



# The Imagist



**NYSSRS President  
Joseph Whitton RT**

## President's Message

By Joseph Whitton, R.T.(R)(CT)(MR)

Greetings friends and colleagues,

I hope that this message finds you in the midst of a great summer and that you have found time to enjoy some relaxation or have taken on some fun and exciting adventures. We surely have earned it after the busy year that we have just put in!

Since our last issue we have been very busy in our lobbying efforts on legislation affecting our profession. Locally, we have been meeting with our friends in the Department of Health and the legislators in Albany to push forward changes to update Article 35 of the NYS Health Code that governs our license and scope of practice so that it could be updated to better reflect the current standards of practice. Unfortunately, this effort was once again not successful. However, we did go farther and gained more support than ever before. Please read the Bill Brennan's account of this adventure later in this issue. We also were once again very involved with promoting federal legislation in Washington, DC that will establish minimal standards of education and experience throughout the country for medical

imaging and radiation therapy professionals. We have continued to work with ASRT in lobbying for passage of the CARE bill in the House of Representatives and the Rad-CARE bill in the US Senate. These efforts have secured more co-sponsors and we are hopeful that it will gain enough momentum for passage during this Congress.

In June, the NYSSRS was once again well represented at the ASRT Annual Conference that was held this year in Dallas, Texas. Your delegates worked tirelessly throughout the conference to represent your interests in making the decisions that affect the policies and standards that are most important to our profession. Your delegates made these decisions based upon the discussions between the membership and your Board of Directors, and the consensus of opinions that I heard at our last annual meeting. The ASRT House of Delegates had the daunting task of either accepting, rejecting or amending proposed bylaws changes that could drastically change the governance structure of the ASRT. The proposed restructuring plan would have dramatically reduced the number of RTs representing

the profession in the House of Delegates and diverted much of the decision-making to the ASRT Board of Directors. Armed with your input to us, to maintain as much RT representation as possible, your delegates did just that. We had extensive discussions with our colleagues from around the country and through a concerted effort of negotiation and compromise formed a coalition that forged amendments to the plan that maintained maximum RT representation and still streamlined the way in which the ASRT can conduct its business of representing us, the radiologic science professionals.

The experience was very exciting and we ultimately prevailed! I look forward to telling you all about it when we meet in Corning, NY for our annual conference on October 21-23, 2004. I hope that you will all plan to attend. Corning, NY is not only conveniently located, but the Finger Lakes region setting is spectacular. We will be presenting a very interesting and informative program of continuing education and fellowship, and once again asking you for your opinions on how to best direct our profession into the future! ♣

### Inside this issue:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Legislative Report      | 1 |
| District Society News   | 2 |
| Education Chapter       | 2 |
| Education & Scholarship | 3 |
|                         | 4 |
| 2004 Conference         | 6 |
|                         | 8 |



## District Society & Chapter News



- Capital District Society
- Central New York Society
- Mid-Hudson Society
- Mohawk Valley Society
- Nassau Suffolk Society
- Niagara Frontier Society
- Northern New York Society
- Rochester Society
- Southern Tier Society
- Finger Lakes Radiation
- Association of Educators in Radiologic Technology
- Rochester Mammography
- Association of Radiology Administrators & Supervisors

## The Demise of the Mid Hudson Society of RTs

By Ann T. Verschuuren, R.T.(R)(M)

Is lack of interest in serving your district society as an officer and leader, the reason our RT societies are letting their charters run out this year?

THE MHSRT is announcing its "hibernation", until further notice. This active and very popular local society officially stopped meeting in 2004, due to a lack of leadership. Those holding office have served the MHSRT for the past 6 or more years in every office possible, therefore exhausting their resources of speakers. Those helping the society to continue in its mission, enjoy working with the membership, but it is time to take a rest. Starting in 2002, solicitations were made to mentor those interested in running for office in 2003, but sadly there were no takers. In addition, there were no nominations for office at the last

election.

The last meeting of the MHSRT was held at the Ramada Inn, Newburg NY on the topic of FUSION IMAGING (Nuclear Medicine meets CT). Turnouts for the meeting have always been good over the years, and the society saw a lot of support from its members. But times are changing and more RTs seem to be earning their credits via directed readings through ASRT. MHSRT members who were loyal till the end, understand the camaraderie that came with this type of educational experience. Professionals discussing issues amongst themselves can not be replaced by the efficient RECEEM machine.

The MHSRT banking is currently still being done at THE BANK OF NEW YORK.  
Ann T. Verschuuren

(Treasurer) was directed by the membership to open a CD with the final budgetary amount (approx \$500.00). This CD will remain in "roll-over mode" until someone wants to start up the MHSRT again. Also, all MHSRT business has been transferred onto read-write computer CDs, and the existing hard copy work is being stored in the attic of the treasurer. Any interested parties who wish to start up the MHSRT again can contact Ms. Verschuuren by e-mail at "averschu@sunnyorange.edu".

Special thanks to all the Mid-Hudson RTs who have worked so hard for this society in the past, and to those who have made their efforts worth while by attending as loyal members. YOU WILL BE MISSED MHSRT! ♣

## Rochester Society of Radiologic Technologists

By Cynthia Smith, RT(R)

The Rochester Society's goals for the 2003-2004 calendar year were to focus on three areas: upskilling through education, promoting the professionalism of the radiographic imaging sciences, and fundraising. A wide variety of speakers presented topics such as Kyphoplasty: Balloons for Bones; Caring for Chronic and Terminally Ill Patients Through the Eyes of a Cancer Survivor and Radiology Nurse; Imaging Fusion Between Radiation Therapy, Oncology, and Diagnostic Imaging Examinations; Lithotripsy; Mercy Flight; and

Radiation Protection were just a few highlights of the quality education seminars that the Society provided for its members. Workshops on resume writing, diversity in the workplace, and defibrillator training were also well attended.

Fundraisers at Pizzaria Uno, a local bowling alley, and the contributions from many sponsors helped make this year a successful one for the RSRT. Food was in great supply, some baked with love by our Executive Board! Door prizes, networking with fellow colleagues, political discussions

at the local level...all things sitting home and reading a magazine can't possibly supply!

Many issues loom on the horizon that will impact our professional lives and livelihood such as limited licensure, the CARE Act, the NY Nurse's rebuttal to Article 35. Special mailings informing were distributed to our members with discussion ensuing at our local meetings. RSRT members were encouraged to rise up and speak up by contacting their representatives in Albany and Washington! ♣



## 2003 NYSSRS Education and Scholarship Report

It was another exciting year of competition between radiography schools across the state! After scrutinizing 26 essays, the judges concluded that Lisa Skinger from Orange County Community College would be awarded 1st prize! The subject of Ms. Skinger's research paper was *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome*. Ms. Skinger presented her paper with strong conviction, informing the audience of the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption during pregnancy. MRI and PET imaging were featured as follow-up radiologic examinations that verified FAS in correlation with fetal disfigurement.

Second place was awarded to Mr. Bill Rhodes from Northport VA MC for his insights on *Influenza, Could It Happen Again?* and Third place was granted to

Mr. James Fromm, Monroe Community College on the *Management of the PACS System*. Each winner was presented with cash and prizes for their hard work! Congratulations to all three award winners!

Nine schools participated in the Student Bowl: Broome County Community College, Mercy Medical Center, Monroe Community College, Northport VAMC, N.Y. Methodist Hospital Bartone School, Orange County Community College, St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center, Westchester Community College, and Winthrop University Medical Center. St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center won the 1st place trophy for the 2003 Student Bowl, followed by Broome County in second place. Third place was awarded to Orange County Community College. Con-

gratulations to all the students and coaches that made this year's Student Bowl so exciting!

Special thanks to the Education and Scholarship committee who performs this labor of love every year including Linda Condon, Eileen Doyle, Steve Herrmann, F. James San Angelo, Bill Smith, our technical consultant, Gerry Smith and Joe Whitton. The Education and Scholarship Committee also recognizes the many NYSSRS members who contribute financially above and beyond their membership dollars to underwrite these student events!

Plans are underway for the launching of the 2004 Student Competitions. Watch your mailboxes in April for the list of events this year! ♣



**Education and Scholarship**  
by  
**Committee Chair**  
**Cindy Smith, RT(R)**



Catholic Medical Center



Broome Community College



Orange County Comm College

## Education Chapter (AERT)

The 38th annual conference of the Association of Educators in Radiologic Tech-

nology of the State of New York was held April 28-30 in Lake George. For more infor-

mation on activities and events check out our website at [www.aert.org](http://www.aert.org). ♣



**Build a strong foundation through your chapter and district society.**



**William Brennan Jr., RT  
President Elect**



**“What was the reason for the demise of Article 35’, you ask? Two words suffice as an answer, apathy and money. Although we number over 16,000 in New York we were for the most part, silent.” says President-elect Brennan**

## The Demise of Article 35

### By William Brennan Jr. R.T.(R)(CT)

Many of you have been following the progress of Assembly Bill 1524-B which would update Article 35 of the public health law which has to do with the licensing of radiologic technologists. At professional meetings throughout the state this bill has been on the agenda for discussion. You have heard of the valiant efforts of your NYSSRS president, Joseph Whitton, who has traveled to Albany many times in the past two years to meet with legislators on your behalf. You have heard and read of the New York State Nurses Association’s memorandum of opposition which claimed that radiologic technologists were educated mainly in the use of their machines but were not health care providers. You listened to the entreaties to call or write your legislators. Well, this is the last update you will receive for a long time.

On June 22, 2004, the new Article 35 went down in defeat. The bill had made it

through the committees on Health and on Codes but never made it to the Assembly Floor. To make matters worse, the companion bill in the Senate (4016) was also shot down. This was especially painful because it had passed the Senate last year.

“What was the reason for the demise of Article 35”, you ask? Two words suffice as an answer, apathy and money. Despite the numerous requests for support, legislators just did not hear from enough RTs to overcome the protests from the nurses. Although we number over 16,000 in New York we were for the most part, silent. NYSNA, on the other hand, has professional lobbyists and lawyers who are paid to look after the interests of their members. NYSNA is also part of the AFL/CIO and therefore carries the clout of organized labor. Because only 600 RTs belong to the NYSSRS, we have no such war chest and therefore must rely on volunteers to carry our standard.

Unfortunately, it is a simple fact that it costs money to have a political voice.

If there is a silver lining to be found in this travesty it is the fact that the Radiologists stood by our side during the battle. The New York State Radiological Society pushed very hard for the bill and countered many of NYSNA’s specious arguments with cold, hard medical facts. For this, we owe them a debt of thanks.

There is one last call for help that must be made. Tell your fellow technologists of this defeat. Some may even be glad of it. However, the next political battle may be for your very license and livelihood. One thing has been proven beyond a shadow of a doubt, numbers speak to politicians. If we as a profession don’t stand together we will surely fall separately. Get an RT to join this state society, get involved. The consequences of inaction could be dire indeed! ♣



**Your representatives at work for you in Albany**

## Annual Membership New and Renewed

Membership runs May 1st through April 30. Annual dues are only \$25 with a special reduced rate for students of only \$10. Many members have already renewed. For those of you who are procrasti-

nators, watch your mail for our yellow renewal forms.

If you have never been a member and wish to join, go to our web site [www.nyssrs.org](http://www.nyssrs.org). Fill out the membership application and

mail to Eileen Doyle, NYSSRS Treasurer, 5224 Lake Road, Williamson, NY 14589.

Do it today. You will be glad you did. ♣





**Deidre Costic, R.T.(R)(M),  
William Brennan, Jr., R.T.(R)(CT)  
Honorable Timothy Bishop, 1st District  
Paulette Peterson, R.T.(R)(M)(QM)**

## New York Delegation Lobbies for CARE Act

By William Brennan Jr. R.T.(R)(CT)

On March 9, 2004, three members of the NYSSRS joined over 100 other radiographers and nuclear medicine technologists in Washington, D.C. as part of the ASRT sponsored "RT in DC" event. The ASRT has been pushing for passage of the Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence bill which would set federal minimum standards of education and certification for person-

nel who deliver radiation therapy and perform all types of medical imaging examinations, except sonography. Currently, people with no education or experience can be hired to perform radiologic examinations in 12 states.

The New York delegation visited the offices of Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton as well as several congressman and

congresswomen from all over New York State. The day ended on a high note when Congressman Tim Bishop from New York's 1<sup>st</sup> district on Long Island met with the delegation in-person and agreed on the spot, to cosponsor the legislation.

For more information on this important legislation visit the ASRT website <https://www.asrt.org/asrt.htm>. ♣



Your representatives at work for you in Washington DC.



**NYSSRS joined over 100 other radiographers and nuclear medicine technologists in Washington, D.C. as part of the ASRT sponsored**

## New York Delegates to the 2004 ASRT House of Delegates June 12 -15

Joseph Whitton, RT(R)(CT)(MR) of Mt Siani, and Barbara Neumann, RT(R)(M)(CV) of Macedon, served as affiliate delegates from New York in the 2004 House of Delegates at the annual conference of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, June 12-15 in Dallas, Texas.

Walter Bayley ,RT(R)

(CIT) of Rochester served as Region 9 cardiovascular interventional delegate. William Brennan, RT(R)(CT) of Sound Beach represented Region 9 as Education chapter delegate. Paulette Peterson RT(R)(M)(QA) of North Tonawanda attended as Region 9 quality management delegate. Ann T. Verschuuren, RT(R)(M) of

Highland Lakes was the diligent Region 9 radiography delegate.

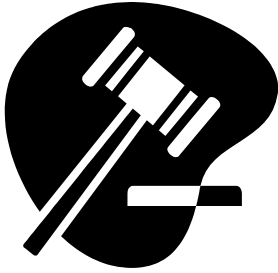
The 234 member House of Delegates is ASRT's governing body. Delegates meet annually to debate issues and set direction for the profession. For more information visit the ASRT website on-line at [www.asrt.org](http://www.asrt.org). ♣



Your representatives at work for you in ASRT House of Delegates.

## FDA Calling

By Robert Geiser, RT(R)(M)(QM)



**Advocacy** (ăd'və-kə-sē)  
n. active support

Since the ASRT began RT in DC they have gotten the attention of not only Congress but the FDA as well. This past July I received a call from Christine Lung. Christine, ASRT government relations director, explained that the FDA called the ASRT, asking for nominees to fill a seat open for the consumer representative with the Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Radiological Devices Panel of the Medical Devices Advisory Committee. The FDA wanted it filled by a technologist, and I was one of ASRT's nominees.

The nominating process had a few steps. First a curriculum vitae is sent to the

FDA. They contacted me by phone and discussed the position and the obligations such as time for training and travel to the Washington, D.C. area for meetings, as many as four a year. The appointment would be for four years.

On step two of the process, the FDA does not make the selection. In order to avoid any conflict of interest, the nominees are assigned to member of the Consumer Nominating Group (CNG) for review and a phone interview. Since the position is for a seat as the consumer representative the CNG reviews all nominees to all advisory committees in DC.

Moving along to step

three, the CNG makes their recommendations in order of preference. The FDA can go along with the order of choice or make another choice. This whole process took from July till January to complete.

Christine Lung said the FDA had a tough decision because all the ASRT nominees were strong candidates. While I did not get the position, Christine said another FDA panel position is coming up, and ASRT would like to submit my name again.

This was a great experience, and I thought I would share it with my fellow technologists. ♣

### The NYSSRS 2004

Annual Meeting will be held October 22-23, in beautiful Corning, NY.

## Annual Conference to be Held in Corning, NY

By Paulette Peterson, RT(R)(M)(QM)

The annual conference of the New York State Society of Radiologic Sciences will be held at the Radisson Hotel in beautiful Corning, New York. The dates are October 22 and 23. The program will be submitted for the approval of 12 credit hours.

Corning is about a picturesque four hour drive from the greater New York City area, three hours from the Albany area and two and a half hours from the Niagara Frontier. The Radisson Hotel is located in the Market Street district which is made up of antique shops, gift shops, and restaurants. The Norman

Rockwell Museum and the Corning Glass Museum are each located within a block or two from the hotel. Autumn is a beautiful time to see the state. Corning is not far from Watkins Glen and the Finger Lakes wine trail.

Registration fees for the full conference will be \$160.00 for members, \$190.00 for non-members and \$75.00 for students. This rate has not increased over last year's prices. On site fees will be \$205.00 for members, \$220.00 for non-members, and \$85.00 for students. One day registration will be \$120.00 for members, non-members \$140.00 and stu-

dents \$45.00. There is a \$25.00 fee for any returned checks.

Hotel room rates are \$85.00 per night plus tax and tip. Reservations with the hotel should be made by individual attendees.

The theme night for this year's president reception will be Disco Daze! Come prepared to shake your body.

Watch for annual conference information with the summer edition of the *Imagist* or visit our website for more information at [www.nyssrs.org](http://www.nyssrs.org). We hope to see you there! ♣



**Disco Daze is the theme of the 2004 NYSSRS**

## Passing of a Great Lady

Bernice L. Walker left this earthly place into God's loving care on September 6, 2003. Bernice served as president of our society in 1965. Beyond her love and dedication to her profession, Bernice was a remarkable woman.

During World War II she enlisted in the WAACS and served in the Pentagon as secretary to General Marshall. After

completing active duty she remained in the Army Reserve with the 338th General Hospital for twenty-five years. She retired as a Chief Warrant Officer. During that time she earned a BS degree in Roentgenology from the University of Buffalo and held a position with the Erie County Health Department as Chief Roentgenologist.

Bernice was a pioneer

in the Women's Rights movement. She was active in the American Legion women's post in Eric County and was commander several times.

Since forwarding this information to the ASRT, they have contacted Bernice's relatives and are planning to do a profile in the *Scanner* magazine.

Bernice...you will be missed. ♣



**NYSSRS salutes past president and long time member Bernice L. Walker**

## Are Districts Societies Going, Going, Gone

By Eileen M. Doyle, R.T.(R)

In the infamous lyrics of Joni Mitchell, "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone? They paved paradise and put up a parking lot."

Mid Hudson Society of Radiologic Technologist is calling a hiatus to meetings. Southern Tier, Mohawk Valley and Northern District societies did not renew their charters last year. What is going on?

Is it lack of new blood in the leadership arena at the local level? Are new RTs unwilling to step forward and

participate as an officer or committee member. Or is it the fact that our national professional society seems to be developing a monopoly on continuing education activities. Did the reduction in cost of continuing education credit from \$10 per hour to \$7.50 per hour cut out the small guy, our district societies. Is it easier to join the national society for \$95 per year and complete directed readings in a professional journal, than it is to join a district society for one-third of that cost and attend educational presentations lo-

cally?

We must look within ourselves and consider doing our part to support the mission of our local societies. RTs benefit from the activities of district societies as a source of continuing education. We must make a commitment to help sustain our resources through our time, talent and treasure. Volunteer, it will moves us down the road to a healthy and strong network of professional resources that are close at hand and highlight our local talent.

**Doyle says..."RTs benefit from the activities of district societies as a source of continuing education.**

## Contact Your Elected Representatives

President Joseph Whitton—joseph.whitton@chsli.org

President Elect William Brennan—william.brennan@chsli.org

1st Vice President Barbara Neumann—barbara.neumann@viahealth.org

2nd Vice President Diedre Costic—radprof@hvc.rr.com

Treasurer Eileen Doyle—edoyle@monroecc.edu

Secretary Ann T. Verschuuren—averschu@sunnyorange.edu

Director Anthony DeVito—devito2@juno.com

Immediate Past President Paulette Peterson—ppeterson@monroecc.edu

Nominating Chair Linda Condon—LJCondon1018@aol.com



**Please send us your comments and ideas.**

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## The Imagist

WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[WWW.NYSSRS.ORG](http://WWW.NYSSRS.ORG)

## To Be a Lobbyist

by Paulette Peterson, RT(R)(M)(QM)

Having recently traveled to Capital Hill with the RT in DC event sponsored by the ASRT it struck me what lucky people we are. When using the mainstream print and broadcast media as a source of information as to the state of all things American one becomes seriously cynical about the democratic system. Visiting "The Hill" is a marvelous opportunity to see how things really work in this country.

Thousands of people can be found on Capital Hill every day. Many are tourists but the vast majority, thousands of people, are *lobbyists*. Lobbyists are painted with an extremely negative brush by the media. One has the impression that lobbyists run around giving cash away to get what they want. This is true to some extent.

Every organization that wants something from Congress has organized lobbying efforts called Political Action Committee's (PACS) that indeed support politicians who can deliver the interests of the group. However, there are much stronger lobbyists out there; they are the ones elected officials are truly interested in, us. People from all walks of life go to Capital Hill to meet with their elected officials. More often than not the actual meeting is with a staff member, but they listen attentively and take notes while you make your case. Their job is then to take the information that you provide to their elected officials.

What is so striking is the way all these people walk freely all around the hill. It points out exactly what makes

our system of government so special. You want an appointment with your elected official, you call to set it up and then you go to their office to make your case. It is really just that simple. One other striking aspect is the attitude the elected officials or their staffers have towards their constituents. They understand that their role is to serve us and they are happy to hear from us. They are always interested in what we think even though they may not always do what we want.

Washington is the seat of our government, a palpable power city, yet no matter what side you are on you cannot help but feel that you are truly a part of that power when you are there to be a lobbyist.



Peterson says, ... "Visiting "The Hill" is a marvelous opportunity to see how things really work in this country."