened by the news that our Executive Secretary, Peg Young, and Executive Treasurer, Deb Pierce-Cramer, as well as our publications editor, Don Young have inevitably rewarded themselves with retiring from their current positions within the society. The NSRT will not be the same without these individuals, and they deserve more than we can show them as payment for their service. Their combined and individual efforts have been a driving force to our voices as technologists from this society's inception. The NSRT has created a reformation committee headed under Angela Ciza, NSRT Chairman of the Board. The intent of this committee is to explore ideas, systems or models, and other societies for ways to recreate these positions within our society to continue to serve its members appropriately.

The NSRT will continue to strive for exemplary professional standards, keep our active members informed and involved, and make efforts to increase membership. The NSRT Board of Directors have open eyes and ears for advocacy tips, insights, and opinions. We also welcome ideas to strengthen technologists throughout the state. Please always feel free to contact us for questions, suggestions, or thoughts.

Spotlight

Congratulations to Christina Gregg CNMT, RT(R)(N)(CT). She will be presenting the 2021 Sister Francis Salesia Memorial Lecturer at the 2021 Annual Conference. Christina has made countless contributions to the NSRT and our profession during her career. Thank you Christina!

Deacon Dan Gilbert, NSRT Life-Member and longtime program director of the Regional West Medical Center School of Radiologic Technologist celebrated his Ordination to Priesthood on June 5, 2020 in Grand Island Nebraska. Dan left a storied career in medical imaging and education to pursue his calling to serve the Catholic Diocese and we wish him all the best in his future. Congratulations Dan!

Congratulations to Karen Prouty R.T.(R)(BD) for being elected to serve as an ASRT Bone Densitometry Delegate. Karen has been very active in the ASRT Bone Densitometry Chapter since 2015. Thank you Karen for all of your efforts to advance our profession!

Tanya Custer M.S.,R.T.(R)(T) was elected to serve as an Alternate Delegate for the ASRT Education Chapter. Tanya has been actively involved in the NSRT and education for a number of years. Thank you Tanya for your continued efforts in bolstering our profession!

Changes...

Brandon Holt BSRT(R)(CT) – Legislative Chair

We are going through a lot of change; now and in the months leading up to this publication. Change is one of the only constants in our lives. Some like it – others despise it like a bitter ex-spouse.

I for one am certifiably bi-polar when it comes to change. I welcome some change with open arms, I welcome its warm embrace the way my feet long for my ratty old slippers on a cold January morning. Other change is met with ample resistance and resentment – the same begrudging response my wife receives at her advances to get me to drink light beer. Don't believe me? Ask Mrs. Holt what happened at The Fort Western Store in Lincoln when I discovered the style jeans I had worn, religiously, for not less than 10 years had been discontinued. The situation got "real" for that salesperson in a hurry. A temper-tantrum, only to be matched by that of an undisciplined toddler, was thrown in the store that day.

Either way, we're stuck with it. Change that is.

The NSRT is not immune to change. Granted, we do not see persisting change at the organizational level but that is about to change with the, much deserved, retirement of Peg Young, Deb Pierce-Cramer, and Don Young. These individuals, in their own ways, have been key individuals in the growth and progress of our Society over the years. As other Societies struggle to exist, ours has been able to sustain our membership and continue to have a successful Annual Conference year after year.

With the impending departure of this "trifecta" or trio from the day-to-day operations of our Society, we are left to tackle and grapple countless changes. The NSRT Board of Directors had the foresight to assemble a committee to map out the immediate future of the NSRT without the crutches that kept us upright for so many years.

This committee is tasked with countless decisions – one such example is whether it is better to restructure the organizational design of the Society or leave the structure as is? It is important for the Society constituents to know that decisions like these weigh heavily on the minds of Board of Directors and committee members. Making the right decisions now will be crucial to the survival of the Society – the same Society that has been the nucleus of medical imaging advocacy in Nebraska for decades.

I challenge you to consider that for a moment – the advocacy efforts. These efforts that have been led by the NSRT to protect your role as a healthcare professional. The efforts that have halted encroachment that surely would've led to the downfall of our careers. The NSRT has, and will continue to be, the voice of medical imaging professionals in Nebraska. In this time of change, growth & leadership will be essential as we navigate new waters.

Growth: I would challenge us all to adopt the Mary Kay model (or Avon – whichever you prefer – it really doesn't matter since they're both Pyramid Schemes!). I challenge every member to find a non-member to join our ranks in the NSRT. With any luck, that member will recruit someone else and so forth. Consider the impact that could make – if each member recruited just ONE non-member to join the NSRT, we could boost the membership to nearly 800 members.

Leadership: Have you thought to yourself "I need to be more involved in my profession"? Perhaps you have thought; "I really need to spruce up my resume' so that I can quit working for this bum and get a better job"? Well, have I got good news for you – the NSRT continues to look for new individuals to join the Board of Directors as well as committee members & volunteers to help with the continuing efforts of our Society. If this sounds like you, please contact a Board member to express your interest – in whatever capacity you feel comfortable!

The NSRT is going to see some considerable changes in the next 12-18 months and beyond. It will be important for the Society as a whole to embrace these changes – as challenging as they may be – to ensure the continued success of our organization. Moreover, I vow, before all of you, to handle this change better than the *Denim Demise* situation in the Fort Western Store.

Congratulations Graduates!

Congratulations to all of the graduates from our medical imaging and therapeutics programs across the state.

CHI Alegent Health

Christy Carlson, Raymond Jones, Trisha Leise, Justin Leu, Leah Meyer, Candice Smith, and Diana Valadez

Clarkson College

Christina Borzobohaty, Katy Bielmaier, Monica Bielmaier, Jessica Breeden, Bailey Bruce, Canaan Dreiling, Jessie Houston, Lisa Huynh, Lily Korytowski, Megan Milne, Emma Myers, Evelyn Ochoa, Emma Ross, Katherine Schneider, Cheri Snell, Gina Varley, Brittany Voss, Allie Wilins, Charrose Wirth, and Sydnee Young

Mary Lanning Memorial Healthcare

Erin Bown, Alexis Gomez, Allyson Hart, Sadie Miller, Noah Roth, and Felicia Schuster

Methodist College

Veronica Bertelsen, Mckenzie Bolding, Kelsey Bruns, Kristel Eyrich, Kate Fitzpatrick, Kaycie Havenridge, Emily John, Rachel Kelly, Hayley Kerger, Cali Langenfeld, James McMillan, Courtney Myers, Molly Pettit, Delaney Plott, Madison Rasmussen, Melissa Reige, Anna Rigatuso, Sara Sappingfield, Bailee Sobczyk, Justin Stephens, and Haley Stueve

Regional West Medical Center

Danielle Johnson, Brian Lawrence, Abigayle Martin, Myranda Musfelt, and Anna Yanke

Southeast Community College

Jennifer Adams, Hakima Antar, Bethany Atkins, Drake Becker, Andrew Cummings, Victoria Escamilla, Claudia Hearl, Sydney Holcomb, Kailoni Hooyer, Kelsey Johnston, Tyson Jones, Zeina Kasem, Victoria Kinney, Shane Marquis, Tiberius McCollough, Patrick Moeller, Whitney Nolan, Dahlia Vodicka, Zoe Wieneke, Haley Winberg, and Kiersten Woodard

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Cardiovascular Interventional Technology

Radiel Cardentey-Uranga

MRI

Robert Cantril, Jacalyn Johnson, Patrick ODonnell, Ryan Teten, Danielle Thelen, and Ryce Troyer

Radiation Therapy

Paige Bishop, McKenna Butler, Alexis Farris, Kathleen Johannesmeyer, Cory Keith, Rachel Sloup, Logan Teten, and Cacey Vavra

Radiography

Katelyn Backhaus, Courtney Brockhaus, Georgianna Diley, Hope Dillman, Kayla Earl, Ileana Gonzalez, Jorge Hernandez, Alisa Hrbek, Hannah Jasa, Gabriella Marco, Michaela McClellan, Monica Meier, Skyler Monico, Emily Painter, Kathryn Scanlan, Hayley Schanou, Erika Smith, Taylor Sutton, and Cierra Wynn

Sonography

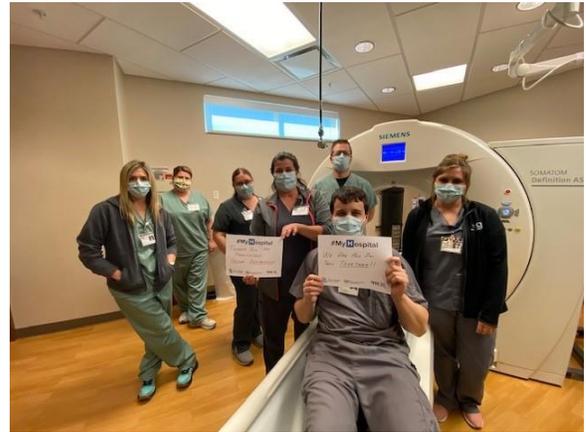
Amber Foote (General), Kiley Gosker (General), Amanda Money (General), Laura Olson (General), Victoria Seaman (Cardiac), Erin Shannon (General), Bailey Sokolowski (General), Jessica Venner (General), Katherine White (General), and Brooke Zentz (Cardiac)

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the medical imaging professionals that continue to care for patients in need during the pandemic. You are truly hero's in every sense of the word!



West Holt Medical Services – Atkinson



Beatrice Community Hospital – Beatrice



York General Hospital – York



Bryan Health MRI – Lincoln



Lexington Regional Health Center - Lexington