Ready for SPRING?

Welcome to Spring in Kentucky! We had such a cold snowy and wet Winter, that we are really excited that Spring has sprung! January brought the Commonwealth plenty of frigid cold temperatures. February brought lots of blizzard like snow with plenty of icy slick roads. March did not fail us with damaging Flash Flooding torrential rains that wreaked havoc on plenty of homes and neighborhoods. We still have roadways that are no longer usable due to the collapsing of roads and bridges because of heavy rain that washed away foundations.
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Another year has gone. Hope everyone made it okay through all the snow and rain that we have had. I truly hope that some of you have made plans to go to the AMT National Education and Business meeting. It will be held in Kona/Kohala Coast, Big Island of Hawaii June 22-25, 2015. It is not too late to send your registration in. I would like to take this time to congratulate all the AMT award winners for the year 2014 and 2015. Sanda and I won the Distinguished Achievement Award and our good friend from Oklahoma, Roxann Clifton, won the OGM award. We are so proud of her. We would also like to congratulate all the new KSSAMT members and hope to see new members at our State Society meeting. We had a board of directors meeting in March and decided to have our next KSSAMT on October 24, 2015 at Daymar College in Bowling Green, Kentucky. We will be posting more on this meeting as it develops. At our next meeting, we have to vote on ARTICLE III to be added to our Bylaws. A copy of the ARTICLE III is in the newsletter. I would like everyone to review it. We will discuss it and vote on it in October. Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions or concerns. Thank you to all the Board of Directors for their dedication to our organization. God bless you all and safe travels.

Respectfully, Christina Huff, RMA, RPT,

Legislative Report

The Kentucky State Legislature was in session for 30 days the first of the year.
The agenda included:

1. A bill for more strict punishment for dealers of heroin passed.

2. A bill for needle exchange did not pass because there was no provision for rehabilitation for those entering into the program.

3. A bill extending domestic violence protection for those in an abusive relationship including those in a dating situation, as well as a more permanent relationship can receive protection.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity.
Julia Hardcastle, M.T. (AMT)
BYLAW CHANGES
ARTICLE III
MEETINGS

SECTION 1

The _______State Society shall hold at least one (1) meeting of the membership each calendar year at various locations within the state to be determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2

Meeting notices shall be mailed to all members (by US Postal Service or electronic mail) and posted on the _______State Society website at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

SECTION 3

Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President or the Board of Directors. All State Society members shall be notified by regular or electronic mail fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting.

SECTION 4

The _______ State Society may conduct official business by way of electronic communication which may include, but is not limited to, telephone conferencing, electronic mail (e-mail), “web” meetings via the internet or any other reliable method of electronic communication. The Board of Directors will determine the manner in which meetings will be conducted, which may include both in person and electronic participation simultaneously. All such meetings are subject to the required notification criteria listed in SECTION 2 and SECTION 3.

SECTION 5

The ______________ State Society shall establish a system to account for participants who attend via electronic means. The system shall allow such participants to verify their attendance, to hear presentations and discuss resolutions, to vote and to participate in other items of business conducted during the meeting.
My message below contains all the most recent updates for your information.

Hope your 2015 has gotten off to a good start and this message finds everyone well and in good health. Hawaii will be the site of the 2015 National Meeting at Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel in Kohala Coast, Hawaii June 22-25, 2015. Make sure you make those flight reservations to fly into Kona International airport. It is very important you register for the meeting in advance. The only option available this year is the full package. Remember you must preregister in order to get your $350 dollar reimbursement. Preliminary program should be coming out in the March Events magazine. Room rates are $169 plus tax brings your room rate to $191.67 per night. Every room has an ocean view and your very own lanai. Rooms are spacious and beautifully decorated and include marble bathrooms with separate tub and walk-in shower. Each room includes a coffee maker, mini-refrigerator, iron and ironing board, hair dryer, safe, complimentary internet in guestrooms, admission to the fitness center and self parking. However there will be a charge for valet parking. There is an outdoor pool with cabanas and a heated whirlpool. Attire is casual wear for the entire week. No formal attire please! Also, no swim suits or bikini's allowed in the meeting rooms. For you golfers, there is the 18 hole Hapuna Golf Course designed by Arnold Palmer and Ed Seay. There are 10 restaurants to choose from on the premises! Free transportation to the sister resort or for a $5-$10 fee you can hop on the shuttle to the Hilton Waikoloa and shop till you drop at the connected shopping mall. State gift baskets will be taking a hiatus for the 2015 Hawaii meeting due to shipping logistics. They will continue in 2016 in Memphis, TN. In its place state societies are asked to bring a gift card that can be used by anyone in any state.

Plan on spending a few extra days on the island so you can visit Volcano National Park or the Kona Coffee Plantation. Diane Powell has arranged for a discount with Delta and United. There is a special code. Watch your AMT Events magazine or go to the AMT website for update information. Robert's Hawaii Express Shuttle is a private shuttle service you can use at a discounted price. $58.65 round trip, arrival or departure only will be $32.30.

Please visit the AMT annual meeting 2015 Hawaii site for all information. Make sure you read the frequently asked questions. Answers to your questions just may be found there.
AMT has partnered with The American Kidney Fund (AKF) to spread the word about kidney disease. Kidney disease is quite often preventable and affects over 31 million Americans. Together AKF and AMT will work hard to make the public aware of this chronic disease and help raise funds to support the many programs and services available through AKF. Watch for email blasts with updated information.

Remember to record all your continuing education credits in AMTRAX. Make sure you retain your documentation in case of an audit. The program is free to all AMT members. Those AMT members that fall under Certification Continuation Program (CCP), please make sure you have the proper points to remain certified.

Paper exams will no longer be given after January 1, 2016. All exams will be given by electronic means.

As we begin another year remember, if you need anything please do not hesitate to contact me at k9kid@bellsouth.net or phone me at (h) 615-833-3427 or (c) 615-424-0550.

Respectfully submitted,
Kaye A. Tschop, MT
AMT Southern District Councillor

Together, AKF and AMT will foster and promote collaborative work focusing on the role of allied health professionals in the prevention and treatment of chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease. Throughout the partnership, AMT will help raise awareness of kidney disease through professional and public education and communications. AMT members will also raise funds to support the American Kidney Fund’s programs and services.

For more information on the AMT and AKF partnership, visit www.kidneyfund.org/amt/.

▪ Get your state society involved as volunteers for AKF’s Kidney Action Day events
▪ Become a kidney health educator in your community
▪ Join the AKF Advocacy Network
▪ Take advantage of AKF’s free online professional education courses
▪ Pair Up for an exciting fundraising challenge
Editor’s Notes  
by Sanda Jones, MT

Happy Spring! I hope this newsletter finds my AMT family doing well. This year seems to be flying by, we had such a cold and wet winter and then lots of Flash Flooding it’s nice to see Spring. I hope you like the changes we’ve made with the, “Bluegrass Tech” newsletter. As a Editor and writer one of the biggest fears is computer problems. Well, my laptop is on it’s last leg. The program I usually use to create the newsletter is no longer supported by the software. As well as I can’t store much else on my computer as it will not do any updates. So needless to say I’ve been chomping at the bit trying to get the newsletter out on time. I am borrowing a computer to get this done by the due date, while trying to learn a new software program. So if you see a few usually things missing, its because of the new software changes and the lack of my computer resources. But they will be back!

Kentucky has alot going on right now. We are in the planning stages for the Fall Educational meeting which will be held on Saturday, October 24, in Bowling Green. We are also looking forward to hosting a Spring 2016 meeting possible in Lexington, KY. The KSSAMT board met earlier this year and we have some Bylaw changes to discuss and vote on in the upcoming Fall meeting. You will find that information in the following page.

Hawaii here we come! Lisa Bromley and Julia Hardcastle will be representing Kentucky at the National meeting in June. National President, Everett Bloodworth from Benton, Kentucky will also be basking on the Big Island.

A big CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE AWARD WINNERS THAT WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN HAWAII! 
ALSO, CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWEST KENTUCKY AMT MEMBERS!

PLEASE, keep in mind if you have an idea for the newsletter, or a topic for our educational meeting, contact one of us! You will find our Contact information on the second page of the “Bluegrass Tech”. This is your newsletter and your organization. GET INVOLVED!

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Sanda
**Newborn Screening Tests History and Review**

Newborn Screenings Past:

We once called the test PKU cards, now the correct term is Newborn Screening. Why did we call it PKU card? In the early 1960’s Robert Guthrie, PHD developed a blood test that could determine if the newborn had a metabolic disorder phenylketonuria (PKU). Phenylketonuria (PKU) is a lack of the enzyme needed to process the amino acid phenylalanine. This enzyme is necessary for normal growth in children and normal protein use throughout life.

Newborn Screenings Present:

Researchers have developed additional blood tests, since the development of the PKU. The state of Kentucky currently screens for 49 disorders. The importance of this test should be explained to the parents, not just because it is a state law. If the tested disorders are not found early and treated early, they can cause physical problems, developmental delays and in some cases even death. The test is performed 24-48 hours after birth.

continued on next page….
Review in Specimen Collection:
Gloves are to be worn during the procedure. To avoid contamination of the blood collection circles with antiseptic solutions, powder, lotions or other materials that may contaminate and adversely affect the testing process.

1. Filter paper forms should have been stored in a cool dry place. Check the expiration date before use. The filter paper forms are to be used on or before the expiration date.
2. Warm the infants heel to increase the blood flow to the area. Using a commercial heel warmer or a moistened towel that has been run under warm tap water.
3. Position the infant where you can have the foot lower that the heart to increase blood flow.
4. Clean the puncture site with a sterile alcohol prep pad, other antiseptic products should not be used. Allow the site to air dry.
5. Puncture the heel with a 2.0 mm or less disposable automatic lancet on the lateral portions of the heel. Follow the diagram. Dispose of sharp the in a puncture resistant biohazard container.
6. Wipe away the first drop of blood with a sterile dry gauze. Allow for a large drop of blood to form and apply the drop of blood directly to the filter paper.
7. Do not allow the infants heel to touch the filter paper. Only apply one drop of blood to each circle on the filter paper. Do not excessively milk the site this can cause tissue fluids to enter the specimen.
8. Complete screening card by filling each circle on the filter paper with one drop of blood per circle.
9. Allow the blood specimen to dry for 3-4 hours on a dry surface do not expose to heat or direct sunlight.
10. Ship dried specimens within 24 hours in the envelope provided by you state Public Health Laboratory.

My personal technique:
I hold the infants foot with my thumb under the heel, my index finger in the arch of the foot and my remaining fingers around the ankle. If you are looking at the foot your fingers will be making the letter “C”. With a gentle rocking forward motion I apply slight pressure with my index finger to get a formed drop of blood. Then I apply the drop of blood to the filter paper allowing to completely fill the circle. I let the pressure off of my index finger to allow capillary refill. Then I repeat the same steps until I have filled all of the circles on the filter paper.

Written by:
Lisa Marie Bromley, RMA
Phlebotomy Instructor
Western Kentucky Community and Technical College
Lab Assistant
Murray-Calloway County Hospital
The letters have been received by our award winners so now we can let everyone know!!!!

It is my distinct pleasure to congratulate the following Southern District members who were selected for National Awards that will be bestowed at the national meeting in Hawaii June 24, 2015 as follows: by Kaye Tschop,

Distinguished Achievement Award
Grant Lambert, RPT, AHI - CASMET
Oswald Skinner, MT - Florida
Christina Huff, RMA - Kentucky
Sanda Jones, MT - Kentucky
Diane Robbins, MT - Tennessee

Exceptional Merit Award
Lynette Sanders, MT - CASMET
Solomon Goldenberg, RMA - Florida
Jerry Johnson, MT - North Carolina
Valerie Owens, RMA - Tennessee

Pillar Award
Michele Gillies, MT - Alabama
Peggy McCutcheon, MT - South Carolina
Walter Parsons, MT - Tennessee
Don Bouchelle, MT - Virginia

Pride of the Profession
Dr. Georgia McCauley, MT - North Carolina

Leona Lyons Carter Award
Jasmin Hanley, MT - CASMET

Friends of AMT Award
Lela Bowles - Virginia
Richard Anderson - Oregon

Legacy Award
Sylvia Causey, MT - South Carolina
Jackie Langdon, MT - Kansas

Publication Awards
1st Place Journal - Illinois Reporter, Illinios
2nd Place Journal - Tenn-O-Scope, Tennessee
3rd Place Journal - CASMET

1st Place Newsletter - Microcoop, Oregon
2nd Place Newsletter - California Vision - California
3rd Place Newsletter - The AMT New Yorker, New York

Editor of the Year
Kaye Tschop, MT - Tennessee

Additional awards not in the Southern District:

OGM
Roxanne Clifton, MT - Oklahoma

Technologist of the Year
Clara Boykin, MT - Minnesota

RMA of the Year
Kimberly Meshell, RMA, RPT, COLT - Texas

RPT of the Year
Lucy Leyva, RPT - WY

Presidents Award
Camille McIntyre, MT - New York

Becky Award
Ken Hawker, MT - Utah

O.C "Skip" Skinner Armed Services
Thomas Wilhelmi, MT - New Mexico
AMT GO MOBILE APP FOR YOUR SMART PHONE!

Start by typing https://www.americanmedtech.org/mm in your browser and then pressing Go.

DON’T FORGET TO RECORD YOUR C.E.U’S IN AMTRAX:

Using AMTrax:
Using AMTrax is easy! Simply login as a member, and click on your members home page. Under “My Certifications and Membership” you can choose to “Record Activities through AMTrax” or “View Your AMTrax Transcript”. To record activities, choose a category and enter the information as requested. Then press submit and the information is immediately updated. You may view and print your record at any time using date ranges.
UPCOMING EVENTS!

ANNUAL MEETING
HAWAII- JUNE 23-25, 2015

KSSAMT FALL EDUCATIONAL MEETING- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2015- BOWLING GREEN, KY.

MORE INFO TO COME!

Photo Disclaimer- All photo’s used in the Spring Edition of the Bluegrass Tech is the property of Sanda Jones, MT (AMT). These photos were taken by me and offered for publication in this newsletter, were as posted on the AMT Kentucky webpage.

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