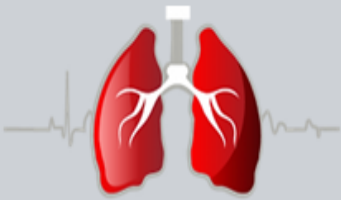


Volume 1, Issue 7

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

# Alabama Society for Respiratory Care

## Congratulations to Glenn Phippen II!

We are thrilled to announce that Glenn Phippen II, a distinguished member of the ASRC, is now representing Alabama nationally as an AARC Director-At-Large. This prestigious position is a testament to Glenn's dedication and leadership in the field of respiratory care.

Glenn brings a wealth of experience to this role, as a current Vice Chair of the ASBRT. In addition to having previously served on the ASRC Board of Directors as President. His commitment to advancing respiratory care is further underscored by his recent role as an AARC House of Delegates Representative.

As Glenn steps into this national position, we

take immense pride in knowing that Alabama is represented by an individual of such caliber. His past contributions to our local respiratory care community and his continued commitment to excellence make him an ideal ambassador for our state on the national stage.

Join us in congratulating Glenn Phippen II on this remarkable achievement, and we look forward to witnessing the positive impact he will undoubtedly have in his new role.

Don't forget, maintaining membership with the AARC ensure you are able to have a say in our representation and the future of our profession. Get involved so you have a say!



From left to right: Robert Johnson, Megan Crumpton, Glenn Phippen II, and Jerry King

## ASBRT Call to Action

In the realm of respiratory care regulation, the Alabama State Board of Respiratory Therapy (ASBRT) has faced a critical challenge in 2023 and is now rallying the ASRC for support against a proposed bill that could reshape licensure boards in the state.

In 2023, the ASBRT reached out to the ASRC, seeking assistance in reaching state representatives to thwart a proposed bill aiming to consolidate all licensure boards under the Secretary of State. While the bill did not pass, a looming threat persists as the representative behind the proposal plans to reintroduce a revised version in the upcoming legislative session.

The proposed bill comes with telling exclusions—two state boards that the representative serves on and larger groups with the financial means to employ lobbyists for instance the Nursing Association, and Security Exchange. Unfortunately, the ASBRT remains on the inclusion list. The rationale behind this move is the purported cost-saving measure, claiming it will benefit the

state financially. However, it's crucial to note that the ASBRT operates independently without any state funding. The entire operational funding is directly sourced from licensee fees.

In recent years, the ASBRT proactively joined forces with the Dietetics board, pooling resources and cutting operational costs. This strategic collaboration has prevented additional increases in licensure fees. Despite increasing costs related to state programs, the ASBRT has managed to streamline the application process significantly. Applicants who complete the process correctly and submit all required information can now secure licensure within 1-2 business days, a stark improvement from the previous 10-30-day timeline, or timelines from other states which can take months.

If consolidation under the Secretary of State becomes a reality, the ASBRT anticipates a reversal in the efficiency gains achieved. The licensure process's speed could diminish, and increased



personnel costs could lead to higher fees for licensees.

The ASBRT urges every member of the respiratory care community to proactively engage with their congress members. This is a battle to safeguard our profession's future in Alabama. When the bill resurfaces in the next legislative session, it is crucial to voice opposition. Protecting the autonomy of licensure boards is vital to maintaining the efficiency, financial independence, and streamlined processes that directly benefit both the board and its licensees.

Let your voice be heard—contact your congress members and join the ASBRT in its unwavering commitment to protect respiratory care in the state.

## The latest on Compact Licensure

Compact Licensure is a visionary concept that aims to simplify the licensure process for respiratory care professionals, allowing them greater flexibility and ease of practice across different states. As the initiative moves into its next phase in 2024, it marks a significant step towards realizing this vision.

In a demonstration of the importance of this initiative, the AARC has received a grant from the Department of Defense (DOD) to further explore the opportunities presented by an interstate compact. The grant will be administered through the National Center for Interstate Compacts, which is part of the Council of State Governments (CSG). This grant will allow for the development of model legislation, provide legislative resources, and allow state policymakers to join together in this endeavor.

ASRC Representatives Robert Johnson and Ed Goodwin have been working



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for Respiratory Care

with the AARC Compact Licensure Task Force, advancing discussions and formulating strategies to make respiratory care licensure more streamlined and accessible across state lines, including Alabama.

The AARC has extended its commitment to engage members and state af-

filates during each phase to ensure every therapist can stay informed about the developments in Compact Licensure. This transformative initiative has the potential to reshape the landscape of licensure requirements, opening up new opportunities for practitioners across the nation.

## AARC Activates Disaster Relief

Since its inception in 1992, the AARC Disaster Relief Fund has been a beacon of support for members facing the aftermath of federally declared natural disasters. Established with the primary aim of assisting those who suffer damage to their homes or personal property, the fund continues to make a meaningful impact in times of crisis.

AARC members living in officially declared disaster areas are eligible to apply for a grant of up to \$1,000. The application process is made convenient, allowing members to apply either online or by mail using the AARC downloadable application form, accessible at <https://www.aarc.org/aarc-membership/aarc-membership-benefits/aarc-disaster-relief-fund/>.

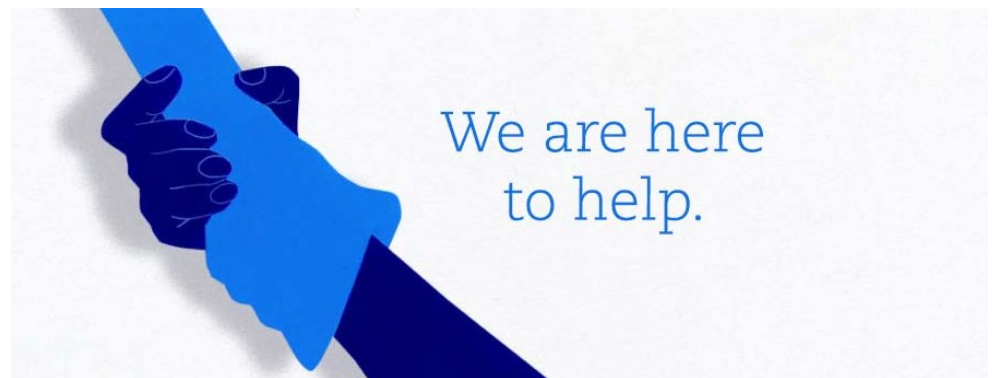
In response to the recent tornadoes in Tennessee, the AARC has opened its Disaster Relief Fund to provide support for affected members. Recognizing the urgent need for assistance, the fund aims to alleviate the burdens faced by those in the impacted areas.

If you are aware of a fellow AARC member who has been affected, we urge you to relay this important message to them. In times of crisis, not everyone may have access to the internet, and your support can make a significant difference.

At its core, the Disaster Relief Fund embodies the spirit of AARC members helping members. By fostering a sense of community and solidarity, the fund plays a crucial role in rebuilding lives and restoring hope.

If you would like to contribute to the AARC's Disaster Relief Fund and be part of this collective effort, you can make a donation online at <https://my.aarc.org/Donate>. Your generosity will directly impact the lives of fellow AARC members facing the challenges brought on by natural disasters.

Together, we can make a difference and support our community in times of need.



## ASRC returns to HOSA State Leadership Conference

The ASRC is excited to announce its return to the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Leadership Conference, building on the success of last year's participation. This exciting conference, scheduled for February 29th and March 1st in Montgomery, brings together nearly 2,000 of Alabama's best Future Health Professionals for two days of competitive events, networking, industry exhibits, and the election of the State Officer Team. It also provides an excellent platform for ASRC representatives to engage with high school students, sharing the importance and impact of the respiratory care profession.

We would like to invite members to take part in this valuable opportunity to volunteer at the HOSA Leadership Conference. Active participation can have a positive impact on shaping perceptions and inspiring students to con-

sider Respiratory Care as a fulfilling career.

ASRC members interested in volunteering at the HOSA Leadership Meet-

ing are encouraged to reach out to [alsrcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:alsrcinfo@gmail.com).



## New Executive Director

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We are thrilled to announce that after careful consideration and a vote by the executive board, Jaime Goodwin has been appointed as our new Executive Director.

Jaime, a resident of Munford, AL and brings with her a wealth of experience and dedication to Respiratory. Jaime began her career as an OJT RT at Stringfellow Memorial Hospital in 2001. Demonstrating a commitment to excellence, Jaime returned to Wallace State Community College to earn her Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Respiratory in 2015. Over the years, Jaime has showcased her skills and expertise at various healthcare institutions, including Russel Medical Center, RMC Anniston, Brookwood Baptist Citizens Hospital in Talladega, Noland Hospital LTACH in Anniston, VieMed Home Care, and Brookwood Baptist Health's NICU in Birmingham. Jaime currently serves as a PRN RT at RMC Anniston, demonstrating her ongoing commitment to patient care.

Outside of her professional life, Jaime is an avid dog lover. She shares her home with Libby, a Jack Russell, and also engages in labradoodle breeding. Jaime recently welcomed a new chapter in her life as a grandmother. She is joyously embracing the role of Nonna to her first grandson, Carter Goodwin, who is now 7 months old. Jaime shares her life and accomplishments with her husband, Ed Goodwin, since their marriage in 2015. Due to their relationship, Ed Goodwin abstained from voting during the ASRC selection.

We extend a warm welcome to Jaime Goodwin as she assumes the role of Executive Director. With her rich background and dedication to our profession, we are confident that Jaime will serve the ASRC well.

Please join us in welcoming Jaime to her new role. Feel free to reach out to [alsrcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:alsrcinfo@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to extend your personal congratulations.



## ASRC 2024 Event Plans!

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As we step into a promising 2024, the planned ASRC events are set to be enlightening, engaging, and enriching for attendees!

The year kicks off with the Early Professionals Conference (previously the Student Symposium) on February 22nd at the St Vincent's Bruno Center, in Birmingham. Building on the success of the previous year, this conference serves as a launchpad for emerging professionals, providing them with a platform to connect, learn, and share experiences in the ever-evolving landscape of science and research.

Following closely is the ASRC Annual Conference and Exhibits, slated for April 7th to 9th at the Orange Beach Convention Center, The Wharf, Orange

Beach. Make a note not to miss this year's meeting! The agenda is still in the works, ensuring an updated and exciting program. To stay ahead on your CRCEs, ensure your registration for this unmissable event!

The ASRC will traverse the state, offering Mini-Conferences throughout the year. With plans for Montgomery in June, Huntsville in August, and Birmingham in September. Additional dates and locations may be added later in the year, so stay tuned. These Mini-Conferences provide a unique opportunity to earn CRCEs while fostering focused discussions and networking opportunities in an intimate setting.

The ASRC's 2024 event calendar spans the entire year. Whether you are an

early professional seeking mentorship, an established RT staying abreast of educational updates, or simply eager to connect with other RTs, the ASRC events cater to a diverse audience, ensuring there is something for everyone.



## ASRC Student Board

In an effort to enhance student engagement and foster a sense of community, RT Educators throughout Alabama are working to establish a ASRC Student Board. Once convened, they will meet virtually for collaborative dialogue, ensuring that student perspectives are actively considered in the broader decision-making processes.

Following each meeting, the ASRC Student Board will compile a comprehensive report regarding the discussed ideas, emerging topics, and

identified issues. This report will then be submitted to the ASRC Board, facilitating a direct line of communication between the student body and ASRC leadership.

This innovative initiative not only empowers students to have a voice in shaping the direction of their education and future profession but also underscores the commitment of ASRC members in fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for the next generation of respiratory therapists.

## Student Update

Congratulations to Jefferson State CC Graduates who had their Pinning Ceremony on December 15, 2023.!

UNA has successfully started their first cohort! We are so excited for them!

Coastal Alabama CC will be starting their first cohort Spring 2024! Congratulations!

Calhoun CC and UWA are currently working on CoARC applications for accreditation. More to come soon!



Wallace State Community College Students celebrating Respiratory Care Week with lunch and door prizes!



## Student Update Continued...



Wallace State Community College Students collected and signed over 400 Christmas cards for Hanceville Nursing and Rehab Center residents!



Wallace State CC will be hosting a Kettering Seminar Feb. 21-23, 2024 on their campus. If you would like to register, please visit [www.ketteringseminars.com/register](http://www.ketteringseminars.com/register) and enter code: WHAN997C. The program is approved for 21.33 CE credits!

## Student Update Continued...



The Shelton State Community College Respiratory Therapy Program Staff hosted its Class of 2023 graduates' Pinning Ceremony on December 14th. The following graduates were honored with the following awards at the Pinning Ceremony: Academic Excellence Award - Ireanna Hunt, Leadership Excellence Award - Ireanna Hunt, SSARCS (Shelton State Association for Respiratory Care Students) Outstanding Service Award - Devin Rainer, Clinical Excellence Award - Savannah Jones, & Peer Excellence Award - Mashieka Odom. Graduation was held on December 15th.



## Student Update Continued...



Shelton State Community College Class of 2023. Congratulations!

### ASRC BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

**This Quarter we are highlighting Jeffrey Sherill, North Alabama Representative, and Megan Crumpton, Political Action Committee Fly-in Representative. We hope you enjoy getting to know your representatives!**

**Please stay tuned for our next newsletter where we will feature our other Political Action Committee Fly-in Representatives.**



## ASRC Board Member Highlight: Jeffrey Sherill Jr., MBA-HCA RRT

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What started your path to Respiratory Therapy?

I knew I wanted to work in healthcare. I also knew I did not want to be a nurse. I did observation hours for both the Imaging program & the Respiratory program. I knew instantly I wanted to be a Respiratory Therapist!

What is your favorite thing about your career?

Respiratory has been a very rewarding career in that I have had the opportunity to serve my community for over 20 years. I really enjoy those conversations in which we hear "you took care of my Mom in the ER...!". Furthermore, it has allowed me to precept & work with therapists that have gone on to not only be

great therapists, but to also help advance our profession.

Has anyone impacted your career in a meaningful way and how?

Our Pulmonologist, Dr. James Boyle. He invested a wealth of knowledge into a young Respiratory Therapist that asked way too many questions!

What is your favorite part of being on the ARSC board?

Being an ASRC Board member has allowed me to make connections to other parts of the southeast in which my peers enjoy talking about our profession as much as I do.



## ASRC Board Member Highlight: Megan Crumpton, MHA, RRT

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What started your path to Respiratory Therapy? I have always wanted to do something in the medical field, but I knew nursing wasn't really for me. When I was at UAB, I originally wanted to go to dental school. I was on track to get a biology degree and one of my sorority sisters, Callie Henderson, was in the Respiratory program and invited me to come meet some of her professors and classmates at a football tailgate. They were all so wonderful and encouraged me to shadow a Respiratory Therapist in the hospital. I took a couple of shadowing opportunities and fell in love with the work those RTs were doing. They were so kind to me and to their patients and I could see the difference they were making. I wanted to be a part of that.

What is your favorite thing about your career? My favorite thing about being a respiratory therapist is the impact I get to make on my patients. I have seen some of the sickest people walk out of our hospital and it is such a rewarding feeling to know that you took part in their life-saving care. Currently I am the Respiratory Care Manager at UAB Hospital and my favorite part of my job is being able to see students that did clinical rotations with us excel as Respiratory Therapists!

Has anyone impacted your career in a meaningful way and how? So many amazing people have had a profound impact on my career. However, one RT has pushed me to be better since the first time we met. He has encouraged me in all aspects of my career from helping me with research papers in grad school to reassuring me that I would be a good fit for the political action committee and even when I took a travel job in NYC, told me "you'll be back". Of course, I did return to my UAB home that I love. Thanks Robert Johnson!

What is your favorite part of being on the ARSC board? My favorite parts of serving on the ASRC board are getting to meet Respiratory Therapists from all over the state and being able to really serve the Respiratory professionals in Alabama. Being part of the AARC Fly-in team has been such a wonderful opportunity both at the state and national level and I am honored to be one of the 3 RTs to represent our great state.

What is your favorite hobby? My favorite hobby is spending time giving back to the community. I am on the planning committee for the Heart of Alabama Walk to End Alzheimer's because it is a cause

that is near to my heart. Sometimes I spread myself thin, but I just really love helping others and what a better place to start than in your own community? My motto is "Leave it better than you found it" and I hope to do that in my life.





# President's Corner

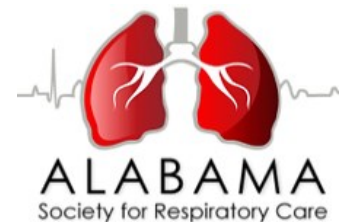
RHappy New Year!

My New Year's Resolution as your current ASRC President - I plan to continue to do all that I can to help Engage, Elevate, Advocate, Educate, and Communicate for and with the RTs in Alabama. Your ASRC Board of Directors continues to work hard representing you in the best way that we can. I am looking forward to seeing what we can do to continue to help move our profession forward in 2024. Although 2024 will be my final year as President, I am excited to see the commitment and growth that we have had on our board. There are many volunteers working to support Alabama RTs through their service on this board, and it has been an honor to be a part of the progress that we have made. We have an exciting year planned and there are a lot of opportunities for you to get involved. We have several committees that work hard to help determine the direction that the board takes regarding Alabama RTs, and we have room for you to help if you would like to be a part of developing plans for the future of our profession. We have Alabama RTs serving on national committees to help shape the future of our profession, and we have a former ASRC board member now serving on the AARC Board of Directors as well. We are looking forward to working with future RTs through our Early Professionals Conference, HOSA opportunities, and our new RT Student Board. We will provide several professional development opportunities through our educational programs - 2024 ASRC Conference and Exhibits in April, mini conferences at Montgomery, Birmingham, and Huntsville (with more being planned), continuing our Tuesday Talks, and continuing to support the AARC and Tri-State conferences throughout the year. It is going to be another busy year! I encourage you to get involved and help drive our profession forward!

As always, Thank YOU for all that YOU do! Alabama RTs are the best! You do not hear it enough, but I know that the patients of our state are in good hands in your care. Thank you!

Thank you,  
Ed

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## 2024 ASRC Elections

In Spring 2024, we will kick off the election process to select new Board Members who will guide us through the next chapter of our journey.

We are reaching out to seek nominations for individuals who are passionate, dedicated, and committed to the success of our organization. Your participation is crucial in ensuring that our leadership team reflects the community we serve. You!

*Would you be interested in a custom car tag that proudly showcases your commitment to Respiratory Therapy? Personalized with a design that announces your dedication to your profession in Alabama. Stay tuned for more exciting details to come!*

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