

FOCUS ON CRA



New RACC Commissioner Responds to Questions



By John A. Marshall, CRA,RCC,RT(R) • 2008 RACC Commissioner • Radiology Prospective Payment Coordinator, Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System • Sarasota, FL • john-marshall@smh.com

I would like to thank my fellow CRAs for electing me as a commissioner for the Radiology Administrator Certification Commission (RACC). It is truly an honor to have

been chosen to join this prestigious group and I will do my best to represent your interests while upholding the high standards of our accreditation process.

Having been asked to share my newfound knowledge and perspective as a recently elected commissioner, I would like to share my responses to some of the questions that I encountered manning the CRA booth during the Spring Conference.

Answer: Yes, the CRA system is doing very well. The number of active CRAs continues to increase at just over 10% every year. There are currently 606 active CRA. Later this year those numbers will increase as new CRA credentials are awarded following the results of the examinations scheduled this May, July, and November.

Acceptance and recognition of the value of the CRA credential is also growing. Many employers have begun adopting "MBA or CRA preferred" as the prerequisite for imaging administrator opportunities.

Answer: The RACC is the governing body for CRA accreditation. The RACC is dedicated to instilling public recognition and confidence in the CRA credential. The RACC accomplishes this by assuring that only those professionals who have successfully demonstrated (through an examination process) the high level of knowledge, experience, and skills relevant to manage an imaging department or center are awarded the CRA credential. The RACC's disciplined approach to this high degree of excellence leads to an increase in public confidence and recognition of the true value of the CRA credential.

Answer: Yes, your college courses can count towards CRA continuing education units (CEUs). If you achieve a grade of C or higher upon completion, you may receive CEU credits for academic courses, within any of the appropriate management domains (human resources, asset management, fiscal management, operations, and communications) as outlined below:

CEU credits for college classes will be granted as follows:

12 CEU credits for each academic quarter credit

16 CEU credits for each academic semester credit

Answer: Yes, the RACC tracks the pass-fail rate for the CRA examination very closely. The pass rate for each group that sits for the exam varies according to the mix of the individuals taking it. The overall pass rate from 2003 through 2007 is 70.27%.

Answer: Thank you for the compliment, but I will have to pass it along to the AHRA because they are the ones providing the CRA prep course. The RACC establishes the CRA eligibility requirements, the examination questions, and maintains the CRA credentialing process, but does not participate, endorse, or offer educational programs. Graduation from a school of radiologic technology does not guarantee that you will pass the ARRT registry. Likewise, your attendance of a CRA prep course does not guarantee success with the CRA examination.

Answer: Yes, there are no guarantees, but some groups do have a higher pass rate. The latest RACC data indicates that a person who has more than 5 years of departmental level imaging management experience is twice as likely to pass the CRA examination as someone who has minimal departmental level managerial experience. The CRA credential is not intended to offer proof of basic competency. Achieving CRA status signifies that an individual has achieved a high level of expertise in imaging administration through education, knowledge, and experience.

Answer: Yes, lunch is in the exhibit hall and the cookies are worth the trip.

Answer: Yes, hundreds of CEU credits are available through non-AHRA sources. The RACC does not directly accredit continuing education courses. However, the RACC recognizes all CEU credits earned through any Recognized Continuing Education Evaluation Mechanism (RCEEM) certified organization. That includes the AHRA, American College of Radiology (ACR), American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), Radiology Business Management Association (RBMA), Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT), Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SMDS), Society of Nuclear Medicine Technologist Section (SNM-TS),

... continued on page 8

MEMBER TALK

New RACC Commissioner Responds to Questions

... from page 3

and Society of Vascular Ultrasound (SVU), as well as academic courses. If you attend a nationally recognized professional society's course or one provided through a RCEEM provider, as long as the activity relates to 1 or more of the 5 CRA domains, the CEU credits should apply for your CRA renewal.

Answer: No, you do not have to attend an AHRA conference to take the CRA examination. There are testing facilities available in almost every state. Although the July 2008 examination will take place in Denver, CO during the AHRA annual meeting, the examination is also offered online. This year, both the May and November examinations will be available at over 120 dedicated testing facilities throughout the US that are contracted to administer the test in accordance with the RACC requirements.

Answer: Yes, I did pass on my first attempt. This is probably because I have been a radiology administrator since you were in grade school and have had plenty of time to make mistakes and learn from them. Education is a great benefit to your success, but nothing gains you more knowledge than actually performing the task.

Answer: If I were a relatively new supervisor, I would ask my administrator (hopefully a CRA) to be a mentor. Taking the lead in preparing the operations budget, managing a new project, developing a marketing plan, or creating job descriptions is the best way to obtain first hand experience and prepare yourself for the challenge of the CRA examination.

I am proud to serve as a commissioner and will do my best to insure that the standards of the CRA credential continue to foster the public recognition of the high level of education, knowledge, and experience a person possesses as a CRA. ■

Special Message in Next *Radiology Management*

Your support of the AHRA Education Foundation is crucial to providing professional development resources for medical imaging professionals at all experience levels.

Be sure to read the letter from Terry A. Dowd, CRA, FAHRA, chairman of the AHRA Education Foundation, that will accompany the May/June *Radiology Management*.

Please help the AHRA Education Foundation continue to provide the education and scholarship programs that will build our legacy.

Thank you for investing in the future of medical imaging management.



AHRA Education Foundation Partnership Initiative
"Building Tomorrow's Leaders...Today"

Don't Miss the 9th Annual AHRA Education Foundation Golf Tournament!



The 2008 Imaging Classic Golf Tournament will be held in Denver, CO. The registration fee includes greens fees, lunch, cart, and transportation to and from the course. Players may enter individually or as part of a team. The tournament, a scramble format, will be followed by an awards ceremony and lunch.

Additional information and registration forms can be found online at: www.ahraonline.org. Questions? Please contact Sarah Cadorette at scadorette@ahraonline.org ■