

CTSRC 2025 Annual Business Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21ST, 2026

CTSRC Mission and Vision

- **CTSRC Mission:** The society's mission is to support excellence in the practice of Respiratory Care through public and legislative advocacy, and through educational opportunities that are both innovative and evidence-based.
- **CTSRC Vision:** The Connecticut Society for Respiratory Care (CTSRC) promotes professional excellence among its members and serves as an advocate for patients and their families, the general public and Respiratory Therapists in the state of CT. The CTSRC is a non-profit organization and chartered affiliate of the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC). Rev 2015

Agenda

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER
APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT

DELEGATE'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP & VP OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
REPORT

VP OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

THANK YOU TO OUTGOING MEMBERS
ELECTION RESULTS & INSTALLATION OF
NEW OFFICERS

Connecticut Society for Respiratory Care (CTSRC)

Strategic Plan 2026–2028

The CTSRC updated our state level strategic plan to align with the updated AARC strategic plan

- **Engage-** Expand membership value by implementing periodic needs-assessment surveys, strengthening mentorship programs, and promoting dual membership with AARC. Increase inclusive participation through virtual community forums and statewide town halls, Student-focused outreach to address declining enrollment trends and workforce shortages seen nationally and in Connecticut task force reports and CTSRC Ambassador Program to engage hospitals and academic sites.
- **Elevate-** Advance recognition of respiratory therapists as essential healthcare professionals and leaders. Conduct statewide campaigns highlighting the RT role in acute, chronic, home-based, and community care. Support leadership development through active participation of both candidates and mentors in the AARC Emerging Leader Program. Support professional growth through development of advanced practice respiratory therapist (APRT) pathways as AARC continues to advocate for APRT licensure models.

Connecticut Society for Respiratory Care (CTSRC)

Strategic Plan 2026–2028 (cont)

- **Advocate-** Influence public policy and healthcare systems to improve patient access and strengthen professional practice. Strengthening state and federal advocacy efforts aligned with AARC initiatives, including workforce development strategies, compact licensure advocacy and APRT-related legislative groundwork. Build and expand alliances with hospital associations, academic institutions, long-term care networks, and pulmonary patient-advocacy groups. Advocate for policies that expand access to respiratory care services, address Connecticut's critical RT workforce shortages by promoting clinical training capacity, educator development incentives, and scholarship/loan-forgiveness programs and support improved reimbursement for RT-led services.
- **Educate-** Deliver innovative, evidence-based education to prepare a future-ready respiratory care workforce. Deliver high-impact, evidence-based educational programming. Support students and early career professionals. Integrate AARC clinical guidelines and emerging research into state education. Provide high-impact evidence-based continuing education incorporating the latest AARC Clinical Practice Guidelines and emerging research. Expand support for students and early-career RTs through outreach, scholarships, and career pathways.

Needs Assessment Survey

To best understand the needs, priorities, and preferences the CTSRC membership and help to guide society programs, education, and services, all active members will be asked to complete a 5-minute, 15 question survey.

The survey will be distributed to members in June 2026 and remain open through July. Results will be reviewed at the September CTSRC Board meeting.

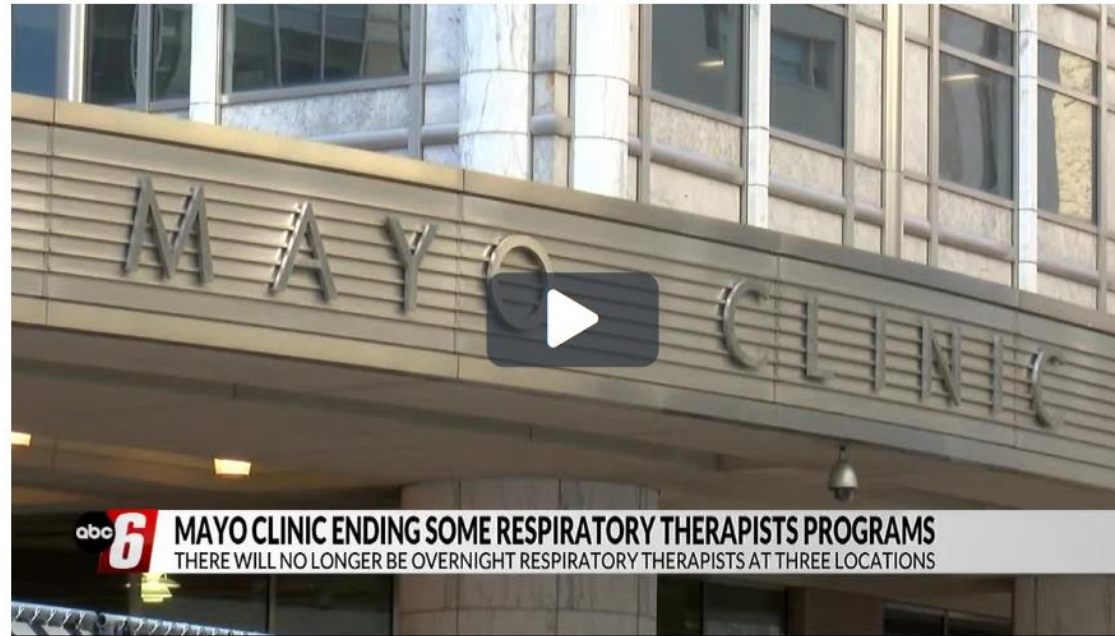
CTSRC Statement of support for 24-hour respiratory therapist coverage in acute care settings

Mayo Clinic ending overnight respiratory therapist program at three locations, including Albert Lea

By KAALTV

Updated: May 15, 2026 - 12:14 AM

Published: May 14, 2026 - 5:33 PM



Some Respiratory Therapy Programs Ending

Legislative Report

**Linda Kowalski –
Rome Smith Kowalski**

- Summary of the final action on bills that are of interest to the CTSRC
- Respiratory Care Compact Licensure
- Student License for Respiratory Care Practitioners
- Eliminating Respiratory Care License Renewal Fees

Government Affairs Report

Ashley Weiss



State Affairs

We sought to have respiratory therapists added to the list of professions that would have their license renewal fees waived under Senate Bill 84, An Act Concerning Revenue Items to Implement the Governor's Budget.

- We were unfortunately not added, but the bill never made it out of the senate and is now dead.

We also attempted to have student licensure added through House Bill 5513 An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions To The Public Health Statutes

- Once again, that request was not granted but the bill also didn't progress to the Senate or governor's desk.

We attempted to ask DPH to consider adding a provision to our governing statute that explicitly allows student licenses to be issued. They indicated that our current statute does allow that as long as a facility has a working relationship with a student's respiratory program.

- We still need to have a meeting with them to ask that they issue a formal statement to interested hospitals which states this position.

Other Legislation

- **The SOAR Act continues to be a priority bill for the AARC. It has been co-sponsored by 51 House reps (1 from CT) and 5 Senators. The PACT Fly-In is ongoing at the time of this meeting and we have scheduled six meetings with our House Reps and Senators.**
- **The Sustainable Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Services in the Home Acts (HR 1406) had also been a priority bill, but H.R.4206 - CONNECT for Health Act permanently extends the pandemic-era virtual care flexibilities and has broader bi-partisan support. It was referred to the Committees on Energy & Commerce and Ways & Means.**
- **In North Carolina, the Respiratory Care Modernization Act (HB 71) has passed the House and the first reading in the Senate. It is currently in the Committee on Rules and Operations, like last year. The prescriptive rights held it up last year, so hopefully with that removed from the bill, it will jump over that last hurdle**
- **Ohio introduced its own version, HB 253, which also passed its House and was referred to the Senate Health Committee. Iowa and Kentucky are also actively working on bills, but these have not advanced to the same degree as their NC and OH counterparts.**

Take Action for Oxygen Reform

Contact Your Representative Today



“Most people don’t even worry about breathing, but when you have a lung disease, it’s part of your everyday.”

—Gary Nelson, liquid oxygen patient



Compact Licensure

- **The Respiratory Care Interstate Compact has been successfully passed in Alabama, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.**
- **Bills have also been introduced in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Georgia, Florida, Delaware, and Missouri.**
- **Seven states need to enact compact licensure before it can be put into practice. We have met that threshold, and a commission will be formed of the states who have enacted the language. This commission will oversee the operations of the compact and work to set up the data system so states may begin issuing compact privileges. Operationalization of the compact is projected to take between 2-3 years after the activation threshold has been met.**

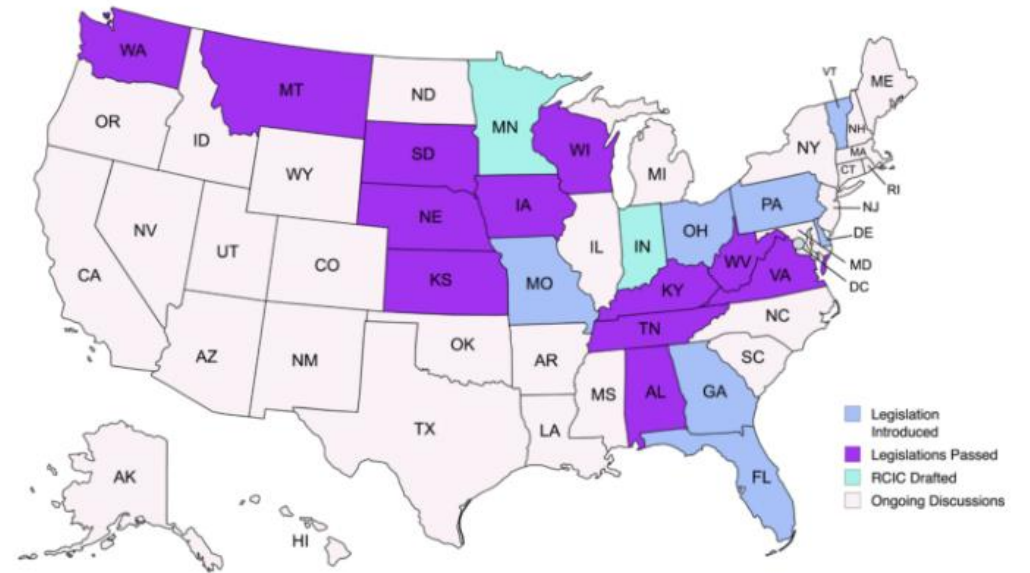
Delegate's Report

Joan Kreiger and Marjorie Cullinan

Respiratory Care
Interstate Compact



Respiratory Care Interstate Compact



Updated 5/15/2026

Donations for Summer HOD Meeting

AARC	AARC-Disaster Relief Fund
ARCF	Bill Bitzel Fund Bill Lamb ARCF- Research Fund ARCF -International Fellows ARCF- General Fund

Proposed Resolutions Summer HOD Meeting

Increasing Member Engagement and Venue Diversity: Including Hawaii in Summer Forum Planning - Gary Wong- Hawaii

- Resolved that the AARC shall consider Hawaii as a host location for the Summer Forum. As the event continues to grow in popularity, selecting Hawaii as a venue will help maintain this momentum, attract record-breaking attendance, and meet the high level of interest expressed by the membership.

Proposed Resolutions Summer HOD Meeting

Be it resolved that the AARC establish a permanent, invested disaster relief fund by directing annual funds raised in excess of projected need into a long-term portfolio that generates sustainable ongoing support. - Lee Wisdom- Kentucky

- This resolution creates a pathway to a self-sustaining disaster relief model by converting surplus funds into a permanent investment portfolio (endowment-style structure). Each fiscal year, the AARC would retain a defined operational balance to meet anticipated relief needs based on a historical review of allocations, while transferring excess funds into the principal to grow long-term earning capacity. Over time, investment returns would reduce or eliminate reliance on ongoing grass-roots style fundraising while ensuring consistent, predictable support for members impacted by disasters. This approach strengthens member value, enhances financial stewardship, and directly supports AARC strategic priorities under "Engage," including optimizing member benefits, improving communication of value, and fostering belonging.

Proposed Resolutions Summer HOD Meeting

Be it resolved that the AARC annually match up to a minimum of \$35,000.00 of funds raised for the Disaster Relief Fund to accelerate growth of the permanent disaster relief fund over the next 10 years. - John Bewlett- New Mexico

- This resolution accelerates the sustainability timeline of the disaster relief fund by enabling AARC to strategically invest organizational resources-such as matching excess fund transfers or contributing defined annual amounts-into the permanent fund. This proactive investment approach would significantly shorten the time required to achieve a self-sustaining model, reduce long-term fundraising burden, and ensure reliable support for members in times of crisis through the Disaster Relief Fund which is seen as an important membership benefit.

Proposed Resolutions Summer HOD Meeting

P.R.I.M.E. - James Keith- Delaware

- Resolve that the AARC establish the PRIME (Pulmonary Reliability, Integrity, Maintenance, and Excellence), or another appropriate name if the proposed acronym is taken, Recognition Program as an annual AARC recognition designed specifically for Pulmonary Function Laboratories. PRIME provides a voluntary, achievable framework to promote technical standardization, quality assurance, and professional credentialing in a clinical area where traditional accreditation and regulatory models have historically been impractical.

Proposed Resolutions Summer HOD Meeting

Industry Focused Recognition –Lee Wisdom- Kentucky

- Resolve that the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) explore the development of an industry-focused recognition program—modeled after the existing APEX Award—in partnership with the Industry Taskforce (and potentially restructured AARC Industry Council upon formation)

Proposed Resolutions Summer HOD Meeting

Co-marketing toolkits and resources- Lee Wisdom- Kentucky

- Resolve that the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) establish and communicate a standardized, transparent timeline and execution framework for the development and distribution of co-marketing toolkits and related resources to Chartered Affiliates participating in the Revenue Sharing Agreement.

Proposed Resolutions Summer HOD Meeting

Annual IDEAA Toolkit - Lee Wisdom & Kyle Mahan- Kentucky

- Resolve that the AARC Executive Office, in partnership with the AARC IDEAA Committee, develop and disseminate a comprehensive IDEAA Toolkit at least once every other year with a requirement for chartered affiliates to include toolkit information on their websites & social media as part of the quarterly social media expectations for revenue sharing.

Proposed Resolutions Summer HOD Meeting

Disaster Preparedness Kit – Lee Wisdom – Kentucky

- Resolve that the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) explore opportunities to create a branded disaster preparedness kit to be sold through the AARC Store, with a minimum of ten percent (10%) of proceeds allocated directly to the AARC Disaster Relief Fund; and Be it further resolved that:
 - Initial funding for the first production order be considered through the AARC Disaster Relief Fund to offset startup costs to the organization.
 - Proceeds from sales be used to replenish inventory of the disaster preparedness kits, with a designated portion (no less than 10%) directed to the Disaster Relief Fund to sustain ongoing relief efforts.
 - The product be marketed as both a preparedness resource and a tangible way for members to support colleagues affected by disasters

Proposed Resolutions Summer HOD Meeting

Conference Development Playbook – Brian Walsh – Texas

- The AARC share its conference development playbook including planning guidelines, contract negotiation strategies, vendor management practices, and other relevant resources with all state affiliates to support their event planning and operational success. Additionally, the AARC assist affiliates in negotiating partnership pricing with hotel chains and conference venues with which the AARC already conducts business, including but not limited to providing points of contact, leveraging national relationships, and advocating for affiliate-level access to preferred rates

Proposed Resolutions Summer HOD Meeting

Revenue Sharing Clarity - Lexie Caraway- Illinois

- Resolve that the AARC Executive Office (EO) develop and implement a standardized structure ensuring that all revenue sharing payments to Chartered Affiliates are processed and disbursed timely, i.e., within sixty (60) days of the quarter close and; Be it further resolved that the EO provide transparency in the payment process, including clear timelines, tracking mechanisms, and communication to Chartered Affiliates regarding payment status quarterly.

Proposed Resolutions Summer HOD Meeting

“Host Affiliate” Support Grant Program - Glenn Milano- Florida

- Be it resolved that the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) establish a House of Delegates (HOD) “Host Affiliate” Support Grant Program to provide reimbursement of up to \$2,000 to the designated host affiliate of an in-person Summer or Winter HOD meeting. This reimbursement will cover documented expenses associated with the official event titled “AARC House of Delegates Social Event Sponsored by [Host State Affiliate]” (hereafter referred to as the “HOD Social Event”), traditionally held at the conclusion of Day 1 of the standard two-day in-person HOD meeting organized by the host State Affiliate. Furthermore- The grant shall be available only to the designated host affiliate of an in-person HOD meeting.- The host affiliate must submit a formal application including: 1) A projected event budget 2) Anticipated total event costs 3) Proposed per-person registration fee 4) Estimated attendance based on historical HOD Social Event averages- Reimbursement shall not exceed documented net loss associated with the HOD Social Event and shall not result in profit to the host affiliate.- All applications and reconciliations shall be reviewed and approved by the House of Delegates Treasurer prior to reimbursement

Proposed Resolutions Summer HOD Meeting

Lapsed or Expired Credentials - Glenn Milano- Florida

- RESOLVED the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) Board of Directors (BOD) formally invite the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) to participate in a structured, joint evaluation and assessment of credential-licensure misalignment—specifically addressing individuals who maintain an active state license to practice but who's national NBRC credential has lapsed or expired. And be further RESOLVED the initiative will convene within an agreed amount of time after adoption of the committee, with an evaluation/assessment body consisting of appointed members from the AARC BOD, and from the House of Delegates (HOD), and designated leadership from the NBRC, whose active participation is essential to a comprehensive and collaborative workforce assessment.

Membership & VP of External Affairs Report

Annalisa Pope



Membership

As of today, May 18th 2026 – 643 active CTSRC members

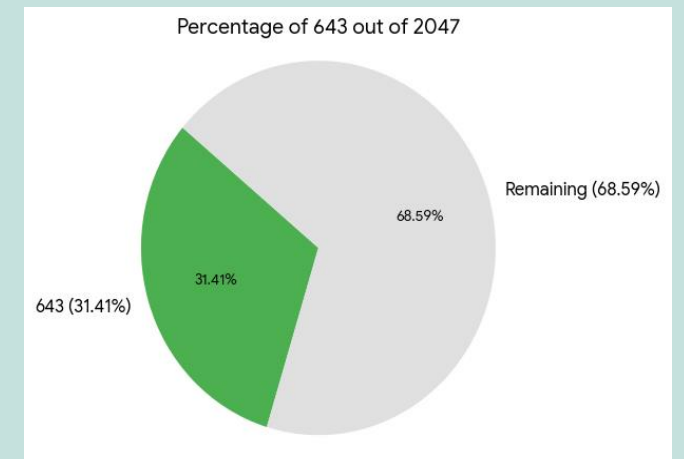
- an increase from January (634 members)

DPH-Respiratory Care Practitioner - 2047 active RCP license records found

- $643/2047 = 0.314118 = 31\%$ members

Ideas for recruitment and retention are welcomed!

Re-engage RTs who have let their memberships lapse, a draft for a recruitment email or social media post tailored for Connecticut therapists etc.



AARC Quarter 2 – 2026 Affiliate Toolkit

Q2 Agreement Expectations:

- Post 3 AARC promotions on social media and/or affiliate website (Revenue Sharing)
- Make 6 new posts in your affiliate AARConnect Community (Revenue Sharing)
- Post 3 promotions of Summer Forum 2026 (Co-Marketing)



Future initiatives

- Green supply chain
- Reduced carbon footprint
- Waste reduction
- Water conservation

- **Product enhancement**
Introduce regular updates and features to enhance product offerings.
- **Technology integration**
Explore emerging technologies for potential integration into our operations.
- **Collaborative partnerships**
Foster collaborations with tech innovators and industry leaders to drive innovation.

VP of Internal Affairs Report

Shanna Butkus



Symposium Highlights

One of the largest attended symposiums in CTSRC history

- Over 250 attendees each day!

One of the largest raffle revenues in CTSRC history

- Thank you to all who donated raffle baskets!!
- This year's symposium raffle generated \$4,884 in revenue to help support our student scholarships and programs

Symposium Highlights

Attendee Survey Results

- Overall:
 - People enjoyed the venue
 - Many requests to keep same location
 - Requests to have Mars on Saturday & Happy hour again next year
 - Good speaker reviews
 - Great food reviews
- Requests for next year:
 - Coffee on demand – came up several times
 - Desserts more available ran out quick- Came up several times
 - Emergency operations plan for fire alarm
 - More vendor time on day 2
 - Shorter talks for attention span

Symposium Highlights

Topics of Interest based on survey feedback:

DCD/brain death and RT role

Pulmonary Rehab Topic

ASV- the role in managing/weaning patients

Interventional Pulmonary- laryngectomies/trachs/airway complications

CF meds

Asthma biologics

Marijuana and vaping

Burnout in RT

Career paths in respiratory care

PHTN treatments

Changes in airway clearance

How to deal with difficult patients/families

Diagnostic interpretations: ultrasound, ct scan, xray, mri

Sepsis

Pulmonary embolism

Pharmacology

Tele health/ remote rt

Treasurer's Report

John Sousa



March Budget Report

Opening Balance

3/1/2026 **\$40,705.44**

Checks

Expenses

9-Mar	\$50.00	Annual Business Filing	State of CT
1390 17-Mar	\$957.15	Kowalski	Lobbyist
1392 17-Mar	\$390.26	Ballot Reimbursement	
1393 18-Mar	\$15,500.00	Symposium	Bristol Event Center

Total Expenses

\$16,897.41

Revenue

2-Mar	\$2,075.00	Symposium - Vendor	Hartford Hospital
6-Mar	\$1,805.52	AARC Revenue Sharing	
10-Mar	\$1,595.25	Symposium Revenue	Via Square
10-Mar	\$245.00	Symposium - Individual	
13-Mar	\$1,800.00	Symposium - Vendor	Drager
16-Mar	\$1,800.00	Symposium - Vendor	Zoll
16-Mar	\$1,144.00	Symposium - Students	Manchester
17-Mar	\$25,000.00	Symposium Revenue	Via Paypal
20-Mar	\$3,542.00	Symposium - Students	Norwalk
23-Mar	\$1,800.00	Symposium - Vendor	Electromed
30-Mar	\$245.00	Symposium - Individual	

Total Revenue

\$41,051.77

Ending Balance

3/31/2026 **\$64,859.80**

April Budget Report

Opening Balance	4/1/2026	\$64,859.80		
Checks				
Expenses				
	2-Apr	\$168.16	Symposium Decorations	Via Amazon
1391	7-Apr	\$1,323.14	Delegate Reimbursement	
				Via DiMatteo Group (Annual Payment)
1399	15-Apr	\$1,930.00	Annual Tax Filing	
			Director's and Officer's Insurance	Via Ashmore Capital (Annual Payment)
1401	17-Apr	\$1,733.00	Renewal	
1400	20-Apr	\$957.15	Kowalski	Lobbyist
	27-Apr	\$600.00	Petty Cash and Band Payment	\$300 each
1396	28-Apr	\$250.00	Symposium Honorarium	
1403	28-Apr	\$30,163.99	Symposium	Bristol Event Center
1404	28-Apr	\$349.52	Symposium Supplies Reimbursement	
	28-Apr	\$684.00	General Libaility/ Business Insurance	Via The Hartford (Annual Payment)
1394	29-Apr	\$250.00	Symposium Honorarium	
1397	29-Apr	\$250.00	Symposium Honorarium	
1402	30-Apr	\$433.59	Symposium Plaque Reimbursement	
Total Expenses		\$39,092.55		
Revenue				
	1-Apr	\$1,800.00	Symposium - Vendor	Hamilton
	3-Apr	\$3,080.00	Symposium - Individual Bulk	Hospital for Special Care
	3-Apr	\$150.00	Symposium - Individual	
	3-Apr	\$140.00	Symposium - Individual	Hospital for Special Care
	13-Apr	\$25,000.00	Symposium	Via Paypal
	13-Apr	\$245.00	Symposium - Individual	
	13-Apr	\$245.00	Symposium - Individual	
	13-Apr	\$245.00	Symposium - Individual	
	13-Apr	\$150.00	Symposium - Individual	
	16-Apr	\$400.00	Symposium - Vendor	Clarity
	17-Apr	\$1,967.80	AARC Revenue Sharing	
	17-Apr	\$1,925.00	Symposium - Vendor	Insmed
	21-Apr	\$2,730.00	Symposium - Individual Bulk	Bridgeport Hospital
	22-Apr	\$918.35	Symposium Revenue	Via Square
	23-Apr	\$275.29	Symposium Revenue	Via Square
	27-Apr	\$1,030.00	Symposium - Students	Uhart
	27-Apr	\$150.00	Symposium - Individual	
	27-Apr	\$115.74	Symposium Revenue	Via Square
	28-Apr	\$985.74	Symposium Revenue	Via Square
	29-Apr	\$706.25	Symposium Revenue	Via Paypal
	30-Apr	\$1,650.00	Symposium - Vendor	Theravance
Total Revenue		\$43,909.17		
Ending Balance	4/30/2026	\$69,676.42		

Budget Proposal

CD Investment Increase

- Current CD Information
 - Current CD balance: \$10,245.54
 - Current APY: Approximately 3%
 - The best rates we have consistently seen have been with 3-month CD terms
- **Proposal:**
 - Move approximately \$4,750 into the current CD to bring the total balance up to \$15,000. This would allow CTSRC to continue earning steady interest while keeping the money relatively accessible through short 3-month renewal periods.
- Estimated Returns

CD Balance	Estimated Quarterly Return	Estimated Annual Return
Current Balance (\$10,245.54)	\$76.84	\$307.37
Proposed Balance (\$15,000.00)	\$112.50	\$450.00

These estimates are based on an approximate 3% APY and could vary slightly depending on future CD rates at the time of renewal.

Budget Proposal

Scholarship Increase

- **Current Scholarship Structure**
 - One (1) second-year respiratory therapy student scholarship: \$1,000
 - One (1) continuing education scholarship for active RTs: \$1,000
 - One (1) first-year student scholarship: \$500 initially, with an additional \$500 awarded upon proof of successful completion of the first year
 - Current annual scholarship distribution total: \$3,000
- **Proposal:** Increase the CTSRC scholarship distribution total from \$3,000 to \$5,000 annually.
 - **Proposed Scholarship Structure**
 - Two (2) first-year student scholarships
 - Two (2) second-year student scholarships
 - One (1) continuing education scholarship for active RTs
 - New total scholarship distribution: \$5,000 annually

Financial Considerations

- This year's symposium raffle generated \$4,884 in revenue. This nearly covers the entire proposed increase in scholarship funding.
- Historically, portions of these raffle funds also helped offset and reduce student symposium registration pricing. However, many schools and hospitals are now covering these registration costs for students.

Budget Proposal

CTSRC Reimbursement for President attendance at AARC National Events

- In 2023, The CTSRC suspended funding for reimbursing the president for attendance expenses related to attendance at AARC national events.
- Attendance at AARC conferences helps the president provide direct benefits to the society and its members through leadership development, strategic networking, knowledge transfer and organizational growth.
- **Proposal** – Reinstate reimbursement, up to a set amount, used to offset costs associated with conference registration, travel and lodging for the CTSRC president.

Education Committee Report

Karen Griffiths



Student Awards & Scholarships

- **Scholarships**

- Current Student: Noah Linton
- Graduating Student: Connor Wheeler
- Advanced Degree: Pam Papanikolaou

- **Awards**

- CT State Manchester: Tameka Williams
- CT State Naugatuck: Connor Wheeler
- CT State Norwalk: Kimberlin Turcios-Arita
- Goodwin University: Bryan Murphy
- University of Hartford: Lakraj Romroop
- Southern Connecticut State University: Tesha Crosse

Outgoing CTSRC Officers and Board members

Past President – Emily Woodworth

VP for Internal Affairs – Shanna Butkus

Secretary – Erica Palmer

Board of Directors – Sajjad Raza

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Welcome New Officers and Board Members

President Elect – Annalisa Pope

VP for Internal Affairs – Ryan Wanat

VP for External Affairs – Maria Marques

Secretary – TJ Weber

Board of Directors – Daina Dilhman

Emily Belval

Jessica Pratt (1 year term)

Thank you