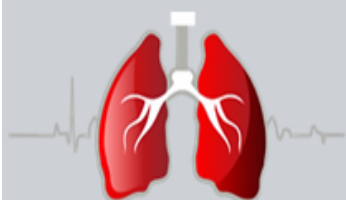


Volume 1, Issue 13

July 2025

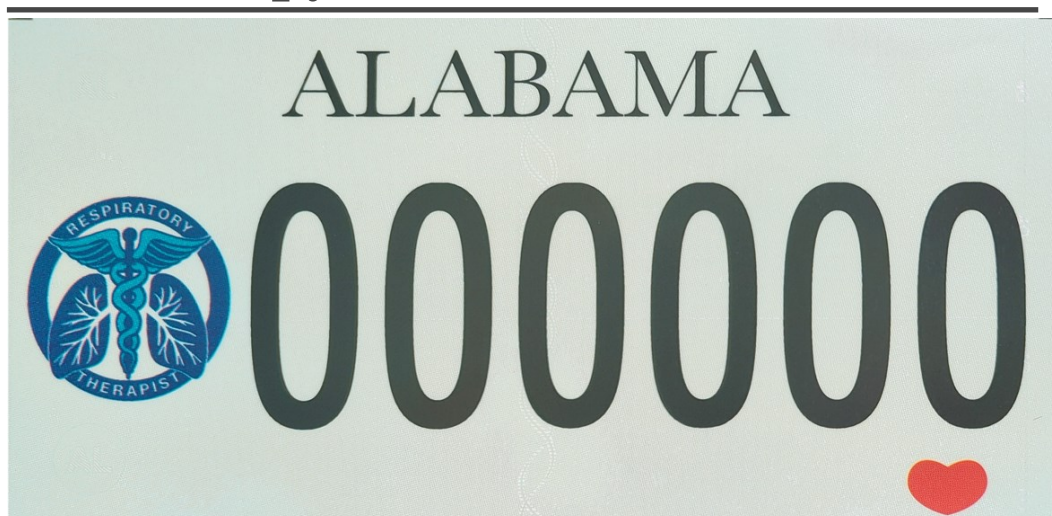
Editor: Christy Goodwin



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Alabama Society for Respiratory Care

Help Us Bring the Respiratory Therapy License Plate to Life!



We need your help! While we were excited to announce the launch of the Respiratory Therapy distinctive license plate earlier this year, we haven't yet reached the required 250 pre-commitments to make the plate a reality.

This specialty tag is more than just a license plate, it's a way to show pride in our profession, raise awareness, and support educational efforts for respiratory therapists across Alabama. But without enough pre-commitments, the plate will not be produced.

Here's Where You Come In!

If you haven't already submitted your pre-commitment, we're asking you to take just a few minutes to reserve your plate today. And remember, you do NOT have to be a respiratory therapist to order one! Family members, friends, employers, educators, patients, and supporters can all help us reach our goal.

Let's unite our voices and our vehicles to put respiratory therapy in the spotlight!

How to Pre-Commit:

Scan the QR code, or visit the Alabama Department of Revenue website at: <https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/division/motor-vehicle/>

Scroll down to "Reserve a Pre-commitment Plate" and click the link.

Certify you're not a robot, then click "Next."

In the Plate Type dropdown menu, select: Alabama Society for Respiratory Care

Complete the short application. You'll need your name, address, and vehicle information

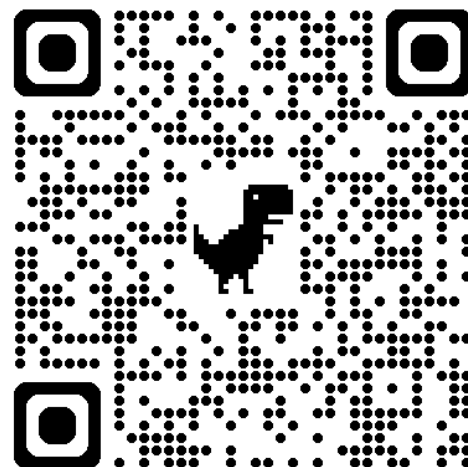
(make, model, year, and VIN). Plates can be personalized at no extra cost.

Let's Hit the Road with Respiratory Pride!!

If just a few people from each hospital, clinic, or classroom pre-commit, we'll reach 250 in no time. Once we hit that number, the plate goes into production and will be available statewide.

Let's not lose this opportunity to shine a light on the life-saving work respiratory therapists do every day. Please pre-commit today—and ask your friends and coworkers to do the same.

Together, we can drive awareness forward!



NextGen RT Network

We're excited to share that the AARC has launched a brand-new initiative designed specifically for the next generation of respiratory therapists: the NextGen RT Network!

This private, professional online community is open exclusively to respiratory therapy students and new graduates within three years of completing their programs. It's a space built with you in mind, whether you're preparing for boards, navigating your first job, or looking to connect with others who are just starting their RT journey.

Why Join the NextGen RT Network?

- In this community, members can: Network and connect with peers from across the country
- Ask questions about school, job searches, licensing, and more
- Find job postings, resources, and advice tailored to early-career RTs
- Stay informed with webinars, events, and news specifically curated for students and recent grads

One of the most exciting parts of the NextGen RT Network is that it's led by

students and new professionals. That's right, you don't just participate, you help shape the conversation. From planning content to contributing ideas and events, the NextGen Leaders group helps ensure that everything is relevant and meaningful to your current needs.

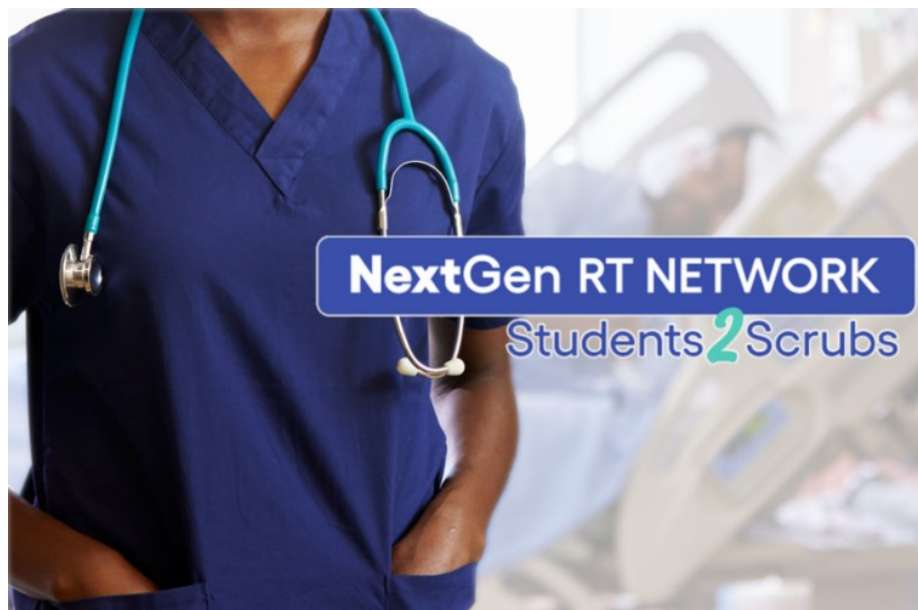
Be Part of the Future of Respiratory Care

Whether you're a student looking for study tips or a new graduate eager to

build your professional network, the NextGen RT Network is your space to grow, learn, and lead. It's a supportive community where your voice matters and where the AARC is actively investing in your success.

Let's support and celebrate the future of our profession together!

To find out more or for a link to join visit <https://www.aarc.org/news/aarc-launches-nextgen-rt-network/> today!



AARC Disaster Relief

We are proud to announce that the ASRC board recently voted to again donate \$1,000 to the AARC Disaster Relief Fund, thanks to the generous support of Alabama RTs.

The AARC Disaster Relief Fund was launched in 1992 to assist members who suffer damage to their homes or other personal property as a result of federally declared natural disasters.

AARC members living in officially declared disaster areas may apply for a grant of up to \$500, either online at <https://www.aarc.org/aarc-membership/aarc-membership-benefits/aarc-disaster-relief-fund/> or by calling (972) 406-4682.

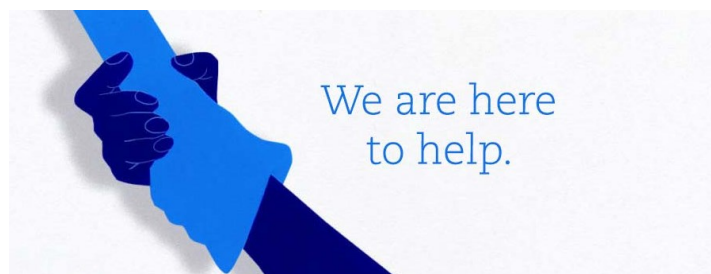
If you know of a fellow member who has been affected by a disaster, please relay this message to them, as they may not have access to the internet. Currently, the

disaster area includes West Virginia, Texas, Kentucky, and Arkansas.

The fund is all about AARC members helping members.

If you would like to contribute to the AARC's Disaster Relief Fund, donate online at <https://my.aarc.org/Donate>

We are here to help.



Lung Health Awareness: August and September Health Observances



August 1 – World Lung Cancer Day

World Lung Cancer Day shines a spotlight on one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths worldwide. Respiratory therapists play a vital role in lung cancer care, whether through pulmonary diagnostics, smoking cessation education, or supporting those with disease. This is a powerful time to educate patients and families about early warning signs, risk factors, and the importance of screening.

August – National Immunization Awareness Month

August is the perfect time to remind patients, especially those with chronic respiratory conditions, about the importance of staying up to date with vaccinations. Respiratory therapists can help promote flu, pneumonia, Tdap, and RSV vaccines, particularly for older adults and immunocompromised populations.

September 25 – World Lung Day

Led by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), World Lung Day is dedicated to global lung health awareness. It's a chance to advocate for cleaner air, access to care, and stronger respiratory health systems worldwide. Use this date to connect your local efforts to the broader international mission for lung health.

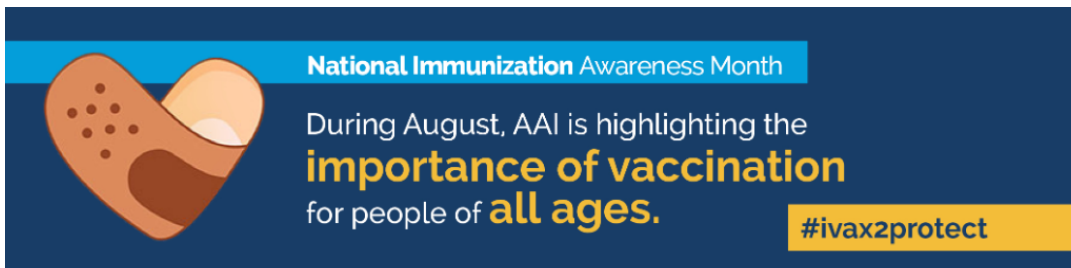


September – Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month

Pulmonary fibrosis is a progressive lung disease that affects thousands of people across the U.S. September is a great time to raise awareness of this condition, offer support to patients and caregivers, and highlight the role RTs play in oxygen therapy, pulmonary rehab, and quality-of-life management.

September – Healthy Aging Month

As the population ages, the demand for respiratory therapists trained to care for older adults continues to grow. Healthy Aging Month encourages conversations about managing COPD and other age-related pulmonary conditions. RTs are uniquely positioned to promote mobility, breathing exercises, and equipment safety for this population.



ASRC Attends 2025 AARC Summer Forum: Representing Alabama with Pride

The ASRC was proud to have a strong presence at the 2025 AARC Summer Forum in July. This annual event brings together state leaders, educators, and managers from across the country for several days of collaboration, networking, and professional development, all focused on advancing the field of respiratory care.

While the focus of the Summer Forum is national in scope, Alabama was well-represented, with several ASRC volunteers, board members and delegates in attendance.

Following Summer Forum, ASRC delegates participated in the AARC House of Delegates (HOD) meeting, representing Alabama at the national level.

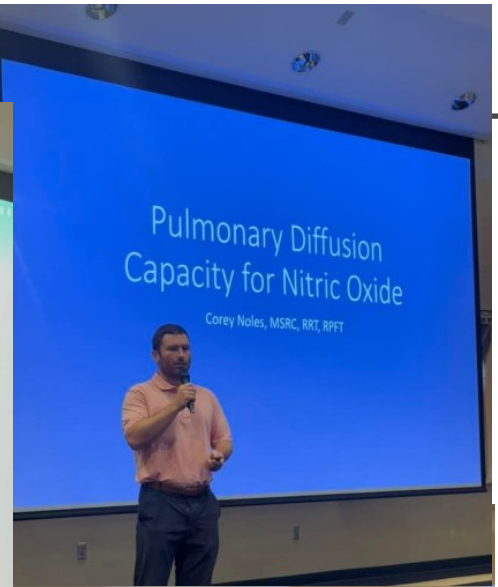
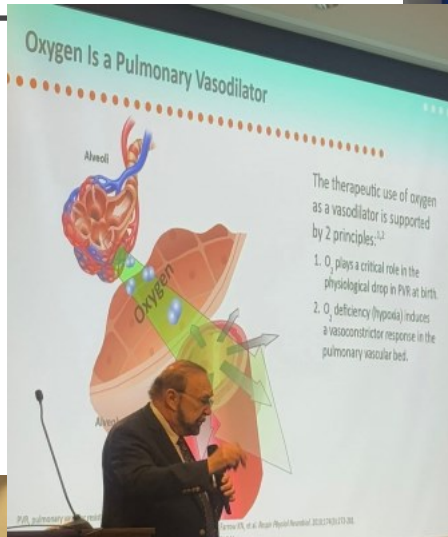
We're grateful to those who represented Alabama this year!



Capital City Success: Highlights from the Montgomery Mini-Conference

The ASRC Montgomery Mini-Conference, held in June, was a fantastic success! Respiratory therapists from across the region came together for a day of continuing education, networking, and professional development. Attendees earned CEUs, heard from engaging speakers, and connected with peers from a variety of clinical settings.

We're grateful to our presenters, vendors, and volunteers who made this event possible. Thank you to everyone who attended—we look forward to seeing you again next year!



Upcoming Alabama Asthma Coalition Summit

The Alabama Asthma Coalition invites you to attend the 2025 Alabama Asthma Summit, a collaborative event focused on improving asthma care and education across our state.

- Date: Friday, September 12
- Time: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Location: Margaret Cameron Spain Auditorium (West Pavilion) 620 19th St. S, Birmingham, AL 35294
- CEU's available for RTs as well as other health professions!

This annual gathering brings together professionals in healthcare, education,

and public health to share insight, tools, and innovative strategies. This year's agenda highlights include:

- Advancing Health Equity in Asthma Care
- Camps and Community Education Initiatives
- Implementing Stock Albuterol Programs in Schools
- Addressing Air Quality at the Local Level
- Expanding Access through Telehealth
- Remote Therapeutic Monitoring

Use this QR code to register or go to:



[tps://auburn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_41PZVcgaej2hdae](https://auburn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_41PZVcgaej2hdae)

Don't miss this chance to engage with leaders, gain actionable knowledge, and contribute to meaningful asthma advocacy in Alabama.



Faculty and Student Update



Correction to our previous issue:

****Congratulations to the Jefferson State Community College December 2024 graduating class! They have all passed the TMC exam!**** JSCC will start a new cohort in the Fall semester.

Congratulations to the Calhoun Community College educationals! They have gained provisional accreditation and will be welcoming their first cohort Fall 2025.



Wallace State Community College respiratory therapy students (pictured here) recently donated \$1,500 worth of school supplies to local schools. Thank you all for your generosity and giving spirit!

WSCC students are also wrapping up ventilator lab and getting ready to take on their end-of-summer escape room challenge next week. Good luck to everyone!

And a big congratulations to the most recent graduating class, who achieved an impressive 96% pass rate on the TMC exam! Way to go, WSCC grads!



Top: The Shelton State Community College Association for Respiratory Care Students (SSARCS) participated in the Tuscaloosa Cystic Fibrosis Foundation "Great Strides Walk" on April 26, 2025.

Bottom: The SSCC RPT Program Staff honored Makayla Ragland with the RPT Program 'Star Achiever Award' for her superior performance in the clinical setting during the spring 2025 semester



ASRC Board Member Highlight: Alisha McGuire, BS, RRT

What started your path to Respiratory Therapy?

I love to help people and always knew I wanted to have a career in the healthcare field. Initially, I wanted to major in Physical Therapy. When I applied to UAB, the PT profession shifted to a Master's or Doctorate degree. After trying to decide on another career, I remembered when I was younger, my cousin had real bad asthma and I would help give him breathing treatments, so I chose Respiratory Therapy, and it has worked out great! What is your favorite thing about your career?

Shortly after graduating RT school, I became a lab TA part-time. It was rewarding seeing students excel in their careers and having them reach out later in life and joke about their checkoffs. I would always ask them "are you sure". This career has created lasting bonds and friendships.

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

My grandfather! Before his passing, he had a tracheostomy. I had only been a RT

for a few years, and it was an honor to help aid in his care. During his hospitalization, it was made known, I was his granddaughter "The Respiratory Therapist".

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

I have had the opportunity to network with numerous RTs across the state. If anyone has a question regarding respiratory, you can always call or send an email to someone, and they will gladly help. The last couple of years, I have enjoyed volunteering at the Alabama HOSA Leadership conference in Montgomery. The RT booth is always the fun booth and it's a great opportunity to introduce/educate students on what Respiratory Therapist do on a day-to-day basis.

Who is your hero?

My parents! All the many life lessons, words of wisdom/encouragement, advice, and sacrifices made. I cannot thank them enough for their guidance and support in life.



ASRC BOARD MEMBER

This Quarter we are highlighting Alisha McGuire, who is a Central District Representative. We hope you enjoy getting to know your representatives !

CEU Opportunities!

September 17th

- Birmingham Mini Conference
- UAB St. Vincent's East Campus
- Registration soon on the ASRC website!

October Tuesday Talks

- Info & Registration soon on the ASRC website!

Time to Renew Your License!

A quick reminder that all Alabama RTs need to renew their licenses by October 31. Be sure your CEUs are up to date and entered into CE Broker. Remember, that's what the state board now uses to verify you're eligible to renew.

Need a few more hours? The ASRC has you covered! Join us at the Birmingham Mini-Conference and the Alabama Asthma Coalition Summit, both happening in September. These are great opportunities

to connect, learn, and wrap up those last-minute CEUs.





President's Corner

As the current President of the Alabama Society for Respiratory Care (ASRC), I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued support of our profession and our mission.

The ASRC is proud to be a chartered affiliate of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), and we work every day to fulfill our commitment to Educate, Elevate, Advocate, and Advance respiratory care in Alabama. Our 20-member board, made up entirely of elected volunteers from across the state, represents all levels of care and all corners of Alabama. I'm proud to work alongside this passionate and diverse group of professionals.

This year has been a busy and exciting one for the ASRC, and I'd like to share some of the ways we're serving our members and promoting our profession:

Education & Professional Development

We've made it a priority to offer meaningful and accessible educational opportunities throughout the year. Our Annual Conference in Orange Beach each April continues to be a favorite for both CEUs and connection. We host mini-conferences in Montgomery (June), Huntsville (August), and Birmingham (September) to ensure therapists throughout the state can attend in-person events closer to home. Our Tuesday Talks virtual series brings expert speakers to you wherever you are. The Early Professionals Conference, rotating between Montgomery and Birmingham, helps prepare students and new graduates for a successful transition into the field.

Supporting Students & New Professionals

Our Early Professionals Committee is made up of student representatives from every accredited RT program in Alabama. Their energy and ideas have been a huge asset to the society, and we're thrilled to see the next generation of therapists stepping into leadership roles early.

Representation & Advocacy

Alabama has a strong voice at the national level through our two House of Delegates (HOD) representatives, who serve as a direct link to the AARC. We also have three active Political Action Committee (PAC) members who advocate tirelessly for our profession and for the patients we serve, both in Montgomery and in Washington, D.C.

Promoting Our Profession

One of our exciting ongoing efforts is the creation of a Respiratory Therapy specialty car tag for Alabama. This initiative not only increases public awareness of our role in healthcare but also raises funds to support student scholarships and outreach efforts. We hope to see those tags on vehicles across the state soon!

Giving Back

The ASRC believes in supporting our colleagues both at home and abroad. This year, we proudly contributed:

- \$1,000 to the AARC Disaster Relief Fund
- \$250 to the International Fellowship
- \$250 in honor of Bill Bitzel at the Summer Forum House of Delegates meeting

These donations reflect our ongoing commitment to strengthening the respiratory care community locally, nationally, and internationally.

It's truly an honor to serve as your President. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together and excited about what's ahead. Whether you're a student just starting out or a seasoned therapist with decades of experience, there's a place for you in the ASRC. I encourage you to get involved by attending a conference, joining a committee, or reaching out with your ideas.

Thank you,
Robert

Robert B Johnson, MS, RRT
Sr. Director Respiratory Services, Bronch, PFT
UAB Hospital, NP B540F
619 19th St South, Birmingham, AL 35249-6870
Off 205-934-2431, Cell 205-396-9089
President Alabama Society Respiratory Care



*Have ideas to improve
the newsletter or
something you'd like to
share? Email us at
alsrcinfo@gmail.com*

Thank you to our 2024 Sponsors!



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta

Medtronic



REACTHEALTH



Children's
of Alabama®

Dräger



Aerogen®

Fisher & Paykel
HEALTHCARE