



The Imagist

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NYSSRS State of the State 2016

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Another year has gone by and as my tenure as president closes and I move out of the spotlight and into my position of chairman, I have to give my heartfelt thanks to the membership for voting me as president-elect back in 2012. I have learned a great deal about not only how we operate as a state affiliate of the ASRT but the challenges we face in New York and nationally as our website slogan "Protecting the welfare of NY Radiologic Technologists," would indicate.

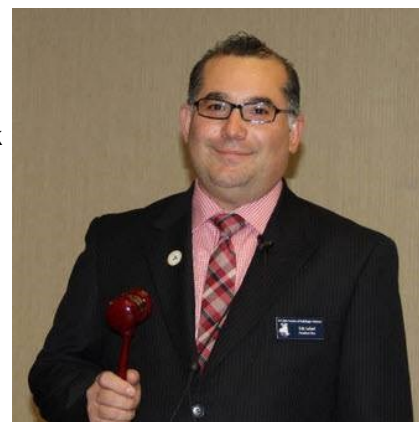
Last year I informed the membership about two parallel bills (S05186, A07472A) threatening our profession by allowing physician assistants to perform fluoroscopic examination. My board's lobbying and letter writing efforts were successfully able to change one of the two bills. This may sound like only half a victory but I am convinced that because their language is no longer duplicative they have both languished in Albany's health committee.

But just as one battle is under control other bills both regionally and nationally have emerged. A few months after our last conference I was made aware of NY Senate Bill 3507 which is designed to expand the role of physician assistants. Authorizing physician assistants under the supervision of a physician to perform most medical services that a physician can perform, including the signing of death certificates. Although the bill specifically prohibits PA's from performing the practice of radiologic technology it is certainly going to stay on our radar.

On a positive note the New York State legislature did amend the existing health care and wellness education and outreach program in the department to include education for patients and providers on potential risks of dense breast tissue. (A5510A).

Nationally the big buzz this summer out of the Office of Veterans Affairs on May 25 proposed a rule in the Federal Register stating that "medical imaging exams are among a number of specialty procedures that could be performed by nurses with advanced training." This rule which has faced fierce opposition by the ASRT, it's affiliates and other radiologist and physician groups would allow these nurses to order, perform, and interpret all medical imaging studies.

There is much more going on legislatively in New York State from new Computed Tomography regulations to part 16 updates related to fluoroscopy that will be reviewed at our conference OCT 20th - 22nd in Corning, NY.



It is my hope that by reading this you get an idea of what your financial support as members and conference attendees does by allowing us to have a venue for representatives from the NY Department of Health to speak at and the work that the NYSSRS board does when traveling to represent our great state in the national debate.
Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Eric Lobel,
President NYSSRS

A VIEW FROM THE SUMMIT NOW THAT I'M BACK AT BASE CAMP, By Bill Brennan

This past June I finished a five year run on what many in our profession (at least by some measure) would consider the pinnacle of achievement in radiologic technology. I was blessed to serve as Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, President-Elect, President and finally Chairman of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), the largest radiologic professional organization in the world. It was a heady ride to be sure. In the almost 100 year history of that organization there have only been a few dozen presi-

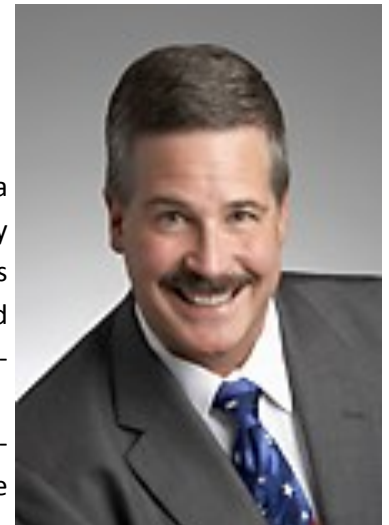
“Newer technologists do not seem to understand the value of belonging to a state society.”

dents as the early years saw people serve multiple terms. In fact, I was only the third President from NY to serve, the last being over 50 years ago. I got to represent my profession on the national stage and in fact, the world stage! I have to tell you, it is the coolest thing to be introduced as the “President from America”. Enough of the hubris. So what did I learn?

- 1.) Radiologic Technologists across this country share many of the same problems. Lack of jobs, lack of respect from other health care workers and a lack of support from their employers.
- 2.) Radiologic Technologists across this country also share a sincere desire to do the best that they can for their patients every day and a fierce pride in the contribution their work has in the lives of those patients.
- 3.) Radiologic State Societies are ALL struggling to survive. Newer technologists do not seem to understand the value of belonging to a state society. Thus, memberships continue to fall and these organizations may not be able to protect the profession in their state from incursion from other health-care workers seeking to expand their scope of practice.

There are a great many other lessons that I could share but unfortunately, space prohibits that. In the title, I mentioned “Base Camp.” By this I mean being a member of the NYSSRS, for this was where the journey began. For those of you that may be hikers, I am saying that the NYSSRS was where I discovered the trail head. It was here that I cut my teeth as a leader. Having served on multiple committees, and on multiple Board positions, the NYSSRS was where I learned how to run an organization. These lessons helped me at the ASRT, my work and in life.

If anyone reading this article is thinking about where this profession might take them, I was once in your shoes and I have seen how far you can go if only you are willing to stand up and be counted. Continue to support the NYSSRS and the ASRT with your membership and feel free to contact me personally if you would like to learn more about how to get involved at bib9001@nyp.org.



Working Hard for Everyone Else, but You By Rebecca Hettler

It's been a long day for you, you walked patients back and forth a number of times. Your feet are sore from the constant standing. You hardly got a lunch break due to the high number of patients. Your dominate arm feels like it going to fall off from all tube positioning and patient moving from one place to another. You help out everyone else but you. It might be time to rethink that strategy.

I have been following the ASRT forums and one of the posts that got my attention was in relation to ergonomics in the work place. Before going in to the profession of radiology, I was a nursing assistant at a nursing home. It was a lot of helping to lift very heavy patients in and out of bed. One of the training videos provided discussed use of good body mechanics. It made me really appreciate being a radiologic technologist. I didn't have to do much hard physical labor to help peo-

ple in my profession.

We do a lot of repetitive motion that can really wear and tear down our body. Moving the x-ray tube with only our dominate arm on a daily basis. Lifting heavy patients from their stretcher onto the imaging table. We can work quickly, and get a good image, but maybe we should work a little slower to give ourselves a mental break. Using the non-dominate arm to move the x-ray tube into position will take longer but give the other arm some rest during the day. Delegate that fellow staff member if available to help you move a heavy patient. You'll be saving your back in the long run. You're on your feet all day, and it will take a toll. Try wearing a shoe that provides better support, or an insole. They might not be very fashionable, but at the end of the day you might feel better. And that lunch break you're cutting short

because your superiors don't like to staff the work environment properly. You might want to bring this up with your superiors in the monthly meeting. Administration might also see the trend in poor staffing; change that for the benefit of work place as a whole. New York State labor laws require you to take a full 30 minute lunch break for all hourly paid staff, please take advantage of this. You deserve a break from the stress of a busy day for nutritional needs and a mental break for sanity. Taking good care of yourself will help you out in the long term and your longevity. Also, remember you are setting a good example for others to follow. Others might notice how you seem to be in a more zen like state, while providing patient care.

Radiographic Science and the Elements 2016 By Eric Lobel

Have you ever thought about the number of individual elements and the materials they combine to form in the world of radiologic imaging and radiation therapy. The number is quite staggering when you begin to do the research. The periodic table of elements is similar to an the alphabet that combines letters into words, sentences and ultimately all printed material. Atoms are combined to form every molecule on Earth and that in-turn forms all known materials.

In radiologic imaging, molecules and the materials they form are

chosen for a certain purpose. Some elements alone or combined are chosen because they more easily generate x-rays with their high atomic numbers or become excited and fluoresce. Others like aluminum and lead are chosen for their radioprotective properties.

Each material's molecules and their associated atoms have a unique and often fascinating history. Some are filled with intrigue and even espionage. Individual lives are saved from chemotherapeutic alkylating agents but before their use in cancer treatment they killed thousands in world war I as the main ingredient in mustard gas. Most alkylating agents are simple carbon and hydrogen atoms structured into hydrocarbons C_nH_{2n+1} and attached to the guanine base of a strand of DNA.

Probably the best dichotomy example in medical imaging is tungsten. Tungsten, periodic table element number 74 was made famous in 1895 by Wilhelm Roentgen earning him the first Nobel prize for physics in 1901 and it's impact to healthcare worldwide is incalculable. However in World War II tungsten was utilized by the military to harden armor-piercing missiles and kill more efficiently.

In radiography programs across the country students learn about the element molybdenum; used as a material in the anode target because it like tungsten can produce x-rays and helps conduct heat away from the anode. Going back to WWI, molybdenum was utilized to strengthen steel by mixing it with iron. With a melting of 4,750°F, several thousand degrees more heat resistant than common steel allowed the German army to lob one of their most feared weapon, the Big Bertha. The Big Bertha was a super huge siege gun with the ability to hurl a 16 inch, 2,200-pound shell nine miles in a few seconds where normal steel guns were limited to just a few days of use.

Molybdenum at the time could only be easily obtained from a mine in the rocky mountains of Colorado. The Barlett mine saw molybdenum as a useless product that cost more to mine than it was worth. The mine was sold to Otis King a Nebraska banker who developed a new mining technique to extract the molybdenum.

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Tungsten, periodic table element number 74 was made famous in 1895 by Wilhelm Roentgen



After some publicity the Germans found out and send Max Schott, who worked for Metallgesellschaft, a German mining company with offices in New York and around the world. Schott was instructed to seize the mine and he and his hired thugs proceeded to physically harass King and even the children of the mine workers. At one point his men almost killed King by throwing him off a cliff. King ended up selling the mine to Metallgesellschaft for the miniscule amount of \$40,000. As it turns out, this property of molybdenum was unknown to the allies until some of the guns were melted down in 1916 and reverse engineered. The mine was not seized back by the United States government until they were fully invested in the war around 1918.

Some of the other elements in modern x-ray units are: rhenium, barium, copper, silicon, selenium, gadolinium, cesium, zinc and the list goes on. Their stories are just as interesting as the few I've mentioned. Ironically the Germans were not the first to identify the unique properties of molybdenum. Just melt down a 14th century Japanese samurai sword.

ASRT – House of Delegates 2016 Review By Eric Lobel

Another year has gone by and another ASRT House of Delegate (HOD) meeting is in the books. Of extreme benefit to our members is the ability to represent New York at the HOD and have a voice in the national debate. As usual we had something to say that I'll get to a bit later. At the risk of taking up this entire newsletter I will only review some highlights of our meeting held in sweltering Los Vegas, June 23 - 26th 2016.

This years delegates seated were current NYSSRS president, Eric Lobel, president-elect Ann Verschuuren. Additionally, Kenneth Martinucci attended as one of the ASRT's national radiography delegates. Also from New York in attendance but non-voting were current NYSSRS chairman of the board David Finaldi, secretary Paulette Peterson, vice president Joseph Whitton, NYSSRS bylaws chair Steve Herrmann and finally our very own William (Bill) Brennan, outgoing ASRT chairman of the board. I needn't say that New York was well represented even if we didn't win best affiliate pin this year.

The House of Delegates sat 158 members with the main task of approving 22 proposed amendments to the ASRT bylaws and 27 motions recommended by the ASRT practice standards committee. ASRT bylaws chair, Joseph Whitton from New York reviewed the changes, directed the discussion and called for voting. Of the 22 proposed amendments to the bylaws, 21 passed with an overwhelming majority. The one amendment that was struck down would have removed the word "honorable" from a military delegate requirement that refers to the member's military discharge status. Of note was the passage of a motion to separate the ASRT board position of secretary-treasurer into two individual positions to further diversify the makeup of the ASRT board.

The original consent calendar, outlining 27 motions was quickly whittled down to 18 after being pulled upon the recommendation of the practice standards committee. All of the remaining motions were passed. Many discussions were related to amending the preface, introduction and education/certification sections of several modalities such as bone densitometry and radiation therapy.

Of note, New York requested a change to the wording to motion C-16.17 to, "Adopt the Position Statement titled "Archiving Radiographic Images to Maintain the Accuracy of Patient Dose Records." The proposed wording of the statement put forth that all digital radiographic images of diagnostic quality acquired upon the order of a licensed independent practitioner for the use in diagnosis or guidance be submitted and become part of the radiation dose record. NYSSRS President-Elect Ann Verschuuren spoke for New York when she stated that not just "diagnostic" images should be recorded but all images including rejected images that would contribute to patient dose and thus should also be recorded. The HOD in the next day's session voted to accept our proposed change which was then followed by a vote in the affirmative to make the suggested editorial change.

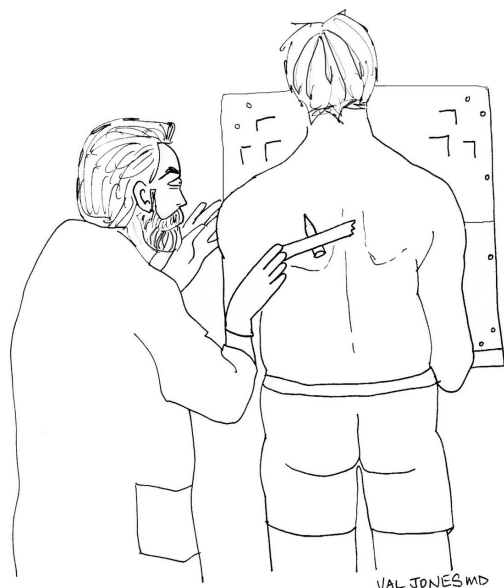
A courtesy resolution was adopted at the end of the session, offering well wishes to outgoing Chairman of the Board William J. Brennan Jr., M.A., R.T.(R)(CT), CIIP, who had a family emergency and had to leave before the first House business meeting.

We were also very pleased to send two students from New York, Amanda Caldicott from Monroe Community College and Kristina Emerson from Stonybrook as the winners of this years ASRT Student Leadership Development Program. Both Amanda and Kristina attended the 2015 NYSSRS conference and the 2016 ASRT conference.

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I would like to thank my board, committee chairs, and NYSSRS members for the fantastic support I was given during my presidency and look forward to being slightly out of the limelight as I move into my new position as chairman of the board.



"Jim, the radiology tech, carefully taped a bullet to the patient's back before taking the chest X-Ray, just to keep the trauma team 'on their toes.'"

Permission given by Dr. Val Jones
to post comic,
drvaljones@yahoo.com



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Did you miss the competition from last year's convention? Here are the results....

2015 Student Competitions

Student Bowl:

- **1st Place** - Fulton Montgomery
- **2nd Place** - Bartone
- **3rd Place** - Monroe Community College

Poster Contest:

- **1st Place** - Bellevue Hospital
- **2nd Place** - Monroe Community College
- **3rd Place** - Stonybrook University

Essay Contest:

- **1st Place** - Chelsea Cosco
- **2nd Place** - Jaclyn Mina
- **3rd Place** - Julian Gurevich
- **Honorable Mention** - Rupinder Kaur