



# The Imagist

## Presidents Message: Things change, but the message is still the same



**NYSSRS President  
Kenneth Martinucci, M.S., RT(R)**



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My time as President of the NYSSRS is coming to a close. By the time the 2012 conferences ends (on this Saturday, November 3rd), I will assume the Immediate Past President position on the board, and David Finaldi will be at the helm for the next two years.

I compare this experience similar to completing a marathon (which I have done successfully six times in my life), an accomplishment that makes you stronger, and gives your life experience an accomplishment. An accomplishment that not everyone can do, unless you are willing to work, prepare, and commit to.

When I became president in 2010, I quickly chose what areas I would focus on, and I made those my main goals. I still feel these are still focus points two years later, and that main goal include the state of our society's membership. We need to continue to take steps to grow membership so that our professional state society can survive. In order to do this, members need to step up, and get more involved in volunteering their time, taking on tasks, and running for board positions. This, along with adding radiologic technologists to our membership list is what needs to be done.

At our conference last year (2011), I shared some statistics that showed that the average age of board members has grown ten years

of age over the last ten years. This tells us that young members are not getting involved and more so that young radiologic technologists are not joining our state society.

We need to continue spreading the word that this society may be your only "voice of support" when you have something to say about your profession. We must keep it vibrant and active. If you are reading this, and you find yourself a member that is not involved, please reach out to a board member of your choice (I volunteer to talk to you) and ask how you can help. We are looking for a few good men and women.

Despite some obstacles, I did my best as President of this society over the past two years. I was able to accomplish a number of tasks, and represented our society at the following events:

\*March 7-9: Lectured at the NYSSRT on Professionalism

\*March 25-27: attended and participated at RT in DC

\*April 18-21: attended the AERT conference

\*April 24: attended and spoke at the Rochester State Society meeting

\*May 17: attended and spoke at the Capitol District Society meeting

\*June 28-30: attended as NYS Affiliate Delegate at ASRT Conference

Attending all of these events helped me to grow

and made me proud to represent my great state of New York. I had especially enjoyed attending and speaking at the meetings of our affiliate subordinates, hearing how great it was that I attended, and how they hadn't seen representation at their meetings in a long time.

What I think is important to let everyone know is that I learned an incredible amount of things in the four years as the President-Elect and President of the NYSSRS. Probably the most important is how vital it is to represent your profession, and to represent it well.

To clarify, prior to my being President-elect, I don't think I truly understood the importance and responsibility of being a board member of the NYSSRS. I do know now, and have known for the past four years, and I will always give everything I have to my profession, in the best way I know how. In addition, I would like to thank every one of you that helped me get to this point, because it has fulfilled my life.

I would also like to remind you that November 4th – 10th is National Radiologic Technology Week. Tell a friend, a colleague, tell anyone you would like that you are a Radiologic Technologist, that this is our week, and we are proud of what we do!

## NYSSRS Annual Conference to honor J. Habenicht

JoAnn Habenicht will present the President's Lecture at the annual conference in Corning on Saturday, November 3rd. JoAnn is a long-time member of the NYSSRS, and has announced her retirement from the field of Radiologic Science, effective December, 2013. She is presently the Program Coordinator of the Radiation Therapy Program at Manhattan College in Riverdale, NY, and has been there since 1997. Prior to that, she was the Program Director of the Radiation Therapy School at Methodist Hospital (Brooklyn, NY), from 1990 to 1997. We wish JoAnne the best luck on a well-earned retirement!



### DEFENDING OUR PROFESSION

Do you get an ache in your stomach when you hear our fellow professionals referred to as X-ray Technicians? It has gotten to that point for me where I just cannot help myself. I must comment when I hear it. In fact, it even bothers me to have this mistitle stated in this article. For the most part, when I feel the need to address this, I tend to keep it respectful, as if I were addressing a point that needs clarification. I do this because I find that the person involved at that moment will listen to me when I speak. This happened recently driving in on my way to work. I was listening to 1010 WINS news when they reported that Peninsula General Hospital in the Rockaways (NY) was in danger of closing. After stating the facts, the reporter took a comment from a worker, an

X-Ray technician, that works at the hospital. After parking my car, I preceded to go to my office and look up a contact number for the radio station.

I identified a name of someone in media relations, and typed the person an informed e-mail, listing the incorrect title used by his reporter, the correct term "technologist", and just a little information about our history. The correspondence went like this:

#### My letter to 1010 WINS:

Dear Mr. Ben Mevorach at 1010 WINS,

I was driving into work this morning and heard your station's report of the financial troubles of Peninsula General Hospital. In fact, you played a clip of a Kevin Harnisher (not sure of the spelling of his last name).

You identified him as an "x-ray technician". At best, this is a very outdated term, but it is definitely an incorrect one.

Radiologic Technologists in New York State, are licensed, certified professionals. Although all states do not have this level of education, most do. Those of us that are Radiologic Technologists like myself, (and my society co-members) cringe when we hear our profession identified like

### To Join or Not to Join By Bill Brennan

When I was a young boy and had to make an important decision I would always ask my Mom, "what should I do?" Like most good parents she would not let me take the easy way out. Instead she taught me a very useful tool that has served me well my entire life. She told me to draw a line down the center of a piece of paper and make two lists. On one side of the paper place all the reasons for a given argument and on the other side all the reasons against. So, using this tool lets make a list of reasons not to join your state society and then a list for doing so.

Reasons not to join the NYSSRS.

\*\$40.00 is a lot of money.

\*I get all the CE credits I need online.

\*If I really want to go to a conference I can.

\*Nobody really cares what I think about the direction the profession is taking.

\*If I need a job I can find one online or in the newspapers.

\*I have a license to practice so I am protected.

Reasons to join the NYSSRS.

You would spend \$40.00 or more for a single meal out. For this same \$40.00 you get a full

year of membership.

Although you might get CE credits online you cannot ask questions of the instructor in a live forum nor have the physical interaction with fellow students that you get at a NYSSRS conference.

If you want to go to a NYSSRS conference you can register at a substantially reduced rate that will more than pay for your annual dues.

The NYSSRS is the only recognized NY affiliate of the ASRT. As such, your thoughts and concerns regarding the profession are brought by the NY delegates to the national level at the ASRT House of Delegates each June. This is where decisions regarding the direction of the profession are made.

Times are tough and jobs are scarce. Although the Internet has made finding a job more convenient, a recent article in Forbes magazine

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/susanadams/2011/06/07/networking-is-still-the-best-way-to-find-a-job-survey-says/> shows that networking is still the best way to find a job. If you attend a NYSSRS conference you will have the opportunity to

meet managers from all over the state that might just be looking for a person with your skill set.

Although NY state has a strong licensure law it is not impregnable to the whims of political pressure that are being brought to bear by other health care professionals that feel they should be permitted to administer ionizing radiation. Several professionals such as chiropractors and podiatric assistants have already been successful in these efforts. The only way to prevent intrusion into our domain is to have a strong voice in Albany. The NYSSRS is that voice but only has the power of its membership numbers. Right now less than 3% of the licensed technologists in NY are members of the NYSSRS. Help us help you by encouraging your fellow technologists to join.

I am no longer a little boy but a grown man with a family to support and a profession that I want to continue to be proud of. The best way to protect my livelihood and direct the future of radiologic technology in NY State is to remain a member of the NYSSRS.

The Yeahs have it!

this. Sincerely,

Professor Kenneth Martinucci, President, New York State Society of Radiologic Sciences, Inc.

#### HIS RESPONSE:

Dear Professor Martinucci,

Thank you for listening to the station and for taking the time to write us to share your concern.

I can assure you that our goal in the newsroom is to provide the most relevant accurate information to our audience in every story we cover. In the process of covering the news we rely on many audio and video sources that are available to us, as was the case in our coverage of the financial trouble at Peninsula General Hospital.

Our source identified the individual as an X-Ray technician and we in turn relayed that information. This in no way is a justification of our failure to verify the title of the individual but instead will serve as a reminder to double check all of the information that we receive in the newsroom.

We will be sure to let the newsroom know about the oversight and will do our best to prevent it from happening in the future. Again thank you for the email and please feel free to reach out to us again with any future concerns. Yours truly, Ivan Lee, 1010 News.





# John E. (Jack) Cullinan: Radiographer, Educator, Author, Mentor

## By Eileen Doyle

Jack Cullinan, born October 17, 1930 in Hazleton Pennsylvania, passed away April 22, 2012 in Rochester, NY. Well known nationally and internationally as an energized and inspiring lecturer and author, Jack was able to get at the grassroots of technology and help others do so also. He shared his knowledge by authoring or co-authoring several publications including the Illustrated Guide to X-ray Technicians.

Jack graduated from Hazleton State Hospital School of Radiologic Technology as a registered technologist in 1952. Jack met his wife, Angie, at a meeting sponsored by District 7 of the Pennsylvania Society of X-

ray Technicians. They married October 3, 1953 and moved to Philadelphia when Jack was sent to the U.S. Naval Hospital by the Naval Reserves in 1955. He served as a radiographer in the United States Navy for two years, then took the position of chief technologist and administrative assistant at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. Jack moved Angie and their four daughters to Rochester in 1974, when he joined the Eastman Kodak Company Health Sciences Division as Clinical & Technical Support Director until his retirement in 1991.

Jack was elevated to ASRT Fellow in 1968 and sponsored Angie's elevation to ASRT Fellow in 1979. At

the ASRT annual meeting in June 1996, Jack and Angie joined three other distinguished technologists in being honored with life membership in the ASRT, a prestige held by only seven other life members before June 1996. Jack and Angie were honored with life membership by the NYSSRS at the annual meeting in October 1996. More information on the life accomplishments of Jack Cullinan may be found in The Shadowmakers A History of Radiologic Technology published by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists in 1995. The section in the chapter entitled A New Generation of Giants dedicated to "Mr. and Mrs. X-ray" can be found on pages 106-109.



**Students that compete in our essay, poster, and bowl contests are all winners all the way!**

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE  
NYSSRS.ORG**

**For anything you might need about our society, check out our website. From Who's who to current events! And, you can hit it as much as you want, and you won't hurt it!**

**Its great to tell other technologists about it, especially that you can join on line!!**



PHOTOS: (on left) J. Whitton & K. Martinucci with NY Congressman Peter King. RT in DC, March, 2012

On Right: (top L-R) K. Martinucci, S. Herrmann, B. Brennan, D. Finaldi, E. Lobel, J. Whitton. (bottom L-R) P. Peterson, M. Short, and A. Verschuuren ASRT Conference, June, 2012



NYSSRS President Ken Martinucci addressing the Rochester Society of Radiologic Technologists in



President Martinucci & NYSSRS Treasurer Joe Whitton with Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy at RT in DC

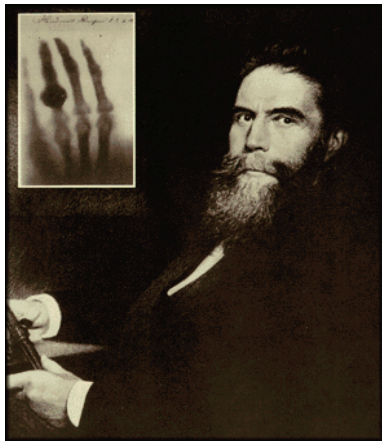


ASRT VP & NYSSRS Web Master Bill Brennan with ASRT CEO Dr. Sal Martino in Las Vegas, NV



# TUNGSTEN A K A **W**

By Professor Eric Lobel, Secretary, NYSSRS



If we think back to our studies as aspiring x-ray technologists the foremost element we learned about was tungsten. Tungsten we were told, and its still true today makes up the majority of the x-ray tube found in both the filament and anode comprising both ends of the so-called diode.

Tungsten pre-dates the discovery of x-rays by over 100 years and was discovered by two Spanish siblings, Juan Jose and Fausto Elhuyar.

While taking samples of the mineral wolframite ((Fe, Mn) WO<sub>4</sub>) the chemists discovered that tungsten ore could be isolated from the other elements within the mineral by treating it with alkalis and then heating it with carbon or hydrogen gas.

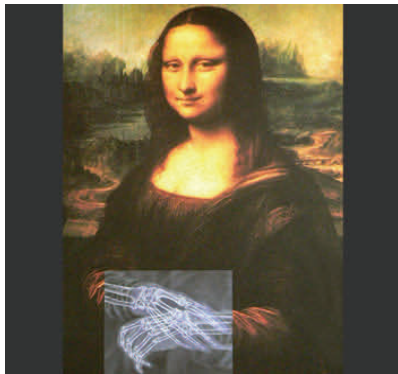
Ultimately the process would yield 'W', the chemical symbol for tungsten named from the Germanic mineral wolframite. The common name Tungsten derives from the Swedish term for heavy stone. A block of tungsten is extraordinarily heavy; a piece about the size of the world almanac weighs over 80 pounds. In the form of tungsten carbonate it is the hardest metallic sub-

stance made by man and second only to diamonds. Tungsten was the element of choice for x-ray production for two main reasons. Firstly it's high atomic number (74) allows for more particle interactions and thus x-ray photons and secondly tungsten has the highest melting point of any known metal (6,192°F). The process of creating x-rays is really inefficient, yielding mostly heat, about 99.4 percent.

What many of us may not know about are the other uses of Tungsten. Tungsten is utilized in the military as an armor piercing ammunition, by sports enthusiasts for tipped spikes inserted into snowmobiles, and even jewelry because of its resistance to scratching. Tungsten was first established as a strategic metal in World War I when it was utilized to cut steel quickly and efficiently. At the beginning of the war military experts believed that the German ammunition supply would be exhausted in six months. The contrary occurred and munitions outputs surpassed that of the

allies. It was soon discovered that an element once thought of as a nuisance, disturbing the extraction of tin and sold as a cheap waste product by the British would turn out to be the Germans secret weapon. In later years and during WWII the world price of tungsten would see exponential growth. According to a 2011 newsletter put out by the International Tungsten Industry Association ([www.itia.info](http://www.itia.info)) tungsten is utilized today mainly as a catalyst in the petrochemical industry. Since the 1930's tungsten was utilized by oil companies to speed up chemical reactions. And today it is most profitably used as a hydrocracker catalyst that can convert heavier crude to lighter more valuable products such as jet-fuel and kerosene.

I know the next time I make an exposure for one-tenth of a second I'll take a moment to reflect about the varied uses and history of this remarkable element. I hope you will too.



"Your x-ray showed a broken rib, but we fixed it with Photoshop."

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