

ICRA Newsletter January 2007
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President's Corner: January 2007

HAPPY New YEAR !

Judy Sebern Beachy

Why did I decide to run for ICRA President for a **3rd time**, especially since my mind has been thinking about retirement more and more these days? Yes, I must be crazy!... But really the answer is simple; I thought this would be my one last chance for "passing on the knowledge and experience" I have gained during the 23 years in the cancer registry profession. Thus "**passing on the knowledge & experience**" will be the "Theme" of my Presidency for the next two years. (NOTE: you don't have to have a theme to be president, but I am hoping it will help the Board to focus and set goals for the year)

I know many of you have never been an ICRA officer and I'd like to help you learn more about the organization and show you it's not hard at all. Being an officer for ICRA can be fun! I have found it to be rewarding to work more closely with others, since a large part of my job as a state abstractor has me working solo. Plus, there are some perks as well. As President of our State organization I get to represent ICRA at the national meeting and I can get my trip to NCRA paid for in full or in part, depending on the funds in the ICRA treasury.

Attending the annual NCRA meeting can be very inspiring and interesting. I attended my first NCRA meeting in 1987 when it was last held in Minneapolis. This was especially significant to me since it was the year I became a CTR and I had the chance to receive my certificate in person.

So I'd like to suggest that those of you who have been putting off taking the CTR Exam should consider doing it by the fall of 2007, and you also can have that opportunity to accept your CTR certificate in person come spring of 2008 when the NCRA meeting will be in Minneapolis once again. This is as close as it gets to Iowa! **Note:** Cyndi Brugioni has brought it to my attention that the CTR Exam requirements will be changing for 2008-2010, see information from CoC included in this newsletter called: New Eligibility Requirements for CTR Exam, (page 15-16) or visit this WEB SITE: www.ctrexam.org

A good way to learn more about the duties of the ICRA officers is to become familiar with the **ICRA Bylaws**. You can find a copy on our WEB SITE: www.iowacra.org

Also included in this newsletter is an article I wrote called: TIPS for New President and Board, (page 17) which lists the activities a new ICRA Board should address at the start of their tenure. Complying information to assist future ICRA Boards is an activity I will try to accomplish this year as part of my focus for "**passing on our knowledge & experience**"!

Another fun opportunity this year will be celebrating **ICRA's 30th Anniversary!** I'm hoping we can do a fun group activity at our Fall meeting in Iowa City, Sept. 26-27. If you have any suggestions, please send me an email! You can learn more about the **history of ICRA** on our WEB SITE! Check out which current members are included in the group of founding members!

Getting to know the new ICRA Board

President: Judy Sebern Beachy

I've been working for the State Health Registry of Iowa since December 1983. I first was only an abstractor with a territory of about 1400 cases that included several hospitals in Des Moines as well as several smaller hospitals in SW Iowa. (I swear we could abstract more on paper abstracts with paper Medical Records than we do now with computers!) I became a CTR in 1987. In 1989 my duties expanded to include training of new abstractors. Currently I am involved with abstracting, training, QC projects such as batch reviews and assisting Cindi Dryer with QC efforts when needed, and I assist the SHRI Field Director, Theola Rarick, with hiring, planning staff meetings and other miscellaneous projects.

My educational background started with nursing school for 1.5 years up in Rochester Minnesota, then I transferred to U of I where I received a B.S. in General Science. At that point, since I still didn't know what to do with my life, I went to graduate school and got my M.S. in Nutrition Research/Food Science at U of I. After graduation I worked for a year for an insurance company which took me to Des Moines. Then I fell into the cancer registry profession by accident, but my experience in nursing, science, research and insurance coding made me a perfect candidate for the job.

On the personal side, I've been happily married for close to 15 years to Greg Beachy who I met while working at the VA Hospital. We were set up by some secretaries! It was a big surprise to me that we hit it off. I was sure I was headed in the direction of being an "old maid". My current interests involve taking art classes since 1997, Yoga/Tia Chi classes and I'm involved with the Social Justice committee at my church. I don't ever seem to find enough time to clean my house, but my 2007 News Years Resolution is to CLEAN out closets and then my reward will be to have the kitchen remodeled. I've started cleaning out my home office, but its slow going after accumulating all these years of cancer materials! When I retire, I hope to continue with my art and write a book.

Vice President: Sheila Janda RN, RHIT, CTR

I am currently working at Mercy Regional Cancer Center in Cedar Rapids as a CTR. I previously worked for SHRI as a Medical Editor and Abstractor. My many years of Nursing experience, both acute care Hospital and Physician's office experience have helped me to understand the complex Medical & Physical issues we see in the Cancer Registry field. I believe accurate documentation in abstracting is one of the most important things we can do as CTR's – an area in which more knowledge needs to be gained. I also believe, as a State organization, we should promote more networking between members.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my husband Don. We live in a 1950's Lustron Home that is listed on the National Trust of Historic Places. We also enjoy driving our red 1957 Chevy to Ellis Park in Cedar Rapids, to relax on our dock or take a boat ride on our 1955 Boat, "Blue Moon. We enjoy long weekends visiting our four children, all living out of state, and our three grandchildren.

I am looking forward to an exciting year as being ICRA Vice President.
Thank you for this opportunity.

Treasurer: Deborah Schulte, RHIT, CTR

My career in cancer registry has 23 years ago with the University of Iowa. Like many others, this was not my first choice for my career path, mostly because I wasn't aware of what a 'cancer registry' was. I'm glad I entered into this field and continue to grow and learn new things. There are many knowledgeable and helpful people out there that I appreciate learning from. Thank you all.

I have my Associate of Applied Science and BS degrees along with my CTR certification. While I would like to go further with my education path I have no projected schedule at the current time. My husband John and I have a son, Ryan (sophomore) and a daughter, Lauren (freshman). My favorite things are being with my children/family and spending time in the yard.

Secretary: Kari Suhr, CTR

I have been working as a Cancer Registrar at Mercy in Des Moines for 5 yrs now. I have always worked in this field ever since graduating with an Assoc. Degree in HIM from Calmar, IA. I enjoy working with my favorite co-worker, Cindy Burgin! We have been working together from the very beginning. We recently just got done with our second survey and are starting to settle back in and prepare for the next one.

On a more personal note, my husband and I are adopting our first child from Guatemala. Her name is Karaline Maria and she was born on October 11, 2006. We have already been waiting three months since her referral and we will be anticipating the call when they tell us to come and bring her home! It could be anywhere from 3-6 months longer! We are very excited and long to have her home with us.

Past President: Kathy Larson, RHIT, CTR

I have worked at Mercy Medical Center-NI since 1984. I believe it has changed its names twice since that time. I worked until 1998 as a coder in the HIRS. In 1998 I took the Cancer Registrar position. I really realize now just how little I knew about cancer before. I really enjoy the variety of duties that make up the part of having a Cancer Program. I passed my CTR in April of 2004.

My husband Kimm and I will be married 18 years on August 12, 2007. We have a grain farm and a cow/calf herd. Kimm does crop insurance adjusting work part-time. Our 15-year daughter Kristi is in the 10th grade at Garner Hayfield Middle School. Kristi is very involved with school, sports, music, youth group at Church, and 4-H. Needless to say we are on the go daily. As a family we enjoy golfing, fishing, reading, biking, bowling, movies, skiing and traveling. I am very involved with the Music Boosters, Sport Boosters, teacher at Church, 4-H Leader, and serve on several committees at Church. In my free time I love to read, scrap booking, rubber stamp, watch movies, and being outdoors. I love to walk, spend time in the garden, watch the new baby calves play, our horse Jazzy chasing these new calves. If I could abstract and do my job outside, I would move my office in a minute. (I would have to leave Iowa to do this). Kristi and I went on a 10- day mission trip to Mexico this past summer and what an experience we had. We do not know just how fortunate we are to be an American.

I would like to see the hospital-based registries have a meeting at least once a year and have topics and programs that cover all the duties that are expected of them. This is one area that is a struggle with many of the hospital registries, when you are not a moneymaking department, how do you do what is expected of you. I feel this is an area that the board can help with, by setting up such a meeting.

DATES to remember in 2007

ICRA 2007 DUES: Deadline is January 31st. Your membership will be **forfeited on Feb. 28th**. A form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. Please send to Deb Schulte.

2007 CTR EXAM DATES:

There are several opportunities available since the exam is administered during a two week testing period in March and September on a daily basis at computer-based testing facilities worldwide.

Application Deadline for March: January 31, 2007

Testing: March 3-17

Application Deadline for Sept: July 31, 2007

Testing: September 15-29

For more details go to: www.ctrexam.org

NCRA 33rd Annual Educational Conference

April 22-25, 2007 (Sunday – Wednesday)

At the Las Vegas Hilton

“Rolling Out Advances through Research, Professionalism, Education and Advocacy”

Details at: www.ncra-use.org/conference/index.htm

NCRA WEEK 2007: April 9-13

Training: New Multiple Primary and Histology Rules

Iowa City with Cindi Dryer- March or April 2007 - dates to be announced

Des Moines with Cindi Dryer- March 28-29, 2007

ICRA 30th Anniversary Meeting & Workshop:

Iowa City: Sept (26-27 tentatively)

QC Corner

By Cindi Dryer

The beginning of Year 2007 brings with it the implementation of the new multiple primary and histology coding rules as well as the collection of new data items. Cases diagnosed 1/1/2007 and after will be coded using the new coding rules for determination of “multiple versus single” primary and the coding of “histology.” The coding rules and data items were developed over a three year time period and all cancer standard setting agencies were involved. Evaluation of historical data was reviewed and reliability coding studies were conducted. The new coding rules and data items were developed to assist the registrar in coding consistent and quality data.

Specific coding rules for eight primary sites were developed: Lung, Breast, Colon, Urinary, Kidney, Brain, Skin Melanoma, Head and Neck. For all other sites the “All Other Site Rules” apply. The coding rules are available in three different formats to meet the needs of the user; text (the format used in the past), matrix (outline) and flowchart (diagram). Each user will select the format that he/she finds most comfortable. Training can be attained in several different ways.

Web based training is available on the SEER training Web site <http://seer.cancer.gov/>. Currently SEER has three modules developed; an Introduction to the Coding Rules and primary site training for Lung and Colon, each with a practicum. Prior to viewing, a transcript of the presentation can be downloaded and printed. The presentations require Macromedia Flash Player and are in BREEZE format. Additional presentations will be made available when completed.

In-person will be available in Iowa through training programs provided by the SHRI (spring for COC and SHRI employees working in COC programs and in the fall for SHRI employees in non COC programs and in-house staff). In addition, training can be obtained in surrounding states at educational training sessions by trained trainers, and at the NCRA or SEER Abstractors and Coders Workshop in April in Las Vegas.

Other activities to continue during the coming year include Q&As, batch reviews, and QC activities as time permits. QC activities are prepared as a tool for learning and assessing one’s knowledge and skills. Please submit suggestions and topics of concern to myself or the trainers Judy Sebern-Beachy or Rod Burnett. Continuing education is one of the keys to adjusting to change. Embrace and support these opportunities for growth.

2007 - A new year of opportunity!
Cindi

2007 Budget

Objective: To keep Treasury around \$4,000 to be able to offer many stipends to our membership for the 2008 NCRA meeting in Minneapolis.

Current money in Treasury: \$ 4,497.09

(As of 1-17-07) with half 2007 dues paid

2007 projected INCOME:

Fall ICRA Workshop	\$ 800
Rest of 2007 Dues	\$ 250

TOTAL: \$ 1,050

2007 projected EXPENSES:

President:	\$ 50
VP:	\$ 50
Treasurer:	\$ 50
Secretary:	\$ 50
Newsletter:	\$ 00
Web Site:	\$ 200
Library:	\$ 250
30 th Anniversary Fall meeting	\$ 500
2007 NCRA Stipend (not using this year)	\$ 00
2007 NCRA Iowa Basket	\$ 100
CTR EXAM Rewards:	\$ 400

TOTAL: \$ 1,650

Projected Treasury end of 2007: \$ 3897.09

**Treasures Report
As of 1/26/2007**

Prepared by: Deborah S. Schulte, RHIT, CTR
Treasurer, ICRA

Books have been audited by Marsha Karniski (registry volunteer), for years 2004, 2005 and 2006. All figures and balances correct.

Identified was a \$5.00 fee accessed to our account since April 2006. Investigation with the Credit Union discovered our 'Membership checking' required a minimum monthly balance of \$5,000 (which we do not maintain).

I was able to have Nov & Dec fees (\$10.00) refunded; however, April through October charges (\$35.00) would not be excused.

ICRA checking is now under the 'Free checking' account which doesn't require a minimum balance to be maintained.

As we begin the 2007 year

To date 55.3% of expected annual dues have been received and deposited.
Balance to date is: \$4,497.07.

All bills to date are paid.

Proposed BYLAWS change:

The Board has approved the following Bylaws change which will be voted upon by the ICRA membership at the Fall 2007 meeting in Iowa City.

Add new Student Membership Classification to ICRA.

Reasoning: to include the students from Scott County Cancer Registry Program, or other programs, to help introduce them to our profession, encourage interest and promote education.

Proposed ADDITION below in ARTICLE III, Section I -- WRITTEN IN RED:

ARTICLE III

Membership

SECTION I. Classification of Membership

Membership shall be as follows:

ACTIVE: An Active member shall be one who is currently employed by a Cancer Registry; whose major duties comprise Cancer registry administration and/or practice; or any individual who has a special interest in Cancer registry work shall qualify for membership. An Active member in good standing shall be entitled to all membership privileges, including the right to hold office, vote or chair a committee.

STUDENT: A Student member shall be one who is currently pursuing education in the Cancer Registry Field. Student members may attend educational workshops and business meetings, but will not hold office or vote.

SECTION II. Application for Membership

Application for membership shall be submitted in a manner prescribed by the Board of Directors, together with applicable fees.

SECTION III. Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year of ICRA shall be from January 1st through December 31st.

SECTION IV. Dues

Prior to the Annual Meeting the Board of Directors shall fix the dues to be paid by the membership. The dues each year shall be payable on or before January 31st.

State Health Registry News

By Theola Rarick

Central office relocated in the University Capitol Centre

The SHRI is located at 2600 University Capitol Centre (UCC) in space especially designed for the registry operations. The SHRI was located in the Westlawn building for the first 29 years of the registry. A move was made to a leased space in the US Bank building in downtown Iowa City in 2001. The recent move relocates the registry on university property designated for the College of Public Health.

The new location of the SHRI is on the second floor of the UCC with the windows looking out over the downtown skyline to the east. The 10,519 sq. ft. space includes 29 enclosed offices, follow-up activity room, file room, conference room, combination videoconference room and library, climate controlled server room, micro-film records and archiving activity room, kitchenette area, mail and supply room, an open cubicle for miscellaneous activities and a reception area. The décor is light gold with desert tan carpeting matching the décor throughout the other UCC offices.

There is a training room nearby that will accommodate 90 people. It is nearing completion and will be utilized by the SHRI for special meetings and workshops. Construction continues in the UCC as more space is being remodeled to accommodate additional offices. The majority of the first floor of the UCC is retail and restaurant space

As you can imagine moving the file contents of 67 lateral files full of records, office files, computers, printers, copiers, supplies and the list goes on was a major undertaking. Once the moving date was established the moving plan was put into action. 1,300 banker boxes were assembled and staff worked methodically removing the records from the files, labeling the boxes and placing the records in the boxes and moving the boxes to a holding space in a designated order. Then the moving company came and moved the empty lateral files to the new file room and installed the cabinets. Next the 1,300 banker boxes were moved in the designated order. SHRI staff met the movers in the new file room and unpacked and refilled the records as the boxes arrived. Bobbi Matt and her staff and students planned and coordinated this major moving project.

Next was the project of disassembling all the computer workstations. The IT staff and students began that project midweek prior to moving. All the components were placed in a large zip lock bag to assure all the components would be moved together and to make for easier set-up in the new location. They assembled all the workstations over the weekend of December 16th & 17th so that when staff arrived at the new office on Monday December 18th computer access was possible.

Each person boxed up their own office supplies and files and tagged with them pre-marked labels and colored-specific tape for easy identification of new office location for the movers. The pre-planning paid off with a smooth transition and fast return to normal operation.

Benefits to hosting an ICRA Educational Workshop

By Judy Sebern Beachy

1. The main duties of a hosting an ICRA Workshop is to provide the meeting location and line up local speakers.
2. Free registration will be given to the program chair(s).
3. The hosting facility will receive 10% of the gross profits from the educational workshop, with these proceeds to be used as that facility deems appropriate.
4. Expenditures for an ICRA Workshop does NOT need to be paid for by the hosting hospital. Expenses come out of the income generated by the Workshop.
5. Speakers are often given a gift or stipend for their time given to ICRA which comes out of the Workshop budget/income.
6. The program chair can have a committee of ICRA members who can assist with applying for NCRA CEU's, and help in preparing the workshop brochure.

Scott Community College Cancer Information Management Program

By Theola Rarick

The Scott Community College of the Eastern Iowa Community College (EICC) District offers both an Associate of Applied Science degree program and a Diploma/Certificate program on Cancer Information Management (CIM). The programs are designed to meet the state of Iowa AAS and Certificate degree requirements and the National Cancer Registrar's Association (NCRA) formal education requirements. The courses are offered in the online format making the course available to students anywhere with access to the internet.

The Cancer Information Management Program prepares students for a career working in hospital-based registries or population-based central registries. The major areas of study in this program are medical terminology, anatomy/physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, computer principles and data presentation methods, oncology coding and staging fundamentals, legal and ethical issues, and quality management principles.

The first students of the CIM program graduated this past December. The program has received provisional accreditation status from the NCRA and the students are eligible to take the CTR exam this March. Part of the accreditation process includes assessing the success of the graduates so new programs receive provisional status until the assessment can be completed.

Beginning in 2009 candidates must complete formal college level training like the EICC CIM program in order to be eligible to take the CTR exam. The coordinator for the CIM program is Barb Foster, RHIA, CTR. She is located at the Bettendorf center of the Eastern Iowa Community College. Details regarding the program can be found on the web at www.eicc.edu

ICRA December 2006 Survey Summary

Judy Sebern Beachy

As of December 18th, 10 people responded to the ICRA Survey sent to members earlier this month. This maybe good news! The survey was an opportunity for members to give feed back and since I only heard from 20% of our members, I'm going to "assume" that the majority of members are fairly satisfied and thus didn't bother to respond.

I also realize it's a busy time of year, so I really appreciate those of you who did take the time. A HIGH FIVE to Erica Hemsley for being the first person to respond back!

Are you a CTR?

Yes: 40%

No: 40%

Former CTR's: 20% (took the exam and passed but did not keep up with NCRA membership dues, so not current CTR)

Are you interested in taking the CTR exam?

YES 67%

Maybe 33%

Comments: I would be interested only if there was a Central Registry based exam. Maybe, but questioning the expense of exam plus yearly expense of NCRA membership.

Interest in 2008 NCRA Conference in Minneapolis

YES: 70%

No: 20%

Maybe: 10%

What type(s) of educational training would you like to see offered by ICRA?

Comments:

1. "Anatomy"
2. "A mixture of topics is great-- new treatment methods, new diagnostic methods, statistical summaries such as Dr. Lynch's Cancer in your County presentations, anatomy/staging instruction, coding exercises with conclusive answers".
3. "Online training in addition to meetings".
4. "Anything".
5. "I would like to see more of the questions and answers from different cases. I think this is a big help when we run into different things abstracting. Maybe at one of the meetings we could just set aside an hour and review some questions from cases".
6. "The site training is helpful"
7. "Training on new guidelines on multiple primaries & histologies"
8. "More site training, understanding the codes in relation to what people are seeing in Medical Records".
9. "Education and clarification of rules".
10. "I think ICRA should keep us up to date with all abstracting changes and training when things are updated and changed, like when Collaborative Staging came along. We should have both SEER and ACOS updates".

What are some suggestions you have about how to encourage and share the responsibility of hosting ICRA meetings?

Comments:

1. "I don't know".
2. "That is the \$10,000 dollar question... because we bring such a large percentage of attendees, seems like SHRI should be willing to host ICRA meeting once yearly (if ICRA meets twice per year).
3. "Financial encouragement".
4. "Maybe a rotating list and if you can't have it that year you switch with someone else. I don't know how many hospitals we have to put on a rotating list, maybe that would make up have the meeting every 3-5 yrs".
5. "Maybe have ICRA do all of the registration, brochures, and just use the site as the host".

What activities would you like to see ICRA involved with in 2007-2008? What are your expectations and needs?

Comments:

1. "Help with CTR exam study guides".
2. "I have No strong opinion".
3. "To successfully hold bi-annual meetings" (several responded)
4. "My main expectation from ICRA has always been that they will assure availability of affordable workshops for continuing education in the cancer registry field"
5. "CEUs, aids, tools, resources"
6. "Education"
7. "I guess I always thought ICRA was an organization that brought news of what was going on in the world of cancer registry to the members. Help them understand any new rules and/or guidelines".

How well is ICRA currently meeting your needs?

(1 = low/poor 5 = high/good)

Range was from 2 to 5

Average score was 3.5

Do you have any suggestions for the new ICRA officers?

Comments:

1. "More newsletters, more use of the web site".
2. "Keep the communication line open and be sure everyone is aware of what is going on.
3. "I think it would be nice to hear from the president more than just at the meetings. Maybe an e-mail about every 3 months or so, just to let us know she is still around and working with us"
4. "Plan to meet; meet to plan"
5. "If your survey response is informative, please summarize your findings and report on your plans to the membership".
6. "Thanks for your time and hard work!!!"

ICRA Spotlight on: Dominee Bohanan

EMPLOYER: Department of Epidemiology, State Health Registry of Iowa

TERRITORY/HOSPITAL: Southwest Iowa/Currently covering hospitals in Corning, Red Oak, Atlantic, Clarinda, Shenandoah and Hamburg areas. Additional facilities to cover for 2007 year to include Greenfield, Leon Mount Ayr, Osceola and Winterset with final phase-in of Creston Hospital possibly in 2008.

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: Field Representative - Routinely case-find, abstract, code and submit disease incidence for assigned territory. Ascertain cases for special studies. Other clerical/educational duties.

FAMILY/FRIENDS: Currently engaged to Stan, a long-time friend, who I've known since junior-high school. Previously married for 21 years and have 2 children from that marriage. My son, Jamie, is 17 and a junior. He wants to attend Wyotech after graduation pursuing auto-body/mechanics. My daughter, Lindsey, is 14 and a freshman. She is very active in sports, FFA and other activities. Her goal is to pursue a medical career, possibly a physician in either OB/GYN or pediatric oncology. Stan has 4 children from his previous marriage. His youngest is Mark, also age 14 and in the same grade with Lindsey so this continues to be challenging for us in many ways.

PETS: Two dogs - Ace and Woody. Five cats (we live in the country)

INTERESTS/HOBBIES – Fishing, walking, spending time with family and friends, and going to daughter's sporting events. Used to basket weave, would like to start working on scrap-books for my kids.

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF HOW TO SPEND A PERFECT DAY? Spending relaxation time with family.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEAL OR FOOD? Grilled foods.

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE LAST BOOK YOU READ AND WHO IS THE AUTHOR? Have not read in awhile, probably Sylvia Browne's "Book of Dreams".

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW? Don't watch much TV, probably 70's show and CSI. Like to watch movies.

ANY OTHER "INTERESTING" FACTS OR STORIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE. My "medical" background began in 1987 when I got a job as an admission clerk/switchboard operator at Alegent Health/Mercy Hospital in Corning. I worked in the billing department for 7 years and the last 10 years were spent in Medical Records doing coding/medical transcription. I have been with the IA State Health Registry for a year now and find my past experience was of great benefit, and I am looking forward to continue growing in this new position.

ICRA Spotlight on: Erica Hemsley

EMPLOYER: State Health Registry of Iowa

TERRITORY/HOSPITAL: Central Office

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES: Medical Edit

FAMILY/FRIENDS: Husband ~ Randy, Son ~ Kale (4 ½), Daughter ~ Brookelyn (2).

PETS: 3 Dogs – Black Lab ~ Bru, 2 Miniture Dauchsands ~ Emma and Isabelle, 1 Cat ~ Holley, and 4 Fish.

INTERESTS/HOBBIES: Camping, racing, boating, and spending time with my kids.

WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF HOW TO SPEND A PERFECT DAY?

Doing something fun with my kids.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEAL OR FOOD? Pizza, Chinese, pretty much anything!!! 😊

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE LAST BOOK YOU READ AND WHO IS THE

AUTHOR? Not sure...it would be whoever writes children's books, Dora...Spongebob...My Little Pony...Berenstein Bears.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW? Gray's Anatomy and Desperate Housewives

NEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA for the CTR EXAM

Implementation: Starting for the 2008 CTR Exams

Rationale for Changes

As cancer registrars move forward, it is apparent that obtaining college level education is becoming more critical as oncology physicians and researchers are becoming more sophisticated and complex in their approach to cancer care. Cancer registrars must know the natural disease process of cancer, all available treatment options (standard of care and research), and general prognostic indicators. To be successful in this profession, one must obtain a strong background in anatomy and physiology, medical terminology, medical record management, confidentiality rules and regulations, speech, computer applications and database management skills, statistics and business management.

In 2005, NCRA contracted to have a 15-month study conducted by the University of California, San Francisco, Center for Health Professions and School of Nursing. The primary goal was to develop a baseline understanding of the current workforce in the cancer registry field. Study methods included focus groups, key informant interviews, and an online survey. Information was tabulated from 615 participants.

The final report of this study is titled *Frontline Workers in Cancer Data Management: Workforce Analysis Study of the Cancer Registry Field.*

In the Executive Summary, the very first recommendation from this report is that NCRA should consider implementing a minimum Associate's Degree requirement for entry into the field. From the report, of those participants currently working in the profession, 55% agree that an Associate's Degree would best prepare students for working as a cancer registrar. They also felt that the lack of a degree requirement impacts both public awareness and the ability to recruit to the profession.

Nearly all participants agreed that there was nearly uniform agreement by participants that a minimum college degree should be a prerequisite to certification testing. They believe that a requirement of a minimum degree would improve the profession by increasing the public profile of cancer registration, improve the credibility of the job as a profession, and improve the quality of cancer data.

Salary information from this study also showed that salary increases with the level of education with a \$2,000 a year increase for Associate's Degree compared to high school and \$4,800 for a Bachelor's Degree compared to high school.

Based on this information and other feedback from the profession, the Council on Certification has spent the last two years reviewing all of the current eligibility criteria. In addition to the changes that have already been posted in the approved allied health fields to both Route 3 and Route 4, and the addition of Route 5 for advanced degrees, the Council is announcing the following schedule of modifications to the eligibility in the upcoming years.

The focus of the changes will be to require a minimum of an Associate's degree in an allied health field by 2010. Based on information from candidates taking the CTR exam in the past 7 years, 40% do not currently have a minimum of an Associate's degree. It is unknown how much additional training would be needed by those candidates indicating that they have "some college".

Current Eligibility Routes can be found at:
<http://www.ctrexam.org/eligibility/index.htm>

Phase In of New Eligibility Routes

In 2008:

NEW Eligibility Route 1:

Minimum two years full-time (24 months or 3,900 hours) or equivalent experience in the Cancer Registry field and two semesters/3 quarters of college-level courses (*) in Human Anatomy and/or Physiology.

Identified change: The additional educational requirement of two semesters of college-level courses in Human Anatomy and/or Physiology.

(*) = Coursework must be completed (not audited) with a passing grade; and “college-level course” is determined as coursework eligible for college credit.

In 2009:

NEW Eligibility Route 1:

Minimum two years full-time (24 months or 3,900 hours) or equivalent experience in the Cancer Registry field and the equivalent of one year (12 credits hours) of college education that includes two semesters/3 quarters of Human Anatomy and/or Physiology, one semester of Medical Science/Biology plus a college-level course(*) in Medical Terminology.

Identified change: The educational requirement of the equivalent of one year (12 credits hours) of college education that, in addition to the required Anatomy and/or Physiology requirements, includes the additional courses of one semester of Medical Science/Biology plus a college-level course in Medical Terminology.

NEW Eligibility Route 2:

Successful completion of an NCRA-approved Cancer Information Management Associate’s degree; **OR** successful completion of an NCRA-Accredited Formal Education Program **AND** successful completion of a minimum of an Associate’s degree or equivalent (4 semesters/6 quarters).

Identified change: The educational requirement of a minimum of an Associate’s degree or equivalent (4 semesters/6 quarters),

In 2010:

Eligibility Route 1 will be eliminated, meaning that all candidates must apply through another route and that they have a minimum of an Associate’s degree in an allied health field.

Tips for New President and Board

Judy Sebern Beachy (Dec. 2006)

1. Make sure all of the new Board members have a copy of the Bylaws to refer to and to be knowledgeable of their listed duties.
2. Get a financial audit of the “books” at the time the new officers take over. Change banking to allow for new Treasure’s and another Board Member’s signatures on account.
3. Set BUDGET at beginning of year based on goals, projects and meetings.
Decide if and how a Stipend will be awarded to NCRA meeting for the year.
Decide if dues price needs to be changed
4. Discuss if any changes to the Standing Rules or Bylaws needs to be done (this would be headed by the Vice-President)
5. Fill Committee’s as needed.
Program Committee
Nomination Committee
Public Relations
Bylaw Committee
Membership Committee
Education Committee
6. Consider conducting a “survey” of members about their ideas/goals for the organization and the new board. And/or send out communications to the members about the “vision” of the new board.
7. Dues notice needs to be sent out first of January. (This can be done via email, make sure addresses and email addresses get updated during this time) Due back by end of February or forfeit membership.
8. New staff or interested people should be sent an invitation to join ICRA at this time, if not done prior in the middle of the year.

**ICRA Fall Business Meeting
Friday, October 27th, 2006
Mason City, IA**

President Kathy Larson called the luncheon business meeting to order at 12:40pm.

Minutes Approval:

Judy Sebern Beachy, filling in for Secretary Kari Suhr, distributed copies of the previous Business Meeting minutes from Spring 2005 which had been published in the newsletter. Kathie Churchill made a motion that the minutes be approved as written, this was seconded by Carol Anderson Soy, motion passed.

Reports:

Treasurer/Membership: Sheila Janda reported that the current balance in our treasury is \$4,041.32. See attached statement.

Sheila also reported that there were 39 members as of April 2006; since then 6 new members have joined which brings the total membership in October up to 45.

The new members are:

Dominee Bohanan
Teresa Merkel
Erica Hemsley
Lisa Hunter
Jennifer Jamison
Jessica Lawrence

Secretary: No Report

Bylaws: No Report

Newsletter: No Report

Nominating Committee:

Lori Odle announced the outcome of the voting for ICRA officers for 2007-2008.

Judy Sebern Beachy - President

Sheila Janda - Vice President

Kari Suhr - Secretary

Deb Schulte - Treasurer

Old Business:

Kathie Churchill asked if future ICRA meetings could be posted on the ICRA Web Site along with a registration form. Kathie also suggested ICRA send the meeting announcements to NCRA for publication.

New Business:

CTR Recognition:

President Larson announced two new CTR's for 2006: Beth Bunn of Mary Greeley in Ames and Sheila Janda of Mercy Cedar Rapids. Each will receive an award of \$100.

Spring 2007 meeting plans: Judy Sebern Beachy announced that the next meeting will be in Iowa City in May 2007. A celebration for ICRA's 30th Anniversary will be planned.

NCRA 2006 Reports:

Kathie Churchill reported on her involvement of "the Walk on the Hill" at the NCRA meeting in Washington DC in May. This was an advocacy program sponsored by NCRA to inform legislators about the Cancer Registry profession and the need for education to fill jobs in the future.

ICRA Library:

Deb Schultz started a discussion about the need to update the reference materials in the ICRA Library. Currently the materials for preparing for the CTR exam are used the most. Many of the materials are becoming outdated. There was a motion by Sheila Janda that the new management text book be purchased, this was seconded by Judy Sebern Beachy and passed. The next board was encouraged to review what other materials could be updated in 2007.

Installation of New Officers:

President Larson installed the new officers which were present. Judy Sebern Beachy, Sheila Janda and Deb Schulte.

Other:

Cindi Dryer praised and thanked Kathy Larson and Cindy Kalvig from North Iowa Mercy for hosting an excellent Educational Workshop on Lung Cancer.

Deb Schulte made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Julie Risinger seconded and the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:15.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judy Sebern Beachy, for Secretary Kari Suhr

Quotes.....Words to Inspire!

Do you have some favorite quotes you would like to share? We will be collecting more for our next Newsletter. Please email to Judy anytime at JSebern@aol.com

“There will be time to do it all, just not all at once”
Wayne Sotile

SUCCESS

To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people
And the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics
And endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better;
Whether by a healthy child,
A garden patch or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one
Life has breathed easier because you lived.
This is to have succeeded.

John F. Hitzhusen
(Judy SB childhood dentist, age 93)

“Our opinion of people depends less upon what we see in them
than upon what they make us see in ourselves”
Sarah Grand

“Sometimes our light goes out
but is blown into flame by another human being.
Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light”
Albert Schweitzer

2007 -- ICRA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name/Credentials: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (Home): _____ - _____ - _____

(Work): _____ - _____ - _____

E-Mail: _____ @ _____

Amount Due: \$15.00

Payable on or before January 31st, 2007

**Membership will be forfeited if payment not received by
February 28th, 2007.**

Please print and send this form and payment (payable to ICRA) to:

Deborah Schulte, RHIT, CTR
UIHC, 200 Hawkins Drive
Oncology Registry – 4891 JPP
Iowa City, IA 52242-1002

Pictures from 2006 Fall Meeting Mason City

