



The Imagist



President's Message

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

Well, spring has arrived and as always, I find myself with a renewed sense of purpose and energy. What will this year bring to the practice of radiologic technology in New York State and the country as a whole? Well, let's talk about NY first.

In the last issue of this newsletter I informed all of you about the "Demise of Article 35". It seems that I was a bit premature because, in the words of the great Samuel Clemens, "rumors of (its) my demise have been greatly exaggerated." It seems that our bill A4882 has been re-submitted and is once again making its glacial move through the legislative process. Once again, I urge you to call your Albany legislators and push for passage of this bill which will update this woefully outdated document and make it more consistent with the scope of practice of radiologic technologists across the country.

To look at the Bill go to <http://public.leginfo.st.ny.us/menu.cgi>, click on "Bills and Laws" and type A4882 in the search field. Call your state Senator and Assemblyman. If you not sure who they are go to <http://www.senate.state.ny.us/> where you can look it up by your zip code. If you don't know who your assemblyman is go to <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/> where you can also look it up by zip code.

Now let's talk about the work your NYSSRS representatives have been doing on the national level. On April 11th and 12th no less than three past presidents of our society converged on Washington DC to lobby for passage of the CARE bill. As most of you know, this legislation would establish a requirement for federal minimum educational standards and certification for ra-

diologic technologists. Joe Whitton, Dominick DeMichele and Paulette Peterson all visited the offices of NY lawmakers to ask for their support.

Finally, let me put in a shameless plug for our annual conference. It is not too early to mark you calendars for October 21 & 22. This year we will meet at the brand new Conference Center in beautiful Niagara Falls. This state of the art facility has everything from ergonomically designed chairs in their dedicated learning centers to 60" plasma screen televisions for presentations, to all day snack breaks. This is definitely a step up from our usual hotel dining room facilities. The headquarters hotel will be the Holiday Inn Select right next door to the conference center and across the street is the new casino. So come join us for some education, camaraderie and fun. ♣

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Broken Dreams

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

What can the ASRT do to help its failing affiliates? That was the question that Allen Terrell, then president

of the ASRT asked affiliate leaders at the annual conference several years ago. The resounding answer was that the ASRT

should look at a way to combine its dues with those of its affiliates so that RT's could
(Continued page 2)



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 Northern New York Society

By Fay Ashline, R.T.(R)

The Northern New York Society of Radiologic Technologists has decided not to renew its charter for 2004-2005. A lack of participants and officers made this necessary. The Society covers a large geographic area which adds to the issues.

The money remain-

ing in the treasury was donated to the new York State Society of Radiologic Sciences. Members of the Northern New York district society hope that in the future new staff entering the education programs in the area will start it again.

Area technologists

are urged to step forward into a leadership role to revitalize this grassroots organization. For more information contact Fay Ashline at CVPH Medical Center in Plattsburg, NY or by email at fashline@cvph.org. ♣

Broken Dreams (Continued from page 1)

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

(continued from page 1)
pay one fee and belong to both their state and national affiliate. This seemed like a reasonable request and the ASRT agreed to look into ways in which this could be accomplished and proposed a combined dues pilot program. Affiliates were invited to apply for consideration to be part of the program and Paulette Peterson, president of NYSSRS did so.

A year later NYSSRS president, Joe Whitton was informed that NY had been selected, along with Connecticut and West Virginia to participate in this project. A meeting was held during the ASRT annual conference and the three affiliates were informed that the plan was to make it mandatory for all affiliate members to join the ASRT but that ASRT members that lived in the affiliate states were invited but not required to join their state society. The three affiliate presidents rejected this

plan and the ASRT went back to the drawing board.

That fall, the affiliates involved flew to the ASRT headquarters in Albuquerque to further discuss the project. It was decided that a compromise would involve a combined dues structure that would be voluntary for members of both the ASRT and the selected affiliate societies. NYSSRS members would be invited to join the ASRT and ASRT members living in NY would be invited to join the NYSSRS for one dues payment.

This past November, NYSSRS was informed that, *"after analyzing the data, the ASRT Board of Directors voted unanimously to not proceed with the combined dues pilot project. The project would place a severe financial burden on the ASRT and divert funds from important national-level programs such as the push for federal minimum standards."* The ASRT did however; give \$2500.00

to the NYSSRS to earmark toward increasing our membership.

As you can imagine, this comes as a great disappointment to the NYSSRS as we stood to greatly increase our membership under the original plan. Many members ask me, "Why don't you just send a mass mailing out to every technologist in NY?" What they fail to realize is that this would cost almost \$6000.00 and would decimate the NYSSRS treasury. There are thousands of New York RTs that belong to the ASRT but only about 500 belong to NYSSRS. The original combined dues project would have helped us get the word out.

The NYSSRS is grateful to the ASRT for the \$2500.00 and it will be used toward recruitment but it is a bitter pill to swallow after so many years of expectations and broken dreams. ♣

2004 NYSSRS Education and Scholarship Report

By Cynthia P. Smith, R.T.(R)

Congratulations to the 2004 Essay Contest winners! **Patty Coates** from Monroe Community College captured the first place award of an inscribed plaque and \$250. with her paper entitled 'Mammography Quality Standards Act and Its Implications'. The second place winner was **William Rhodes** from VA Northport School of Radiography with his paper entitled 'The Use of CT Scanners to Triage Abdominal Organ Trauma Prior to Attempting Transcatheter Embolization' and **Marabel VanBuren** from Orange County Community College

attended the conference and enlightened the membership from a reading from her third place award-winning paper entitled 'The Role of Radiography in Breast Care Screening'. A certificate and a monetary award were presented to Mr. Rhodes and Ms. VanBuren.

The Student Bowl competition was fierce, as always. The first place trophy was coveted by St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center, second place by Northport VA, and third place by Monroe Community College.

Special thanks to all the committee members who

worked tirelessly though the year to make both of our competitions exciting and unforgettable: Linda Condon, Bill Smith, Roxanne Moran, Lugene Ambrose, Joanne Habenicht, Joe Whitton, and our technical director, Gerry Smith.

After chairing this committee for four years, I am taking a breather! Dave Finaldi will be chairing this event. To reach him e-mail him at finaldi@frontiernet.net or (585) 867-8652. It has been my pleasure to serve the NYSSRS and the students of NY in this endeavor. ♣



**Education
and
Scholarship
by
Committee Chair
David Finaldi, RT(R)**

2005 Student Contests are Planned

By David Finaldi, R.T.(R)

The student writing competition is expected to draw many essays again this year. A letter was sent to program directors in early May with notification of the July 9th deadline along with an application form and contest rules. Contestants should send

4 copies of their manuscripts along with a membership application and \$10 membership fee to Chair David Finaldi.

A student bowl competition at the annual conference is planned. A letter of invitation will be sent to all radiography programs later

this summer. The contest format will be the same as last year.

For more information contact David Finaldi by email at

david.finaldi@viahealth.org or phone at 585-467-8652. ♣

New York Delegates to 2005 ASRT House of Delegates June 4-7

William Brennan, RT (R)(CT) of Sound Beach, and Barbara Neumann, RT(R)(M) (CV) of Macedon, will serve as affiliate delegates from New York in the 2005 House of Delegates at the annual conference of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, June 4-7 in Orlando Florida.

Walter Bayley ,RT (R)(CIT) of Rochester serves as Region 9 cardiovascular interventional delegate. Paulette Peterson RT(R)(M) (QA) of North Tonawanda represents Region 9 quality management delegate. Ann T. Verschuuren, RT(R)(M) of Highland Lakes will attend as

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. ♣



One of Our Own, Selected to Speak Internationally!

Ann T. Verschuuren, RT

"When asked what she thinks of this honor, Professor Verschuuren was quoted as saying, "I hope they have the right Ann Verschuuren"

In October 2004, Ann T. Verschuuren, M.Ed., R.T.(R)(M) of SUNY-Orange in Middletown NY was invited to join a small group of persons with a particular interest in the topic of "Successful Aging". Participants were selected "*for their potential to make significant contributions to the Round Table discussions*". Invitations are sent to selected persons through the world. The individuals selected are identified through several screening processes: by nomination of previous participants in the Round Table, from recommendations to the Round Table directors, from recognized presentations and awards of state and national organizations and by invitations to an individual in a successful organization, university or school district.

The 35 participant discussion will take place at St. Anne's College in the University of Oxford, Oxford England in August 2005. The foundation of the success of the round table is the assurance that this learning community is composed of outstanding leaders. The Oxford Round Table was established as a colloquium for small groups of academics, governmental and business leaders to engage in discussions that affect states & nations. Alumni of Round Tables include ministers of education, legislators, governors, corporate business leaders, university presidents, professors, lawyers, physicians & other professionals. The Oxford colleges with their beautiful medieval dining halls, chapels & libraries provide a most agreeable venue for relaxed exchange of ideas & opinions. Participants live in the college, dine in the old halls, & will at-

tend activities in the examination schools, the oxford union debating hall & the Bodleian Library. The topics of discussion for August's Round Table will focus on social consequences of aging, health promotion of older people, mental health in old age, cognitive changes with aging, sexuality & intimacy in old age, living arrangements & end-of-life care.

St. Anne's College is one of the 29 Colleges that make up the University of Oxford. The College, which was founded in 1528, occupies a pleasant site in leafy North Oxford, a short walk from the center of Oxford. St. Anne's College can trace its origins back to 1778 and the formation of the Association for the Education of Women in Oxford, later known as the Society of Oxford Home Students. Today, it is one of the largest of the Colleges & Halls which admit undergraduate and graduate students to read for degrees within the University of Oxford.

Professor Verschuuren submitted an abstract for the topic of "Health Promotions of Older People" in December 2004. Her paper examines the changes an older person experiences in the new millennium, and how those changes have affected the way managed longer term care is designed.

After reviewing her abstract, The Oxford Round Table Program Committee sent word that her paper would be a valuable contribution to the Round Table discussion, and she was accepted to present this paper as part of the week long activities. The Oxford Round Table, first

held in 1989, is an opportunity to discuss important policy questions over a five-day period in a collegial "think-tank" atmosphere. The papers presented during this discussion may be published, if they are determined to be such quality as to merit publication. The most recent book of the Round Table is entitled, "The University: International Expectations", published by the McGill-Queen's University Press, Ontario Canada.

The itinerary for this event includes presentation of papers followed by the round table discussion over several days. There are two formal banquets, sightseeing tours of the college, as well as Blenheim Palace, as part of the Round Table activities. Professor V. will also spending time in England for personal sight seeing and recreational interests.

The Oxford Round Table endeavors to provide its members with an eclectic sample of Oxford life as experienced by Scholars for over 800 years in the Oxford Colleges. In years past, Round Tables have been associated with Exeter, Jesus, Manchester, Pembroke, Somerville, St. Peter's and Wadham Colleges, with a special relationship with Lincoln College and a home base at S. Anthony's College. These colleges, and others like them, form the heart of the University of Oxford. From their gates have emerged many of the greatest philosophers, scientists, historians, artists, personages of prose & poetry and leaders of state who have formed the foundations of the modern world. ♣



OXFORD ROUND TABLE
Oxford University
Oxford, England

“RT in DC” and other Legislative Issues

By Dominick DeMichele, RT(R)(CT)



L to R: Joseph Whitton RT(R)(CT), Dominick DeMichele RT(R)(CT), Representative Tim

Joe Whitton, Paulette Peterson, and I spent three days in Washington DC on April 10-12 as part of ASRT’s annual “RT in DC” event. The event is part of a lobbying effort by the ASRT to obtain political support for the CARE (Consumer Assurance of Radiologic Excellence) Bill.

The CARE Bill would require states and health programs such as Medicare to adopt minimum standards for the education and credentialing of individuals who plan and deliver radiation therapy treatments and provide every type of medical imaging examination except sonography. It would enforce the Consumer-Patient Radiation Health and Safety Act of 1981.

If you watched the national news on Monday April 11, you would have heard about a man dressed in black who seemed unresponsive, except that he repeated a request to see the president. It turned out that he was of Chinese descent, and stood in front of the Capitol with two large suitcases. The odd request and his black clothing triggered alarms, and soon the police SWAT team surrounded him, and later tack-

led him to the ground and dragged him away. We were a few hundred yards from the action in a Congressional office when we heard about the event.

It was an exciting and gratifying trip to say the least. We were able to meet with ten different Congressmen and/or their Aides, strategize with the ASRT, and enjoy the April cherry blossoms.

On Monday April 11, we were able to meet with five Congressional Aides. They were Jared Frost, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Gary Ackerman (NY-5), Eben Carle, Assistant for Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (NY-24), Deborah Darcy, Assistant for Steve Israel (NY-2), and Robert Dobek, who is the Legislative Director for Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (NY-4). We also met with Brenda Pillors, who is the Chief of Staff for Rep. Edolphus Towns (NY-10). On Tuesday, we met with five more Congressional Aides, and with some Congressmen. We met with Ryan McKee, an Assistant for Rep. Vito Fosella (NY-13), Kerry Ann Watkins, an Assistant for Rep. Peter King (NY-3), and then with Rep. Thomas Reynolds (NY-26) and his Legislative Director Tina Mufford. We also met with Rep. Timothy Bishop (NY-1) and his Assistant Kate Ryan, and lastly we met with Pete Leon, the Legislative Director for Rep Eliot

Engel. After our meetings there were two more definite co-signings of the bill, along with Congressman James Walsh (NY-25), and Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy (NY-4) who had previously co-signed. The rest had very favorable responses, and Aides were ready to present the material to their “bosses” in a positive manner.

On another note, I hope that everyone read their “Annual Report to Registered Technologists” from the ARRT. There were many changes noted in the report concerning E.C.E. and other issues. There are many more changes coming in 2006 and 2007 from both the ARRT and ASRT.

In New York State news, word from Bob Rivera at the NYSDOH is that the legal people in the Department are now trying to enact a “back door” policy to include venipuncture into Part 89, which would appear to make for an easier introduction and amendment of Article 35. Their office is working on it and is keeping the NYSSRS Officers up to date.

In the words of Thomas Jefferson: “Government is not rule of the majority, but the majority of those who participate.” This also holds true for our profession. Stay active and be aware of the proposed changes around you. Let your voice be heard, or all the laws governing our livelihood could be coming from Albuquerque, New Mexico! Contact me or one of the NYSSRS Officers to be placed on contact lists, or to step-up to the plate and get involved. ♣



Legislative

by

Committee Chair

**Dominick DeMichele,
RT(R)(CT)**

ddemichele@monroec.edu

NYSSRS joins other radiographers and nuclear medicine technologists in Washington, D.C. as part of the ASRT sponsored “RT in DC” event.

A Revolt Worth Watching

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



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

Do we, as professionals want to continually be overshadowed by our colleagues in the nursing profession? Are we, as I believe we should be, unanimously disturbed by the fact that we cannot get simple amendments to *our own* health law passed because the nurses don't like them? Well, there could be a way to gain the voice in Albany that we deserve. It all starts at the grass-roots level.

To that end, the most interesting thing has happened in Erie County, home of the City of Buffalo the Buffalo Bills and a lovely Lake Erie Waterfront. The taxpayers have risen up in a Boston Tea Party style revolt against taxes and government incompetence. Simply stated, they have began a grass roots campaign against increasing the sales tax in the county to 9.25%, what the county executive was calling the "Medicaid penny". The county legislature, made up of 15 duly elected politicians first voted the increase down by a vote of 8 to 7. The vote needed to be 10 in favor because the state has a "home rule" provision which says that they will not approve a sales tax increase unless it is assured that it will carry locally. Two county legislators were voting "no" because they wanted to see reductions in spending and some real government reform. After weeks of fighting the legislators finally voted 10 to 5 in favor of increasing the sales tax when two legislators who

had previously voted no, changed their votes to yes upon assurances that spending would be cut and reform would begin. Well, after the Erie County Legislator voted in favor of raising the sales tax, and it was sent off to Albany for approval the entire Western New York delegation voted *against* raising the tax. Why? Because they gave themselves cover while knowing their pals from around the state would indeed pass it. When it came back to Erie County for a final vote one of the original two legislators that had turned in the previous vote went against his own vote and voted against the increase, essentially negating the states action.

Does this sound like some crazy Saturday Night Live sketch, sure it does. But there was a reason for this turn of events. A remarkable thing happened during the process, the citizens of Erie county started paying attention and rose up in a revolt against the proposed sales tax increase. People from all walks of life, all income levels, all races and all ages shouted out loud and clear "no more". They began to demand major cuts in spending. The media began to pay close attention to the process and did some digging. They began to expose the depths of pork and patronage spending. And finally the elected officials heard the people and the final vote was 9 against the tax increase and 6 for it. Quite a victory, yet it was just one battle in a much longer

war.

How does this tie in with our issues with the article 35 fight? Well for one thing, I find a tax revolt thrilling as we all pay way too much in taxes in New York State, the most highly taxed state in the country. But the real reason I bring this up is far more pragmatic. The movement in Erie County has spawned several taxpayer and government reform coalitions. All of them have committed to the removal of incumbents from office "cleaning up" government as we know it today. Their goal is to change the county structure and ultimately change the faces in Albany. That is the important part for radiologic technologists. We have something we want and need from Albany, an amended Article 35. We want it because as it stands today technologists in New York State are held back from performing duties that their colleagues in 49 other states can perform. New York technologists will also be held back if they wish to pursue the position of radiologist assistant. These blockades detract from our ability to progress and compete at levels comparable to other technologists.

In 2004 the Health Committee of the state assembly voted not to allow the bill to be introduced on the floor, this after it had passed in the full Senate. Several of the members who defeated the bill in the past are still on the Health Committee.

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Peterson advocates revolt ... "we cannot get simple amendments to our own health law passed because the nurses don't like them?"

A Revolt Worth Watching (Continued from page 6)

The Health Committee members are:

Chair

Richard N. Gottfried — 75th — New York

Members (District & County)

Jim Bacalles — 136th — Steuben and Yates

Jonathan L. Bing — 73rd — New York

Jeff Brown — 121st — Onondaga

Kevin A. Cahill — 101st — Dutchess and Ulster

James D. Conte — 10th — Nassau and Suffolk

Steven Cymbrowitz — 45th — Kings County

Jeffrey Dinowitz — 81st — Bronx County

Patricia A. Eddington — 3rd — Suffolk County

Sandy Galef — 90th — Putnam and Westchester

Diane Gordon — 40th — Kings County

Alexander B. Pete Grannis — 65th — New York

Aileen M. Gunther — 98th — Orange & Sullivan

Rhoda Jacobs — 42nd — Kings

William B. Magnarelli — 120th — Onondaga

Nettie Mayersohn — 27th — Queens

Maureen C. O'Connell — 17th — Nassau

Amy Paulin — 88th — Westchester

Crystal D. Peoples — 141st — Erie

Naomi Rivera — 80th — Bronx

Robin Schimminger — 140th — Erie and Niagara

Darryl C. Towns — 54th — Kings

Catharine M. Young — 149th — Allegeny, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus

These are the people we must vote out

of office if they do not pass our legislation. A group called Primary Challenge has begun the process. They are looking for candidates to run clean campaign against these incumbent who wore out their welcomes a long time ago. They want candidates who will do something quite uncommon, actually adhere to the constitution. Newly elected officials will not have the fear of unions like NYSNA (New York State Nurses Association) and the AFL-CIO who line the pockets of these long time incumbents. They will owe them nothing. If they do not maintain their commitment to follow the constitution and truly represent the people they will be challenged with a new candidate supported by Primary Challenge (www.primarychallenge.org). This group and others like it can make a huge difference with our support. Radiologic technologists represent a huge voting block in this state. We need to utilize our power by asking our friends and relatives to vote those members out who won't vote article 35 in. In the meantime take a few minutes to contact your assemblyman to voice your support for Assembly bill A04882, the article 35 repealer. The power of the people can be quite persuasive. ♣



**NYSSRS supports
Assembly Bill A04882**

**Peterson says... "These
are the people we vote
out of office if they do
not pass our legislation."**

Contact Your Elected Representatives

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

President-elect Barbara Neumann—barbara.neumann@viahealth.org

1st Vice President Diedre Costic—radprof@hvc.rr.com

2nd Vice President Anthony DeVito—devito2@juno.com

Treasurer Paulette Peterson—ppeterson@monroecc.edu

Secretary Ann T. Verschuuren—averschu@mail.sunyorange.edu

Director Steven Herrmann—sth9002@nyp.org

Immediate Past President Joseph Whitton—joseph.whitton@chsli.org

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

2005 Conference in Niagara Falls

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



Conference Registration Information

ALL PRE-REGISTERED RATES INCLUDE BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND ALL DAY BREAKS

This year the NYSSRS will hold its annual conference and business meeting at the Conference Center of Niagara Falls. The dates are October 21 and 22. This beautifully and ergonomically designed building has comfortable seating, gentle lighting and all of the modern audio visual requirements needed for a successful conference. The conference registration fee will include breakfast, lunch and all day breaks. The center is a few short steps from the Holiday Inn Select which will be the

headquarters hotel for the conference. Rooms at the Holiday Inn will be first come, first serve. The cost for rooms is \$85.00 per night. Several other hotels immediately surround the conference center and have varying rates.

All major airlines such as US Airways, Jet Blue, Continental, United and American have inexpensive service into Buffalo-Niagara International Airport from the New York City area. There are shuttle services that will take you to Niagara Falls, about a 20 minute trip. Cab

service is also available. Cab fare is about \$40.00 each way.

Niagara Falls is home to the Seneca Niagara Casino which is located directly across the street from the conference center. In addition there are many activities available for everybody to enjoy. Start planning now and consider bringing your family and stay the weekend to enjoy all that "The Falls" has to offer. We are looking forward to seeing you in October! ♣

	Member	Non-Member	Student
Full Conference Advance Registration (received before October 5, 2005)	\$165.00	\$195.00	\$75.00
Full Conference On-site	\$210.00	\$225.00	\$85.00
One Day	\$125.00	\$145.00	\$50.00