The General Assembly was called to order by President Valerie Klans at 10:55 a.m. Roll call of the Board of Directors (BOD) was called by Secretary Midge Seim and a quorum was declared. Minutes of the 2013 General Assembly were reviewed with edits as required. A motion was made by Audrea Hardwicks-Williams to accept the minutes, seconded by Nancy Marshall, and the motion carried.

President Klans introduced the members of the Executive Committee. The Oath of Office was administered to all new and continuing BOD representatives for the next year, and the representatives were installed. President Klans noted that the in the past year the BOD had a balanced budget, initiated the work needed for the renewal of the Respiratory Care Practice Act, and the Society had continued to fulfill its mission of advocating for the profession.

President Klans introduced upcoming Respiratory Care Practice Act sunset process, and the Legislation and Licensure Sunset committee, Robin Robinson, Brent Ryherd, Maureen Mulhall, and Midge Seim. Brent Ryherd, co-chair of the committee provided a summary of the process, and the key additions and changes being requested in the proposed new act. Those changes include:

- RRT mandate that would make the RRT credential the minimum requirement for a new license; CRT credentialed therapist who currently hold a license will be able to retain that license,
- Changes in the scope of practice to broaden the scope to allow for future growth of the profession.
- Grant reciprocity to those therapists licensed in another state who come to Illinois for the purpose of transport of patients, organ procurement, or disaster aid.
- Clarification of the requirements and limitations for duties of delivery personnel in durable medical equipment companies. Delivery personnel of home respiratory support devices are limited to equipment operation. Patient family teaching of clinical applications, disease process limited to licensed healthcare professionals.
- Clarification of the requirements for providing pulmonary function testing outside of physician offices.
- Clarification of the requirements for applying or adjusting oxygen in the hospital. Application and adjustment of oxygen devices requiring a flow greater than six liters per minute, or oxygen for infants and pediatric patients must be done by a licensed healthcare professional.
- Continuing education requirements to be addressed by a separate committee in the Rules.

It was noted that at this time, the committee did not believe that there is sufficient academic infrastructure to propose a baccalaureate degree requirement as minimum requirement for licensure.
Maureen Mulhall, ISRC Administrator encouraged all attendees to become involved in the process as the bill is introduced and debated. She explained the legislative process and timeline that was expected for introduction and approval of the bill.

A lengthy question and answer period followed the presentations by Ryherd and Mulhall. All were encouraged to submit questions to the L+L Sunset Committee through the link on the ISRC website. The final proposed bill should be ready by January 2015.

**Program Committee Conference Update:**

Committee Chair Audrea Hardwick’s Williams thanked attendees for being present at the 2014 Annual Conference and promoting face-to face meetings for respiratory therapists that offer networking opportunities.

Ms. Harwicks-Williams reported 54 registered vendors, 260 registered attendees, and 19 new members, The conference offers educational opportunities and time to celebrate the profession. All attendees are invited to attend the Game Night on Wednesday and dance on Thursday evening. There will be food provided each evening. The theme for the conference and the dance is “It’s a State Affair”. Activities include fair food, fair games, and square dancing.

Sputum Bowl: Keith Hirst reported that the Sputum Bowl will be held at 1:00 p.m. in the English Room today, Wednesday. There are currently three student teams registered. Late registration for additional teams will be accepted. There will not be a professional team competition this year.

**Awards**

President Valerie Klans presented a special thank you award to Maureen Mulhall, ISRC Administrator, for her continued dedication to the Society, answering questions from callers throughout the state, monitoring healthcare professions related legislation, and providing insight and guidance to the Sunset Committee.

President Valerie Klans presented the President’s Award to Treasurer Kristin Stephenson for her work as treasurer in the Society to ensure a balanced budget, and balanced financial records and timely bookkeeping.

President Klans also presented a recognition award to Gina Hoots for her work on the nominations and elections committee that ensured a full ballot and a successful on-line election.

The Legacy Award was presented by Deborah Linhart to Nancy Marshall. The Legacy award recognizes therapists that make significant clinical and professional contributions over a period of at least two decades. Nancy Has served on the BOD as a representative and as secretary for twelve years, as a mentor to hundreds of students and staff, on the state Department of Public Health Neonatal-Pediatric committee, and the ISRC Neonatal-Pediatrics committee.

President Klans presented the Respiratory Care Practitioner of the Year to Joshua Wilson for his care and compassion shown to his patients, and the teaching, mentoring and leadership qualities that he brings to the workplace.

Upon a motion to adjourn from Douglas McQueary, a second from Deborah Lenhart, and unanimous approval, the 2014 ISRC General Assembly was adjourned.