

WEST VIRGINIA MEDICAL IMAGING & RADIATION THERAPY TECHNOLOGY BOARD OF EXAMINERS

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NEWSLETTER 2011

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

RETIREMENT

After forty-four (44) years in the medical imaging profession, I have decided to retire. I have worked in state government for forty (40) years with twenty-eight (28) of those as an inspector of medical imaging and radiation therapy equipment with the Department of Health's Radiological Health Program. I have been affiliated with the Board as a member since 1993 and, for the last twelve (12) years, Executive Director of the Board. The years as Executive Director have been an extreme pleasure.

I feel that the Board has made great strides to protect the citizens of West Virginia by ensuring the operators of medical imaging and radiation therapy equipment are properly trained and competent. West Virginia is a leader in the protection of its citizens from the effects of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation. In 2007, this state was the first state in the nation to require all MRI technologists to be credentialed in that modality. This was a major piece of legislation which took a lot of research and dedication from the Board members to make it happen. Since our regulation was put in place, two other states now require their MRI technologists to be credentialed, following most of our legislation in writing their legislation.

Another worthwhile accomplishment of which I am extremely proud of is the on-line licensing. I worked very closely with the WV Treasurer's office so that our Board would be the first professional licensing board in West Virginia to offer on-line renewals. Now, several Boards use the template used by our renewals for their licensees. As far as I know, we are the ONLY professional licensing Board in West Virginia to allow licensees to obtain their original license and the students their temporary permits on-line. We, again, are the ONLY professional licensing Board to electronically deposit personal checks upon receipt. All of these on-line features saves the Board money, thus enabling the Board to keep the licensing fees the same as they have been since 2006 (and no raise in fees is anticipated anytime soon).

The Board has advertised, received applications and interviewed three (3) candidates for my position. I am pleased to announce that Nancy Godby, MS-MHA, MA, R.T. (R)(M) CHC, Chief Operating Officer / Compliance Officer at Logan Regional Medical Center, Logan, WV, has been offered and has accepted the position as my replacement. Nancy has been a member of the Board for several years and has been on the Legislative Committees and Ethics Committee. She will start as Assistant Executive Director on April 2, 2012 and will take over as Executive Director on May 1, 2012. Please offer Nancy your congratulations and help so that the Board can continue working to protect the citizens of WV.

I hope I have not offended anyone during my tenure as Executive Director. I have taken the mission of the Board and the laws very serious and feel I have lived up to what my parents taught me years ago - if you are going to accept a job, do that job to the very best of your ability. I hope I have done that!

I will still be around after I retire and would love to hear from you. My email will stay the same but my cell phone will change. I will continue helping this Board in any way I can to advance the profession of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy, which I dearly love!!

UPCOMING LEGISLATION

In 2007, the Board attempted to be the first state in the United States to license Sonography, but the legislature refused to authorize the legislation. Since that time, two states, New Mexico & Oregon, have passed legislation to license Sonography. The Board submitted proposed language for Sonography licensure in 2010 for consideration in the 2011 Legislative Session. The Legislation was sponsored, but was not put on the agenda in the House Health & Human Resources Committee for consideration and thus, was dead for that Legislative session. During the summer of 2011, a legislative committee composed of Board members and other interested parties, wrote, and the Board approved, a Sunrise Application which was submitted to the WV Legislature's Joint Committee on Government Operations in April, 2011. This Application was to request a study to determine if Sonography should be licensed in West Virginia by the Legislative Auditor's office. As of December 31, 2011, the report had not been finalized and given to the Joint Committee. Regardless of whether the Legislative Auditor determines Sonography should be regulated or not, the Board intends to submit legislation in the 2012 session requesting that Sonography be regulated in this state. Sonography is the only modality of medical imaging and radiation therapy that is not regulated in this state and the equipment also is not regulated.

LAPSED LICENSES

The Board is strongly considering enforcement of the penalties for working on a lapsed license. The Board has had multiple instances of individuals performing medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures on patients in violation of the law by working on lapsed licenses. The board has been lenient with the licensees but this is about to stop. A licensee performing medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures without a valid license can be fined up to \$ 500.00 for this violation, plus administrative cost of preparing the order. If an individual is found violating this law, they will have to appear before the Board's Ethic Committee. Anyone found to be in violation will be allowed to renew their license but will be subject to signing a Consent Agreement along with a fine and Administrative costs. Failure to sign the Consent Agreement and payment of the fees associated with the Consent Agreement will result in the Board denying the licensee a renewal of their West Virginia license.

The facilities that allow a licensee to perform imaging or therapy procedures on an expired license will also be subject to this enforcement. Chapter 30-23-2 (b) states in part that "it is unlawful for any business entity to render any service or engage in any activity which if rendered or engaged in by an individual, would constitute the practice of medical imaging or radiation therapy technology." Therefore, a facility can also be fined up to \$ 500.00 for allowing unlicensed individuals to work on an expired license.

APPRENTICE LICENSES

In 2007 when the law was passed authorizing the Board to regulate the operators of nuclear medicine and MRI, individuals not credentialed in those disciplines were issued Apprentice licenses to enable them to continue working in those modalities. Also, persons wanting to cross-train in nuclear medicine or MRI would be issued an Apprentice license so they could work in the modality until they obtained the required credentials.

All Apprentice licenses have an expiration of five (5) years from the end of the month of issue, which must be renewed annually. All Apprentice license runs consecutively, so you cannot work one year on an Apprentice license, decide you do not want an Apprentice the next year and later on, decide you want another Apprentice. You have five years from the end of the month of issue of the original Apprentice license to obtain credentials in that modality or you cannot work as a medical imaging technologist in that modality.

If you were issued an Apprentice license in 2007 and have not obtained credentials in nuclear medicine or MRI, your Apprentice license period will end on June 30, 2012. All individuals issued an Apprentice license in July, 2007 will be required to obtain credentials in their chosen modality prior to July 1, 2012.

Three individuals, Debra Stoner, David Dial and Shannon Hinkle have taken and passed the state examination in nuclear medicine with this Board. Therefore, these three individuals are recognized in WV as being properly trained and authorized to perform unrestricted nuclear medicine procedures in the state.

CT FOR NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGIST

The Board's laws require that a nuclear medicine technologist performing CT for fusion be credentialed in CT or take and pass an examination administered by the Board for CT fusion. The Board, under an arrangement with Medical Imaging Consultants, have procured an examination for individuals to take which, if passed, would allow the individual to perform the CT fusion examinations in WV. Passing this test does not permit the individuals to perform diagnostic CT examinations.

RENEWAL CHANGES

Due to some questions concerning a faxed signature on an application and the time to process the application, the Board will no longer be accepting a faxed application in the office for renewal. In the past, you could fax your application to the office and then call with your credit card information. This practice has been stopped. You will either need to mail your application and check to the office or go on-line and renew.

IMPORTANT CE INFORMATION FOR LICENSE RENEWAL

All licensed technologists are required to submit evidence of twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education earned in the previous two (2) years before licenses are renewed. To determine what is required, please read the statements below.

If you are ACTIVE ARRT or NMTCB, and you mail your application to the office,

make a copy of your active ARRT or NMTCB 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.rrt.org) and print out and submit your credential information. This is the only documentation you will need to submit for continuing education. If this documentation is not submitted, our application and check will be returned to you as INCOMPLETE. If this causes your license to expire, this will cause you to be charged an additional fee of \$ 25.00 and your employer will be notified that you do not have a valid license and cannot legally work as a medical imaging or radiation therapy technologist in West Virginia.

If you are ACTIVE ARRT OR NMTCB AND RENEW ON-LINE, your CE biennium will be checked by the Board's staff on the ARRT or NMTCB web page. If you are not listed on these web pages, you will need to submit documentation of twelve (12) hours of continuing education immediately to the office. Your license will not be issued until CE documentation is verified. The CE's must have been earned since your previous renewal or twenty-four (24) hours earned in the previous two (2) years before your annual license can be mailed to you. There are no exceptions to this - DOCUMENTATION OF CE COMPLIANCE IS REQUIRED. This CE documentation cannot be hand written information but must be provider certificates or some other official document.

If you are a NON-ACTIVE ARRT OR A GRANDFATHERED LICENSEE, you must submit documentation that you have obtained twelve (12) hours of continuing education earned since your previous license renewal or twenty-four (24) hours earned in the previous two (2) years. DOCUMENTATION OF CE COMPLIANCE IS REQUIRED. This CE documentation cannot be hand written information but must be provider certificates or some other official document.

If the appropriate CE documentation is not submitted or verified, the application and fee will be returned to you, or, in the case of on-line renewals, will be credited back to your credit card. A renewal license will not be issued until the requirements are met.

BOARD MEETINGS MINUTES FOR 2011

YOU CAN OBTAIN THE MINUTES FROM THE BOARD MEETINGS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER FROM OUR WEB PAGE'S "FOR YOUR INFORMATION" SECTION

SCHOOL INSPECTIONS HELD 2011

West Virginia University Hospital's Radiologic Technology Program August 11-12, 2011

ETHICS COMMITTEE

The ethics committee is appointed from within the board to review all complaints in regard to professional issues that have been reported to the Board in writing or in person. The purpose of this committee is to review all issues and make recommendations to the full Board about what course of action should be taken concerning the complaint or, if the complaint does not warrant any actions, recommend it be dismissed. ALL final decisions are made by the full Board upon this recommendation. The Board can either agree with the recommendation of the committee or other recommendations may be decided upon after discussion. After this is completed by the board, the executive director and board's attorney follow the procedure to present the consequences to the technologist per the rules of the board.

It is required that each technologist in the State of West Virginia follow the ethics of the profession and to ultimately provide the very best patient care to all patients that we serve. Also, all students are urged to learn about ethics and to model them for fellow students and technologists in the clinical education settings in which they are assigned. Ethics is a professional responsibility of all technologists and are required to be followed. Ethics defined states that it is a “system of moral principles: the ethics of a culture”; “the rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular class of human actions or a particular group, culture, etc.: medical ethics...” As professionals, we all are encouraged to follow the ASRT Code of Ethics for the Imaging Sciences. Imaging managers, program directors and faculty stress the importance of following these codes to promote professionalism and to ensure optimum patient care.

COMPLAINT INFORMATION

The Board’s Executive Director actively investigates any and all complaints reported to the office in writing or in person. These complaints can range from a simple misunderstanding of the law to a blatant violation of the law. As licensed technologists, each individual 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 legal, moral and ethical responsibility to report these violations to the proper authorities (i.e. hospital or facility management and the Board). 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 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.

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS/INVESTIGATIONS FY 2011

YOU CAN OBTAIN THE COMPLAINT SUMMARY IN THE MINUTES FROM THE BOARD MEETINGS OR FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT FOUND ON OUR WEB PAGE’S IN THE “FOR YOUR INFORMATION” SECTION

BOARD MEMBERS

Alice Belmont, Chairperson	Radiologic Technologist
Nancy Godby, Secretary	Radiologic Technologist
Eva Hallis, Educator	Radiologic Technologist
Tuanya Layton	Nuclear Medicine
Nancy Oughton	MRI
I. Elaine Moore, M.D.	Licensed Physician
Fred Gabriele, M.D.	Radiologist
VACANT	Radiologist
Jamie Browning	Department of Health Representative
Jeanne Morris	Lay Member
Grace L. Peters	Lay Member

STAFF

Grady M. Bowyer, R.T. (R)	Executive Director
Randy Fink	Administrative Secretary

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FY 2011

YOU CAN OBTAIN THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT FOUND ON OUR WEB PAGE UNDER THE “FOR YOUR INFORMATION” SECTION

LICENSES ISSUED FY 2011

YOU CAN OBTAIN THE NUMBER OF LICENSES ISSUED AND RENEWED FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT FOUND ON OUR WEB PAGE’S IN THE “FOR YOUR INFORMATION” SECTION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Be sure to go to our web page for on-line renewal of your license, important information, license searches, pending legislation, FAQ’s, etc. The address is:

[HTTP://WWW.WVRTBOARD.ORG](http://www.wvrtboard.org)