

FOCUS ON CRA



An Eye Opening Experience



By Gary L. Duehring, PhD, CRA, RT, FAHRA • Vice Chair, 2009 RACC • Medical Imaging Administrator
 • FDA/CDRH • Owosso, MI • kspacer1@aol.com

Having just returned from Albuquerque, NM, where I had the privilege to be a delegate for the Management Chapter of the ASRT in the Governance and House of Delegates meeting, I felt a need to transmit some information to fellow CRAs and members of the imaging administration profession.

As we all know, credentials are key to providing assurance to the public at large that those individuals holding the credentials have demonstrated specific skill sets and competencies. We also know that those credentials in and of themselves do not endow the holder with these skill sets or competencies. I know several longtime department directors and other people in management roles in the imaging environment who hold only their imaging modality credentials, but have no recognition of their degree of expertise in management.

At the ASRT House of Delegates, the Management Chapter had entered a motion that the CRA credential be recognized by the ASRT. This would acknowledge the CRA in management as an MR designates those who are credentialed in magnetic resonance.

This opened the floor to a lot of serious discussion on what the CRA credential is and who the RACC is in awarding the credential. I was amazed at the lack of information that was known in the imaging profession (both inside and outside administrative levels) as to what the credential means.

I learned that in the ASRT Management Chapter, there are over 2000 members, and of those individuals, only 33 are self disclosed as CRAs. While the motion was pulled from the floor and withdrawn, I do believe that the CRAs can feel this as a win!

There was an expressed earnest desire to know more about the CRA and the RACC. These people who were ill informed, if informed at all, now wanted to know how to pursue this credential and what gains it brings to them professionally. People with 10 plus years in management, now in a fearful economy, wanted that additional security that they may find with the CRA credential.

I also heard several anecdotal situations where one delegate's

wife was a CRA, encouraged by her predecessor (a CRA) who was leaving the position. She passed the exam, became a CRA, and was offered the position when it opened and was posted by HR as a CRA preferred position.

As CRAs, we need to mentor those in management under our direction and encourage them to pursue the CRA credential for their professional growth. We need to use our credential in our signature to educate those RTs under our leadership as to a course of direction within the imaging profession for growth and advancement if they are so inclined.

As a CRA, and as a commissioner with the RACC, I was both stunned by the lack of knowledge held by RTs in various stages of their careers about the CRA credential, and proud of those individuals who were aware of the credential and who had nothing but favorable stories and/or information to contribute to the discussion.

Action on the floor of the House of Delegates will surface again in the next House meeting. The Management Chapter will be presenting a motion for the RACC to be recognized as a credentialing body along with the ARRT, CNMT, and other nationally recognized credentialing bodies.

From one CRA to another, we need to inform and give leadership to those inquiring minds at all levels concerning who and what we are and what those credentials denote. We need to help mentor and provide appropriate direction to those in pursuit of the CRA credential. We need to be recognized not only by our peers, but by those we lead and/or direct, and nurture those future candidates in their professional pursuits. While recognizing that so many of our colleagues earned their positions and have been instructed by the school of hard knocks in managing the business of providing imaging care, we should also promote the CRA to them to increase their skills through preparation and as role models to those under their direction and leadership.

We each have work to do, but it is a work that will be self rewarding and exciting as we see appropriate individuals coming up and assuming roles with effectiveness beside and behind us. It's time to nurture our profession and lend a hand in educating its members. Find someone you believe has what it takes to become a CRA, encourage them, mentor them, and help them obtain the CRA credential. ■

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November 2008 & May 2009 CRA Exam Results

Congratulations are extended to the November 2008 and May 2009 classes of Certified Radiology Administrators (CRAs). There currently are 637 CRAs nationwide.

Twenty-three individuals received a passing score on the computer-based examination over the course of the 2 months. These individuals may be recognized by the credential CRA after their names. ■

Colorado

Cody Van, CRA
Fort Collins, CO

Connecticut

Darlene Z. Molenaar, CRA
Monroe, CT

District of Columbia

Patrice Mitchell, CRA
Washington, DC

Florida

Gail Hopkins, CRA
Lehigh Acres, FL

Holly McEachern, CRA
Ocala, FL

Louisiana

Mark Green, CRA
Baton Rouge, LA

Maryland

Christine V. Thorne, MHSA,
CRA
Upper Marlboro, MD

Michigan

Charles J. Dziedzic, CRA
Traverse City, MI

Missouri

Mark Brilllos, CRA
Saint Louis, MO

Montana

David Broderick, CRA
Libby, MT

North Carolina

Christina Jackson, CRA
Greenville, NC

New Jersey

Elizabeth Naimo, MBA, CRA
Belleville, NJ

Stephanie Spencer, RCVT,
MBA, CRA
Tinton Falls, NJ

New York

Bradford Hellwig, CRA
Syracuse, NY

Mary Martin, CRA
Saugerties, NY

Ohio

Kimberly L. Masters, CRA
Orrville, OH

Virginia

Donald E. Rozier, CRA
Strasburg, VA

Martin D. Ward, MEd,RT(R),
CRA
Woodbridge, VA

Sharon G. Whetzel, CRA
Roanoke, VA

Washington

Krista Christensen, CRA
Burien, WA

Joe Larson, CRA
Gig Harbor, WA

Lois Medina, CRA
Olympia, WA

Wisconsin

Tanner Holst, CRA
La Crosse, WI



Nominations Sought for RACC Members

The Radiology Administration Certification Commission (RACC) is accepting nominations for the role of commissioner on the RACC. The RACC is the governing body of the Certified Radiology Administrator (CRA) program.

There are 2 commissioner seats to be filled on the RACC. Elected commission members will serve a term of 3 years. New commissioners will be determined by tabulated votes from the upcoming CRA-only election.

Any CRA in good standing is eligible for this position. Only CRAs are eligible to nominate or vote in the upcoming election.

Nominations must include: nominee's name; nominee's telephone number and email; reason for making the nomination; and name and contact information of the CRA making the nomination.

Because nominations can only come from current CRAs, anonymous nominations cannot be accepted.

Submit nominations online no later than August 31, 2009. To submit a nomination, click the CRA News tab on the CRA Web site, www.CRAinfo.org. ■