

West Virginia Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners

P.O. Box 638

Cool Ridge, WV 25825

Telephone (Locally): (304) 787-4398 Toll Free (in WV) 877-609-9869

Fax: (304) 787-3030 Email: wrtboe@wvnm.wvnet.edu

NEWSLETTER 2001

This newsletter is published and mailed to the licensees so that they may be better informed of the operations of the Board. We encourage you to submit your comments and recommendations to the address above.

FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

We have just completed an extraordinary year. Whether you look back at 2001 from a personal, professional, or national standpoint, there is little doubt that it is a sobering and unforgettable review. The changes that have taken place gave us an opportunity to identify places where we have met challenges head on and succeeded, and also those times when improvement is still necessary.

The West Virginia Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners has experienced the first full year with an Executive Director in place. Grady Bowyer has met all expectations of the Board, and developed the position from a job description, into a "wheel in motion". The volunteer members of the Board have a much better opportunity to succeed in our mission with a full time Executive Director, whose dedication is evident and whose effectiveness in timely follow-up and Legislative participation has benefitted the WV citizens, whom we serve.

The new year holds the promise of new challenges, however, your Board Members are keenly interested in protection of the public, assisting in retaining both programs of training in Radiologic Sciences and the Radiologic Technologists that these fine programs produce in the state of WV. It is my goal to turn new challenges into opportunities and to see those through to successful outcomes. It has been my pleasure to serve this year as Chairperson of the Board that has its roots in a law that regulates operators of a modality to which I have committed my career.

OFFICE INFORMATION

Mary Casto, Administrative Secretary for the Board, has announced that she will be retiring on June 30, 2002. Carol Blosser, who has been working for the Board as office secretary for the past 3 years, will take Mary's place as Administrative Secretary on July 1, 2002. This will allow for a smooth transition since Carol is already familiar with the Board's law, rules, licensing procedures and office protocol.

Mary would like to clarify some things for the technologists. Some renewal applications do not have the license number and expiration date completed. A few technologists become confused regarding application for their license. They believe they are renewing either their ARRT certification or ASRT membership. The license number requested on the application is for their **West Virginia** state license. The applications for renewal are mailed out six (6) weeks prior to expiration of the license. If you fail to receive an application for renewal, you should call the office to have one mailed or faxed to you, or you can download it off of our web site (see web site address at the end of this newsletter). The office has had several technologists complain that they did not receive a renewal application. In the Board's Series 1 Rule, it states that it is the licensee's responsibility for keeping their license up-to-date. Although the Board office routinely sends the licenses

back out the day they are received, you should allow at least five (5) days of turnaround time before the expiration date. If your license expires, you could be suspended from work until you obtain a valid license.

The office staff and Board members would like to thank the majority of technologists who handle their license renewal correctly.

LICENSE INSPECTIONS

On May 1, 2001, inspections of the technologist license began. As of December 31, 2001, 42 facilities and 708 licenses have been inspected to make sure that all operators of radiation and therapy equipment are properly licensed, that the license are current, and that the 5 x 7 license are properly posted so that a majority of the patients can view them.

There have been several instances where the technologists license had expired or were not properly posted. In one instance, the person did not have a license at all. The person was eligible for a license, had a license at one time, however, failed to renew it. A Consent Agreement was reached between the individual and the Board which resulted in the individual having to pay \$ 850.00 to the Board and obtain 24 hours of Continuing Education before obtaining another license. The individual also was suspended from their employment until the matter was resolved.

Beginning **April 1, 2002**, if there is a problem with the posting of the license or a license is expired, sanctions up to \$ 1,000.00 can, and will, be issued. The individual's name may also be reported to their County Prosecutor for investigation and possible prosecution under the criminal section of the Board's law. The WV Code and Rules pertaining to the license and postings can be found on our web page (www.state.wv.us/rtboe). The sanctions are listed in the Series 1 rule (§18-01-4.8).

As licensed technologists, everyone has an obligation to police your chosen profession. If you are aware of a violation of the WV Code or any of the rules, it is your moral and ethical responsibility to report these violations to the proper authorities. Reporting the infractions does not stop with a simple letter, but a willingness to stand up for your profession and be willing to testify, if needed. All efforts will be taken to try and maintain your confidentiality, however, you may be required to testify at a Board hearing or even appear in court. Regardless, **you must be willing to fight for your jobs and professionalism.**

IMPORTANT CE INFORMATION FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

All licensed technologist are required to submit evidence of **twenty-four (24) hours** of continuing education before licenses are renewed. To determine what is required, please read the statements below.

If you are **ARRT**, make a copy of your **active ARRT card**

showing continuing education requirements have been met. Submit the copy of the card with your application for renewal and fee. If you have lost your ARRT card, you can go to the ARRT web page (www.arrt.org) and print out and submit your credential information. This is the only documentation you will need to submit for continuing education.

If you are **non-ARRT**, you must present documentation that you have obtained twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education credit since January 1, 1999. Your two-year window for obtaining the twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education began on January 1, 1999 and ended on December 31, 2000. Therefore, once the CE documentation is submitted for 2001 renewal, you will need to obtain your next twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education sometime between January 1, 2001 and December 31, 2002. **The next bi-annum reporting period for continuing education documentation for non-ARRT's after the 2001 renewal will run from January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2002.**

If the appropriate documentation is not submitted with the renewal application and fee, a renewal license will not be issued until the requirements are met.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Series 1 Rule will be presented to the Legislature next session. The main area of focus for this rule is to bring the Rule into conformance with the Code. **THERE ARE NO MAJOR CHANGES IN THIS RULE.**

The Board will also request that the WV Code be changed to eliminate the statement requiring schools of Radiologic Technology be twenty-four (24) months in length. This statement was in the original law but, since eligibility to set for the examination is based on competency, the length of the programs can vary.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2000	\$ 78,638.05
Income Received FY 2000-01	<u>111,289.96</u>
Total Revenue for FY 2000-01	\$ 189,921.01
Disbursements for FY 2000-01	<u>111,684.91</u>
Balance in account as of 6/30/01	\$ 78,236.61

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2001

Meeting held on April 5, 2001

Minutes from December, 7, 2000 were corrected and approved. Financial statements were approved as distributed. JRCERT information on Bluefield State's site visit was presented. No deficiencies were noted by the team. Discussion was held on allowing schools to pay the Board's expenses (room and meals) at site visits. Board discussed setting the meeting dates in advance. It was decided to set dates for the calendar year and continue holding the meetings in the Charleston area. A Legislative report was given on the status of the Board's rules and other bills that may effect the Board, if passed. It was decided that Mary Casto, Administrative Secretary, would take all minutes for the Board meetings. It was announced that license inspections would begin May 1, 2001.

Meeting held on June 14, 2001

Minutes from April 5, 2001 were approved. Financial statements were also approved. Report was presented on the JRCERT site visit at Wheeling Hospital. The school had some minor areas of

non-compliance, but nothing major. Status report on complaints was given. A discussion was held on having the ARRT administer the WV Examination. A graduate had failed the ARRT three (3) times and had requested taking the WV Examination. Reason given for failure of the ARRT examination was test anxiety. It was decided that the maximum the Board would allow the WV Examination to be taken would be three times and that the passing score would be 75%. Another individual from Guam had requested information on the WV Examination. It was decided that a formalized criteria would be established for employee's pay raises. Functional job descriptions will be written and an evaluation mechanism set up. Findings and recommendations would be presented at the September meeting. The Board was asked to consider North Central as an equivalent accrediting body. Matter will be studied and discussed further at next meeting. Alice Belmont, R.T. (R)(M)(QM) was re-elected Chairperson and Susie Bellomy, R.T. (R) was re-elected Secretary.

Meeting held on September 20, 2001

Minutes from June 14, 2001 meeting were corrected and approved. Financial report was read and questioned. Amount of AEP payment for April, 2001 was questioned. Reported that payment was not made in March, 2001 and this was actually a two month payment. Report approved. Glora Crouch, R.T. (R) was introduced as the representative from DHHR. The matter of JRCERT vs. North Central Accreditation was addressed. The committee reported that they felt these were not equivalent since JRCERT was a programmatic inspection while North Central was an institutional inspection. The committee agreed to talk to other states and get a clear understanding of the North Central accreditation process. Complaints were discussed. There were two complaints submitted to the Board of Medicine on doctors using unlicensed operators. Discussion on our Code needing modified concerning the length of schools. Legislators will be asked to make necessary changes. Series 1 Rule to be presented to Legislature so that it will comply with the Code. Report was given on the license inspections. Technologist are being suspended from work until they have a valid license and is properly posted. Discussion was brought forth on licensing Nuclear Medicine Technologists. It was stated that any movement toward licensure of Nuclear Medicine technologist should come from the Nuclear Medicine community, not the Board. Report was given on the Auditor's Required Seminar for Licensing Boards.

Meeting held on December 13, 2001

Minutes and financial reports approved as submitted. Committee report was given on the petition concerning North Central accreditation being equivalent to JRCERT. Committee spokesperson recommended that the Board not accept North Central as an equivalent accrediting body since they are an institutional accreditation process as opposed to JRCERT being a programmatic accreditation. Recommendation accepted and motioned passed to deny petition. Discussion of expenses for school inspections was held. Motion made and passed that schools would not be responsible for the Board's expenses incurred during an inspection. Discussion was held on Mary Casto's pending retirement and hiring Carol Blosser as her replacement. Motion made and passed that the Board would extend Carol's hours beginning April 1, 2002 at present salary to begin a smooth transition of the office duties and promote her July 1, 2002 to the position of Administrative Secretary. Since Ms. Casto has expressed an interest in working part-time, the motion was made and passed for her to begin as part-time (up to 8 days per month) contract employee on September 1, 2002. Dr. M. Imani, D.P.M. was introduced for a presentation on Podiatry Assistants. The WV Podiatry Association will be

introducing legislation to exempt their assistants from licensure the same as dental assistants. He asked that the Board work with the Podiatry on the language for this legislation. School inspection reports were given. Alice Belmont participated in the University of Charleston's site visit in place of the Executive Director, since he had to undergo surgery and was unable to participate. Grady Bowyer participated in the site visit at Southern WV Community & Technical College. Both reported that the visits were successful with only minor deficiencies. Was also reported that Bluefield State College had been granted an 8 year accreditation and Wheeling Hospital had been granted 5 years. It was reported that Camden-Clark Memorial Hospital will be closing their Radiologic Technology program as of July 1, 2002. Discussions have been held with WVU-Parkersburg about taking over the program. Letter to be sent from the Board to WVU-Parkersburg offering assistance. Discussion and approval was given to buy-out the lease on our copier and maintain a maintenance agreement. Mr. Bowyer reported that over 700 licenses had been inspected since May 1, 2001. No complaints have been reported since the last Board meeting. Mr. Bowyer also reported that he passed his inspector test and is now a certified inspector through the CLEAR organization.

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS HELD 2001

Bluefield State College - 8 year accreditation
Wheeling Hospital - 5 year accreditation
University of Charleston - Accreditation pending
Southern WV Community and Technical College -
Accreditation pending

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS/INVESTIGATIONS

1. Case # 12-01 - Case closed per ARRT investigation. Technologist reinstated by employer.
2. Case #01-01: Physician using an unlicensed person to take x-rays. Referred to the Board of Medicine. Case closed.
3. Case #02-01: Technologist working without a valid license. Consent Agreement signed with monetary payment to Board. Case closed.
4. Case #03-01: No action taken. Technologist employed by VA hospital - exempt from our law. Referred to ARRT.
5. Case #04-01: Physician using an unlicensed person to take x-rays. Referred to the Board of Medicine. Pending before the Board of Medicine.
6. Case #05-01: Referred to ARRT by employer. Action pending by ARRT.

BOARD MEMBERS

Alice Stansberry Belmont, Chairperson
Radiologic Technologist
(304) 293-1849

Susan Bellomy, Secretary
Radiologic Technologist
(304) 526-1107

W. Alva Deardorff, M.D.
Radiologist
(304) 744-2661

Larry Jack Heck
Lay Member
(304) 272-5116

Gary Marano, M.D.
Radiologist
(304) 293-3091

Jeanne Morris
Lay Member
(304) 743-4681

Judith S. Schreiman, M.D.
Radiologist
(304) 293-8012

Mark S. Wilcox
Radiologic Technologist
(304) 766-3808

Glora Crouch
Department of Health Representative
(304) 558-6771

STAFF

Grady M. Bowyer, R.T. (R), Executive Director
Mary Casto, Administrative Secretary
Carol Blosser, Secretary

LICENSES ISSUED FY 2000-01

Permanent Licenses:	276 issued
Renewal Licenses:	1,846 issued
Temporary Licenses:	78 issued
Duplicate Licenses:	7 issued
Reinstatement Fees:	96 issued
Name change Fees:	3 issued
Roster of Licensees	5 issued

NOTE:

ANNUAL REPORT ON WEB PAGE: The Board's Annual Report, as required by the WV Code § 30-1-12, can be found on our web page. This report is required to be submitted annually to the Governor, Secretary of State, Clerks of the Senate and House of Delegates, Legislative Reference Services and the WV Library Commission.

Web Site: www.state.wv.us/rtboe

E-MAIL: wvrtboe@wvnm.wvnet.edu

TOLL FREE # IN WV: 877-609-9869