



NEWSLETTER

Arkansas Cancer Registrars Association

January 2008

Winter



Presidents Message

I just wanted to say hello to all members, new and old. I am excited to be serving as ArCRA President this year.

First of all, I want to thank everyone who attended the ArCRA meeting in El Dorado in September. We should all thank Dianna, Barbara and Jeanette for the wonderful educational opportunity. I have heard great things about the meeting. I hate that I had to miss it.

As most of you probably have heard, I have taken a new position with Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis. I am working remotely from home. My goal is to have more flexibility and time with my kids. Hopefully this will also give me a little more time to work with ArCRA. Things are still very hectic right now. Of course, nothing works as it should when starting something new, but hopefully soon all the kinks will be worked out and I can get back on track and will be able to work towards an eventful year for ArCRA.

I have some ideas that I will be bringing to the Board, in addition to other members bringing forth their great ideas as well. We have had one meeting since this Board took over in September and we already have an eventful year planned. We may be calling on some of you throughout the year for your help with some of these things, so if you are called on, if at all possible please get involved.

One of my goals for the next year is to enhance our educational opportunities. Your Board and program committee are doing a great job and already hard at work on this. We will see some changes this year in our educational opportunities. With all the changes and budget cuts going on in the hospital setting and in the Central Registry, ArCRA and ACCR have decided to combine their resources and hold one meeting this year. We surveyed the ArCRA membership for your thoughts on this and the majority of the responses were to hold only one meeting. By combining our resources we should be able to enhance our present educational system by bringing in a wider array of speakers to learn from.

Last year one of our goals was to work on community outreach. I believe we did a great job with that. Many people from the Central Registry went out to schools and to meetings and promoted the registry. This will bring recognition and hopefully recruitment to the registry field. Last year we also gave a charitable donation of \$600 to the Candlelighters

Association. I would like to see ArCRA continue to be involved with this practice each year. We, of all people, know how important our contribution is. We will be asking for association involvement with this later on in the year.

Again, I just want to say I will do my best serving ArCRA this year. I hope everyone had a great holiday season and tried to keep it as stress free as possible. I hope everyone is gearing up for the new year and all the changes that come along with it.

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Tammy Newman, CTR
ArCRA President



Immediate Past President

Happy New Year Friends!!

We all made it through the holidays, although we are still reminded every day by the Christmas commercials on television and the Christmas music on some radio stations. Hope you all had good times with your family and friends.

Last year was a good year for our association; members were challenged with working in groups. These groups focused on gaining new exposure for our profession, informing the membership about primary cancer registry functions and how advancements in these areas would effect registrars; lastly but certainly not least, we focused on helping each other through the mentorship efforts. Thanks to those of you who worked so diligently to accomplish our objectives. Special thanks to the Expanding Association Outreach workgroup, you guys were all over this state talking about our profession and as a result we have more college students interested in becoming cancer registrars, which was the objective. We know this by the calls received from schools that have never contacted us before and from individual students. What an outstanding job by our Program Committee, Dianna, Barbara, Jeanette and Tammy. I think everyone will agree that this annual meeting was absolutely fantastic, it was all good. How fortunate for me to have such a group to work with.

The New Year brings with it new educational promises and possibilities for ArCRA members, hopefully we will take advantage of every opportunity offered. I know the Program Committee has been feverishly working on the combined ArCRA and ACCR meeting, which I'm excited about and believe, will be very fruitful for all participants.

Thank you all for the opportunities you offered me as the president of this fine organization. I look forward to working with the present committee and another great year.

Theressia Mitchell, RHIT, CTR
Immediate Past President



Treasurer

No report for this issue.



Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws have been updated to reflect the changes that were approved at the 2007 ArCRA Annual Meeting. A copy is attached.



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Dianna L. Wilson, RHIA, CTR
Bylaws Committee Chair



Program Committee

The 2008 Program Committee is busy working on the Fall Educational meeting. This will be a combined meeting between ArCRA and ACCR.

Little Rock Hilton (925 South University)
September 23 – 26 2008

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this event.



Membership

REMINDER: Annual association membership dues are due by February 15th. A late fee will be assessed on all dues paid after February 15th as noted on the Membership Application (see attached). A completed membership application form must be submitted with your check.



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REMINDER: Lucy Utterback scholarship monies are available from ArCRA. You may apply for a scholarship by completing the attached application and submit to the current President or Secretary **3 months prior** to the event you are planning on attending. These monies may be used for the CTR exam fee or for attending the ArCRA Annual Educational Conference.



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Dianna L. Wilson, RHIA, CTR
Secretary



Education

ACCR is sponsoring an educational meeting next month.

Cancer Registry Boot Camp: Basic Training!

This is a great opportunity for those registrars that have only been in the field for 3 years or less and those planning on taking the CTR exam this spring or fall. The workshop itself is free. You will have to acquire lodging and meals on your own. This workshop will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 12th through Wednesday, Feb. 13th. It will be located here at the Arkansas Department of Health in Little Rock. If you are planning to attend please contact Johnnie Jackson (501) 661-2960 or Melissa Riddle (501) 280-4129 at ACCR. The deadline to register is Friday, Feb. 1st.

Clarifications for the 2007 MP/H rules are available!

NCI/SEER has developed a list of clarifications for the 2007 MP/H rules based on questions and comments received from registrars. The clarifications include

- Changes in wording
- More detailed explanations of select terms and definitions in common problem areas

You can access the MP/H Clarifications by clicking on the link
<http://seer.cancer.gov/tools/mphrules/download.html>

No rule changes are planned until after the 2008 MP/H Reliability study data have been analyzed.

CS Version 01.04.00 (October 2007 is now available!

You can access the new version by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.cancerstaging.org/cstage/manuals.html>

Board Members and contact information:

Please fee free to contact any of the ArCRA Board members with questions or concerns or any ideas for the newsletter:

President:	Tammy Newman, CTR	(870) 761-3248 newmantammy1@yahoo.com
President-Elect:	Gigi White, RHIT, CTR	(501) 661-2463 Glynis.White@arkansas.gov
Immediate Past President:	Theressia Mitchell, RHIT, CTR	(501) 661-2952 Theressia.Mitchell@arkansas.gov
Secretary:	Dianna L. Wilson, RHIA, CTR	(870) 863-2020 Dianna.wilson@triadhospitals.com
Treasurer:	Amy Greer, CTR	(501) 661-2141 Amy.J.Greer@arkansas.gov



