

West Virginia Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners

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NEWSLETTER 2002

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.

OFFICE INFORMATION

As was previously announced, Mary Casto, Administrative Secretary for the Board, retired on June 30, 2002. Carol Blosser, who worked for the Board as office secretary for the past 3 years, took Mary's place as Administrative Secretary on July 1, 2002. There was a smooth transition since Carol was already familiar with the Board's law, rules, licensing procedures and office protocol. So, when you call or stop in, welcome Carol to her new position. She is a tremendous asset to the Board.

The office would like to clarify some things for the technologists. Some renewal applications are received without the license number and expiration date completed. A few technologists become confused regarding application for their license. Apparently, the renewal is either for 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 from 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 the license is allowed to expire, the licensee could be suspended from work until a valid license is obtained.

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

The Executive Director is working on a Code of Ethics / Standard of Practice for WV technologists which will be very similar to the ARRT's. The hope is to have this ready to present to the Board at their March, 2003 meeting for approval. Once it is approved by the Board, it will be posted on our web page and will be attached to the application for licensure and the renewal applications. When you sign these forms, you will be agreeing to this Code of Ethics / Standard of Practice. This Code of Ethics / Standard of Practice is being formulated in conjunction with the hope that **ON-LINE CREDIT CARD RENEWALS** will begin in the very near future. This is something the Chairperson and Executive Director are working on very diligently. Again, if this plan falls into place, it will be posted on the web page. So,

continue to check the web page for information.

LICENSE INSPECTIONS

On May 1, 2001, inspections of the technologist license began. These inspections are 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. This can result in sanctions being issued not only to the technologists, but to the facility as well. A lot of facilities are suspending individuals from work without pay until they can produce a valid license. So, don't be careless and let your license expire. Also, give your license to your employer and ask to have it posted immediately. If you have given the 5 x 7 to them and they don't post it, you will not be held accountable. It is the facility's responsibility to assure they are properly posted.

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.artt.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, 2001. Your two-year window for obtaining the twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education began on January 1, 2001 and ended on December 31, 2002. Therefore, once the CE documentation is submitted for 2003 renewal, you will need to obtain your next twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education sometime between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2004. **The next bi-annum reporting period for continuing education documentation for non-ARRT's after the 2003 renewal will run from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2004.**

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 is being presented to the Legislature this session. This legislation will eliminate the thirty (30) day grace period before a late fee of \$ 15.00 is assessed. All licenses expire on the last day of the month issued. Once this legislation is passed, if your license expires and the postmark is after the expiration date, your license will not be renewed without paying the \$ 15.00 reinstatement fee. Another change will be adding a \$ 15.00 delinquent check charge. It was determined that this charge is legal to assess, since it is already in the WV Code in another section.

There is also legislation being introduced which will allow Podiatry Medical Assistants to obtain a permit to perform podiatry foot / ankle radiographs. This legislation is very restrictive in that the assistants must be a member in good standing with the American Association of Podiatry Medical Assistants (ASPMA), take and pass the written examination administered by that group, and maintain an active membership in that organization. The permittee would also have to obtain twenty (20) hours of continuing education per year, as required by ASPMA. The Board's Podiatry Committee wrote this legislation after several hours of discussion and many hours of research into what other state's require. They felt that, in order to protect the public's health and safety, this legislation would be submitted and eliminate the use of unlicensed, untrained individuals to perform podiatric radiographs. They felt that they made the requirements restrictive enough, including the podiatric equipment specifications, so that the public's interest is served and that no RT jobs are sacrificed.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2001	\$ 78,236.10
Income Received FY 2001-02	\$ 114,532.71
Total Revenue for FY 2001-02	\$ 192,768.81
Disbursements for FY 2001-02	\$ 134,595.81
Balance in account as of 6/30/02	\$ 58,173.00

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2002

Meeting held on March 14, 2002

Minutes from December 13, 2001 meeting were approved. Financial statements were approved as distributed. Purchase of new Board seal was approved. Approval was given to buy out the

lease agreement on the copier but to maintain a maintenance agreement. Reported that the 2001 newsletters were mailed with only 15 returned. Annual Report was distributed. Committee was formed to draft language to allow Podiatry Assistants to take podiatric foot / ankle radiographs and present draft to the full Board at the September, 2002 meeting. Reported that the Code was passed and signed. The Rules were bundled with other Rules and should be approved by July, 2002. Approval was given for Chairperson to attend JRCERT meeting and Executive Director to attend CLEAR training and Conference. Discussion of changing web page to allow licensee search was discussed and approval given to proceed.

Meeting held on June 18, 2002

Minutes from March 14, 2002 meeting were approved. Financial statements were approved after discussions on vehicle maintenance and account balance. Proposed legislation was discussed to eliminate the grace period of thirty (30) days before late fee assessed and charge a \$ 15.00 delinquent check fee. Motion made and passed to submit legislation. JRCERT Accreditations - Bluefield State (8 years), Southern WV Community & Technical (8 years), University of Charleston (5 years), United Hospital (reduced from 8 years to 5 years) & Ohio Valley Medical Center (pending). A new RT school is starting at Mountain State University. Program Director has been hired and hope to take first students in fall, 2002. This program is being funded through a grant from HCA Hospitals. Approval given for Executive Director to attend CLEAR training and conference in September, 2002. A 4% merit pay raise was approved for Executive Director. Due to retirement of Administrative Secretary and promotion of Secretary to that position, merit pay raise was not given for that position. Alice Belmont was re-elected Chairperson and Susie Bellomy re-elected Secretary. Mark Wilcox and Jeanie Morris have agreed to accept re-appointment if made. Dr. Deardorff has asked not to be reappointed. The Board has requested Mark Wilcox to contact Shawn Reesman, M.D. a radiologist from Beckley, to see if he would be interested in having his name submitted for appointment. The Governor will be asked to replace Larry Heck, since he has only attended one meeting in three (3) years. Next meeting to be held in Flatwoods in September, 2002.

Meeting held on September 19, 2002

Meeting called to order at 6:10 PM at the Days Inn at Flatwoods. Mr. Wilcox offered a change in wording to the previous minutes. Approved as amended. Financial report explained by Administrative Secretary. Question was asked about a "payment of claim" in the amount of \$ 85.74. Was explained that AT & T and Verizon went to the Court of Claims to be paid monies they felt they were owed by state agencies and Boards. This "payment of claims" was a result of that action. Financial report accepted as submitted. Mr. Wilcox gave a Podiatry Committee report and offered guideline that the Committee felt would be in the best interest of everyone. He explained that the Committee had a very long, deliberate discussion on the merits of this action. After discussions, minor wording changes were discussed and accepted. The language was approved by the full Board with the Executive Director to arrange for introduction. Letter will be sent to the WV Podiatry Association with the accepted language. Executive Director gave the status of the individual on a "suspended license" status. The County Prosecuting Attorney's Office is expecting plea agreement to be reached in

2-3 weeks for a felony conviction. Once notified, the individual's license will be revoked based on the felony conviction section of our law. Executive Director informed the Board of an individual who was issued a temporary permit in error. Individual meets requirements of our law, however, cannot re-take the ARRT examination due to being on probation for a misdemeanor. Was agreed to allow a full license and have a Consent Agreement that individual must pass the ARRT examination or WV examination before license can be renewed in 2003. Was announced that Mountain State's Radiology Program started with 26 students. Was announced that Shawn Reisman, M.D. has agreed to accept appointment if confirmed by the WV Senate. Contact will be made with the Attorney General's office for a replacement of our attorney of record. Chairperson gave a report on the Auditor's Seminar for Licensing Boards she attended. Administrative Secretary asked the Board to set guidelines for individuals that have failed the WV examination three times. Executive Director presented a Final Remediation for WV Examination draft for the Board to discuss. Motion was made and seconded to accept the draft as Board policy. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS HELD 2002

Ohio Valley Medical Center - April 18-19, 2002 - Pending

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS/INVESTIGATIONS

1. Case # 07-2001: Physician using unlicensed operator; letter sent; responded that physician takes all x-rays; Case closed
2. Case # 08-2001: Copy of letter sent to ARRT received; indicated individual stole drugs from hospital; contacted attorney for hospital and County Prosecutor; case pending before County Grand Jury; license suspended pending completion of investigation; if found guilty, would be felony conviction and license would be revoked; pending before Grand Jury.
3. Case # 01-2002: Physician using unlicensed individuals; referred to Board of Medicine; Pending before the Board of Medicine.
4. Case # 02-2002: Individual's certification revoked by ARRT; ARRT rescinded revocation; Case closed.
5. Case # 03-2002: Physician using unlicensed individuals to perform fluoroscopic examinations; letter sent; response wasn't clear as to who performed examinations; telephone call made to office; second response had a step-by-step procedure; also hired licensed technologist; Case closed.
6. Case # 04-2002: Physician using unlicensed individual; letter sent; letter received with information that licensed individual employed; Case closed.
7. Case # 01-FY03: Copy of letter received that was sent to ARRT alleging "Inappropriate touching and unnecessary exposing patient" complaint filed against technologist; letters sent to accusers and complainant; complainant responded used appropriate procedure; no response from accusers; letter sent to accusers attorney (awaiting response); investigation on-going.
8. Case # 02-FY03: Physician using unlicensed individuals; referred to Board of Medicine; pending before the Board of Medicine's Disciplinary Committee.

BOARD MEMBERS

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STAFF

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

LICENSES ISSUED FY 2001-02

Permanent Licenses:	224 issued
Renewal Licenses:	1,872 issued
Temporary Licenses:	73 issued
Duplicate Licenses:	2 issued
Reinstatement Fees:	99 issued
Name change Fees:	3 issued
Roster of Licensees	5 issued
Fee for WV Examination	6 issued

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Be sure to check our web page for important information, license searches, pending legislation, etc. The address is:

<http://www.wv.state.us/rtboe>