



# NSRT *Focal Spot*

Nebraska Society of Radiologic Technologists Newsletter July 2009

## Letter from the President

I would like to take this opportunity to talk to you all about why now is the best time to join or renew your membership to the NSRT. The NSRT has & will continue to provide continuing education opportunities for radiographers & limited scope operators through the Annual Conference, Education Saturdays & Learn in Lincoln. These educational sessions have allowed us to bring in speakers that address topics related to healthcare imaging & patient care.

In a state that closely regulates radiation, both healthcare & industrial, it is important to have "eyes & ears" on the legislative proceedings that could impact our profession. The NSRT enlists the aid of a Lobbyist to monitor these proceedings & inform us of any bills that could impact the radiology community. We also have a Legislative Committee that works closely with the Lobbyist to ensure that the needs of the NSRT are being met. Over the course of the past two years, the NSRT has made a great impact with the Legislature & Department of Health & Human Services.

The last reason I have for you to join the NSRT is networking. As we all know, the radiology community in Nebraska is fairly close knit. The NSRT & its functions provide great opportunities for the Radiographers of the state to get together, have a few laughs, & pick up a few new ideas or techniques along the way.

In closing I want to encourage everyone to join the NSRT. By joining, you show that the future of healthcare imaging in the State of Nebraska is important to you. I hope to see you all at the next Annual Conference to be held in Grand Island April 15th - 17th. Be sure to visit the NSRT website ([www.nsrt.net](http://www.nsrt.net)) for additional information regarding upcoming NSRT events.

Keep your beam perpendicular & your distortion low!

Brandon Holt RT(R)  
NSRT President

## Join the NSRT!

By Ashley Sandoz  
Membership Chairman

We recently held the 78<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Gering where we elected new officers for the 2009-2010 year. We are excited about the upcoming year, but need your help. We need you to join the NSRT.

I often get the questions, "Why should I join the NSRT?" or "What is in it for me?" or someone will say "But I don't need the continuing education credits." While the NSRT does provide several continuing education opportunities throughout the year, we are about so much more than that. The NSRT is your voice. It is your voice in the state legislature to protect your patients and your license. It is your voice in Washington D.C. Did you know we send two delegates to Washington D.C. each year during RT in DC? They join with RTs from across the country to lobby for the C.A.R.E. bill. The NSRT is also your voice in the ASRT. Each year we send delegates to the ASRT Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting Albuquerque, N.M. The NSRT has strong representation in the ASRT with two members on the Board of Directors.

The NSRT is also a great way of networking. Being from a small town, the NSRT has given me the opportunity to reach out across the state to see how different facilities handle different issues, to ask about different equipment when we are looking at changing and searching for new employees. I feel being able to network has made me a better technologist and has benefited my hospital.

The field of radiology is continually changing. It is our duty as radiologist technologists to stay abreast with these changes and make sure what is being done in our field is in the best interest and safety of our patients. The NSRT is working toward this goal. Please join with us in this effort.

Please join the NSRT.

## Changes Coming for ARRT

Registrants  
By Dan Gilbert

Have you heard about the upcoming changes for new American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) registrants? One of those is the Continued Qualification Requirements for all individuals who receive a certification with the ARRT after January 1, 2011. The Continued Qualification Requirements, also known as CQ/2011, will require technologists receiving an ARRT certification after January 2011 to demonstrate continued qualifications on a ten-year time interval. The goal is to demonstrate to the consumer the ongoing efforts of radiologic technologists to keep current on changes occurring in their professional field. According to the ARRT "Details are being finalized, but generally the model will include an assessment component tailored to your particular practice pattern, an activities component specific to your areas of need, and a verification component that assures that the areas of need have been addressed. The CQ/2011 model will recognize a variety of activities to document that areas of need have been addressed effectively, including CE."

This new requirement **does not affect current certifications**. Any certifications obtained before January 1, 2011 will not have a time-limited status. Therefore, if you are considering sitting for any ARRT examination in the near future, you may want to accomplish that exam before January of 2011.

Another ARRT requirement is expected in 2015 when all graduates of radiography, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy programs will need to have an associates or higher academic degree prior to sitting for the ARRT examination. The degree may be obtained prior to or after graduation from the radiation science program. There is no specification as to the type of study required in the earned degree. Final approval to this change is expected this summer.

## Liana Watson Joins the ASRT

Past NSRT President and long time NSRT Executive Treasurer, Liana Watson is now an employee of the ASRT office in Albuquerque. Liana was hired by the ASRT as the Department Director for Governance and Affiliate Relations. She began her new job in March of 2009. We wish Liana well in her new position and thank her for her many hours of service and expertise she has given to the NSRT.

### Category A+

Have you notice that some of your CE credits obtained from the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) are designated as Category A+? The "plus sign" at the end of Category A designation indicates that the content of the continuing education meets the requirements for continuing education for a radiologist extender, a Registered Radiologist Assistant (RRA). This Category A+ designation has no effect on the value of continuing education for the non-RRA technologist.

Registered Radiologists Assistants (RRA) must accumulate 50 hours of continuing education credit during their biennium to maintain the certification with the ARRT a portion of which must be Category A+. Category A+ credits have much higher educational requirements as compared to Category A credits.

As a reminder, the ARRT will only accept category A or A+ credit toward the twenty-four hours of continuing education credit needed by radiologic technologists every biennium. For the continuing education to be classified as Category A or A+, the educational program has prior approval by a Recognized Continuing Education Evaluation Mechanism (RCEEM or RCEEM+) such as the ASRT. The ARRT also will no longer accept basic CPR as continuing education credit toward the hours needed during a biennium. This change **does not** affect Limited Radiographers gathering continuing education for State of Nebraska license renewal.

## ODIA

The Online Digital Imaging Academy (ODIA) is an excellent reference for those who are feeling challenged by the technology of CR (computed radiography) or DR (digital radiography). This online program sponsored by the ASRT and ARRT offers a review of traditional imaging using film/screen systems as well as computer-generated images. There are 11 modules within the program that have a continuing education credit value of 15 hours. A module takes an hour to two hours to complete with a test at the end of each module that the individual must be complete to receive continuing education credit.

To gain access to the program, go to <https://www.asrt.org/odia/> and register to obtain a password. The program is free to radiologic technologists registered with the ARRT and students in radiation science programs. Non-radiologic technologists may gain access to the program with a \$225 payment.

### ASRT Note from Connie Mitchell

The 2009 Annual Governance and House of Delegates Meeting held in Albuquerque was once again a terrific networking experience and a very efficient and successful meeting. Fulfilling my final year as Chairman of the Board of Directors during this meeting, I must commend all of the affiliate and chapter delegates for reviewing the ASRT Bylaw and Commission report before arriving to help expedite the House of Delegates business.

Nebraska was well represented (as usual) with two BOD members (Connie Mitchell and Jim Temme), two Nebraska affiliate delegates (Mickey Cunningham and Rob Hughes), one education delegate (Pat Halley), one bone densitometry delegate (Karen Prouty) and one Sergeant at Arms (Randy Prouty).

A large amount of business was packed into the three-and-a-half days. During the House of Delegates meeting, the proposed revision of the ASRT Bylaws was adopted.

The House also adopted 78 motions dealing with ASRT position statements and twenty position statements were sunset. Fifty-seven position statements were amended and one was added. That makes you tired even reading about it, right? All in all, it was a great meeting and a fun time. Myself and Jim Temme donated a Nebraska Basket in the Board of Directors' attempt to raise money for the ASRT Education and Research Foundation. It was won by an excited Marsha Jones from Wisconsin.

I must also mention that the NSRT former Executive Treasurer, Liana Watson, is now the Director of the ASRT Governance Department. Being on the ASRT Board of Directors and having worked with her directly from April until June, I can tell you she is doing a fabulous job at ASRT.

I encourage all NSRT members to stay abreast of medical imaging technology and issues that will effect our profession. One way to do so is to volunteer. Being active in our profession at both state and national level has been an awarding experience to me and one that I am most proud of. A BIG thank you to all NSRT members who have supported me along the way.

### 2010 Annual Conference Grand Island, Nebraska

Mark your calendars! The 2010 NSRT Annual Conference plans are underway.

Bettye Wilson, recent ARRT trustee and esteemed educator from Birmingham, Alabama, will be joining us for our 2010 Annual Conference. Bettye will present several educational sessions. Other scheduled speakers include Bruce Cutright of Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital and Mammography Symposium speaker, Jeanette Joyce, as well as many more.

Come witness the phenomenon of the Sandhill Crane spring migration. Plans are underway to organize an early evening viewing of the cranes.

Make plans to attend the 2010 Annual Conference in Grand Island, Nebraska from April 15 through April 17 at the Holiday Inn Midtown.

Please keep your mailing address up to date, contact the NSRT Office with name & address changes.