

MeSRC Board Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2018

Present: Rachel B, Alex D, Erin L, Cynthia C, Brittany C, Norma H, Sally W, Don C, Kathy G, Michelle C.

Phone: Daren R, Bobbie C.

Secretary: Hannah L.

1. Opening remarks- Michelle and Sally.
2. BOD Announcements- Michelle
3. AARC congress news: Maine was well represented at the AARC Congress with a total of 21 RTs who are currently working in Maine hospitals and RTs who went to school and worked in Maine attending.
4. PACT Report: Our lobbyists and I met with Cong. Mike Thompson's legislative staffer, Casey, who is very supportive and familiar with our bill just before I left for Congress.  The goal was to determine if Thompson would be the Democratic co-sponsor for our bill along with Cong. Mike Kelly (R/PA), who is the key sponsor.  However, now that the Democrats are the majority in the House, there are new discussions about telehealth moving forward in the new Congress.   
   Casey told us the Telehealth Caucus in the House would be meeting and there is a possibility that they might put our bill into a larger one, most likely the CONNECT Act, version 2.  As you may recall, this was a bill introduced by Senator Schatz from Hawaii and had a lot of support from the large telehealth coalition of which AARC is a member.  Rather than have a lot of small bills, as has been the case in the past, an idea is floating around to have one large bill where they could take parts of the CONNECT Act out and put it into something that was moving toward enactment.  An example is the Medicare extenders legislation from last year that ended up in the Balanced Budget Act of 2018 in which telehealth pieces from the Chronic Care Act were incorporated and passed.    
   Since our meeting in Congress, our lobbyists have followed up with Brendon in Cong. Kelly's office and with Senator Schatz' staff.  Senator Schatz staff was supportive of including our draft language into a new version of CONNECT and even suggested that it be permanent, rather than a 3-year pilot, which is very encouraging. However, we know cost is always an issue, so we'll leave it up to the politicians to work that out.  The good news is that if our language becomes part of CONNECT, it has both House and Senate support, which is key to getting a bill enacted.  Nonetheless, we don't plan on introduction of a bill before the end of the year. Congress still has to pass appropriations even though they now have a couple of weeks reprieve and folks on the Hill don't want a bill to get lost in the shuffle.  It would have to reintroduced next year anyway.    
   In addition to our telehealth bill, we will plan to lobby Congress for support to keep CMS from incorporating ventilators into competitive bidding, which they have announced they plan to do when the next cycle of bids is announced (at least 18-24 months away).  CMS is moving to a new bidding process for those who are not aware of changes and it could take up to 2 years to implement.  In the interim, any provider may furnish any DME product during the gap period.  We will also lobby for Congress to ensure patients who need liquid oxygen continue to have access during the gap period.  AARC is part of a physician and patient advocacy coalition working to protect patients and we will be meeting this week to lay out a strategy.

So this year we will be lobbying issues: telehealth,  oxygen and home ventilator issues.  
 We'll get back to you as soon as we have developed our plans for next year.  It will be a busy year and we look forward to your support to protect patients and strengthen the profession.

1. Dates for 2019 meetings:
2. Welcome for new members on January 31 @ MMC
3. February 6, 2019 @ MMC
4. May 22, 2019 @ the Maine Event
5. August 22, 2019 @ Maine General
6. December 4, 2019 @ Dr Duval’s Office, Lewiston
7. Secretary Report- Hannah L
8. We are up to date on voting for our last meeting minutes.
9. Sally plans to start posting minutes on AARC connect. Norma asked if there is a way to know how many people are following—not that we’re aware of.
10. Delegate report- Daren and Rachel
11. Telehealth bill discussed at HOD.
12. Resolutions: the auto renewal for membership was passed. Also, AARC president is to hold meeting with each state president two times a year.
13. They are eliminating low cut scores on board exam. There will only be two exams, no more CRT.
14. There was a discussion on tax audit at the HOD Meeting. They discussed that everyone receiving money should be bonded for protection.
15. Student membership costs have been updated: $25 for first two years, 3rd year is $40, 4th year is $60.
16. Rachel discussed that North Carolina is working on an advanced practitioner license.
17. AARC wants to make bachelor degree gold standard by 2025. SMCC is encouraging their students to pursue bachelors. Discussed how nursing maintains magnet status- RN’s have to get bachelors w/in 5 years.
18. Treasurer’s Report- Don C.
19. See full report (separate).
20. We discussed budgeted vs. actual in 2018.
21. Don’s goal is to continue being frugal- we have done a good job cuttings costs and recuperating losses.
22. Don would like to see the society have 1 conference worth of cash saved up. This would protect the society should we have a bad year.
23. All were in favors of accepting treasurers report.
24. We discussed budget for 2019. We adjusted conference attendee gift and candy budget to $750. We were over a little on budget due to having already put down deposit at Spruce Point.
25. Discussed who/how many people to send to HOD. We talked about sending one person to each meeting. How would sending one person affect the delegates being on the delegate committees? This could be problematic, as the delegates may not be able to support one another. Cynthia discussed role of delegate; delegates are the backbone of the AARC, first year delegates cannot be expected to retain everything. Daren suggested that the delegates ask the society “What would the society like to hear from the HOD?” We know the fall meeting is always at the AARC. The Spring meeting is variable. Sally suggested a budget of $4800. All agreed.
26. We removed President to HOD travel expense.
27. Alex motions to accept Budget for 2019. Michelle seconds. All in favor, no discussion. Vote approved.
28. Website updates- Sally
29. Sally was able to crack code for Go-Daddy. More to come.
30. Educational Committee Updates- Hannah
31. The Conference date is May 22 & 23 2019.
32. Discussed increasing vendor booth fee. Previously we charged $600 prior to April 1st,. We decided to increase booth fee to $750 prior to April 1st and $850 after April 1st.
33. Brittany updated us on speakers- we are doing well. We need a patient perspective speaker- discussed contacting Karen Lane.
34. January 3rd there will be a conference committee meeting @ 5pm @ 172 Cottage Rd Windham, Maine.
35. 2018 Election Results for 2019 Board:

President Elect: Kathy Roy Gosselin (SMCC)

Secretary: Hannah Leadbetter (SMHC)

Board members at large:

1. Erin Ledue (MMC)
2. Matt Dumond (Togus)
3. Kristin Dolloff (MMC)
4. Ric Lewis (MGMC)
5. Jeanette Villanueva (MMC)
6. Norma Hay (MMC)
7. Sheryl Zins (EMMC)
8. Kenda Cummings (CMMC)

Cynthia motions to accept 2018 election results for 2019 board members. Erin Seconds. All in favor, no discussion. Vote Approved.

1. Bylaws update- Sally
2. Summary of updates:

  Changing the Board Member at Large election to a 2-year commitment. In 2020, the first 4 nominees would be elected for a 2-year position and in 2021 the second group (staggered) would be elected, then going forward, just 4 slots each year for 2-year terms.

Nomination and Elections: We’d like to use an electronic voting system if possible. It is less expensive than mail and the ones Michelle and Sally investigated are secure and provide everything we would need. We also addressed an electronic version of the Lobstergram, so paper is not always required.

 Newsletter Committee changed to Communications Committee

Added a section for a Political Action Committee

1. Bylaws need to be sent to all members. We need only 2/3rds response.
2. Norma motions to accept bylaws updates. Brittany seconds. All in favor, no discussion. Vote Approved.
3. Policy and Procedure manual- Sally
4. Sally plans to work on policy and procedure manual. More to come.
5. Closing remarks-
6. Don motions to adjourn meeting. Alex seconds. All in favor.

Don motioned to accept meeting minutes. Norma seconds. All in favor, no discussion.