

NSRT News

2008 NSRT Bylaw Change Proposals

Approval of these changes will be voted on at the Final Business Session at Annual Conference on Friday, April 25, 2008.

Only those Articles proposed for change are listed. ~~Strikethroughs~~ are to be removed from bylaws. **Highlights are to be added.**

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS	RATIONALE
SECTION 8: Censure, Reprimand and Removal Any officer may be censured, reprimanded or removed from the office for dereliction of duty or conduct detrimental to the NSRT. Such action may be initiated when the Board of Directors or the Executive Office receives formal and specific charges against an officer.	<i>Allows for direction in event that complaint is against President or Board Chairman.</i>
ARTICLE VII THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
SECTION 7: Meetings A. The Board of Directors shall meet a minimum of four (4) times during the fiscal year. Members of the Board of Directors will be required to attend seventy-five percent (75%) sixty percent (60%) of the Board meetings and business sessions held.	<i>To allow for absences due to work conflicts.</i>
ARTICLE VII THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
SECTION 9: Censure, Reprimand and Removal Any board member may be censured, reprimanded or removed from the office for dereliction of duty or conduct detrimental to the NSRT. Such action may be initiated when the Board of Directors or the Executive Office receives formal and specific charges against an officer.	<i>Allows for direction in event that complaint is against President or Board Chairman.</i>

PHIL BALLINGER DONATION

Phil Ballinger has generously donated a 3-volume set of *Merrill's Atlas of Radiographic Positions and Radiologic Procedures* and two copies of *Merrill's Pocket Guide to Radiography* for the 77th NSRT Annual Conference. A drawing will be held at 3:45 pm on Saturday, April 26, 2008, following Dr. Ballinger's final lecture.

NSRT NOMINATIONS STILL OPEN

The NSRT is still seeking individuals interested in holding a position on the Board of Directors. These positions will be selected by a vote of the membership at the Annual Conference Final Business Session on 4/25/2008. Anyone interested in running for an NSRT Board of Director position should contact Kendra Wehrer-Becker, Nominations Chairman for details. (nominations@nsrt.net)

ADVERTISE YOUR JOB OPENINGS ON THE NSRT WEBSITE

Does your facility have an opening for a Radiologic Technologist or Limited Radiographer or simply need fill-in help? Here is your chance to **advertise at low cost** to your facility. The Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists (NSRT) is launching a new benefit for our members. The NSRT will begin offering a Job Opportunity section on its website (www.nsrt.net).

As the recognized professional organization for the state of Nebraska, the NSRT is often contacted by new arrivals in the state, new graduates or technologists looking for a new or different job. The NSRT recently polled a group of students. The response was positive. They would definitely utilize such a service, if it were available.

Start advertising for those job openings today. Call or e-mail Peggy Young at the NSRT Executive Office today! (308-382-3381 / nsrt@charter.net)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Legislative Committee has been very active since the 2007 Annual Conference. Last summer, the NSRT legislative committee testified and monitored a technical committee reviewing LB 48 that exempts CRNAs (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists) from meeting the licensing requirements for performing fluoroscopic procedures during pain management procedures. The testimony and discussion in the technical committee tended to center on the administration of medications by CRNAs rather than the fluoroscopy issue.

The Senate Committee received the final reports from the technical committee, the State Board of Health, and Dr. Shafer, director of the Department of Health and Human Services in January. With the input from these sources, the Senate Committee amended this bill. The Committee voted to advance LB 48 to general file on February 26, 2008.

In November, the NSRT retained the services of Cutshall and Nowka as lobbyists. Our primary contact will be Trent Nowka. He has a law degree, graduating from the University of Nebraska Law College in 1984. He served as Director of Governmental Affairs for the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation and counsel to Governor Ben Nelson. He has expertise in governmental relations, lobbying, legislative drafting and legislative research. We look forward to Trent's wealth of knowledge and experience in addressing our legislative issues.

With the start of the legislative session, one bill LB 796 became the focus of the NSRT legislative committee. In part, this bill would provide a pathway for nuclear medicine technologists to do CT procedures in conjunction with performing PET scans. The verbiage of the original legislation led to significant confusion about the intent of the bill. Members of the NSRT legislative committee provided testimony to the Senate Public Hearing about the concerns of the legislation. A meeting between the Department of Health and Human Services, members of the nuclear medicine community, and representatives of the NSRT met in January to resolve the wording of the bill primarily to assure that adequate education and training will occur prior to the issuance of a license.

The Senate Committee amended the bill to reflect the nuclear medicine technologist licensed to perform CTs as a Limited Computed Tomography Radiographer. The education requirements for a nuclear medicine technologist to sit for the ARRT exam in CT are the same as a medical radiographer doing the CT exam. The State will provide a temporary license (for two years) for the nuclear medicine technologist to obtain the required competencies required by the ARRT. This temporary license is not renewable. The temporary Limited Computed Tomography Radiographer may do exams only under the direct supervision and physical presence of specified individuals.

There is an exemption clause for the nuclear medicine technologist when the unit is a combination nuclear medicine-computed tomography system and the x-ray exposure is for attenuation correction and anatomical localization only. This bill is also on general file as of February 27.

The following is a little civics lesson about the legislative process for bill advancement:

After a Senator introduces a bill, it is assigned to a specific standing committee, for example, health care issues are sent to the Committee on Health and Human Services. A Public Hearing is scheduled, where individuals testify before the Senate Committee in support or in opposition to the current edition of the bill. After testimony, the Committee either advances the bill as written (rarely occurs), amends the bill and advances it to General File (as occurred with LB 796). The Committee may hold the bill in committee indefinitely, where the bill dies. The Committee may also require further information through a technical committee (as occurred with LB 48).

General File means the first stage at which the entire Legislature considers a bill. The Legislature may amend, return to committee, indefinitely postpone, or advance the General File bills to Select File. It will take the support of at least 25 Senators to advance the bills to Select File. A bill in the General File does not assure that the Senate will address the bill prior to the end of the Legislative Session.

Select File is the second stage at which the bill is considered by the entire legislature. If the bill is advanced it goes to Final Reading, but the Senate may still amend, return to committee or indefinitely postpone the bill.

The Final Reading is the third and last stage at which the entire Legislature considers a bill. The clerk reads the entire bill aloud, unless final reading is waived, and senators vote without debate on whether to submit the bill to the governor. The end of this session is April 17, 2008.

Thanks to the members of the NSRT legislative committee for their work and diligence in addressing the issues of radiation protection for our patients in Nebraska.

MOVING?

Be sure to keep your address up-to-date. Just click on the "Change of Address" box located on the home page of the NSRT Web Site. (www.nsrtnet.net)

If you or your facility wish to discontinue receiving NSRT mailing or are not receiving the mailings, please contact the NSRT Executive Office (nsrt@charter.net or 308-382-3381)

See these and other articles on the NSRT Web Site (www.nsrtnet.net)