

SDSRC 2011 Therapist of the Year Recipient



Liz Grav

ELIZABETH (LIZ) GRAV presented with the SDSRC 2011 Therapist of the Year award

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: SANFORD USD MEDICAL CENTER (RETIRED – SEPT 2ND, 2011)

JOB TITLE: SLEEP/NEURODIAGNOSTICS SUPERVISOR, RESPIRATORY CARE DEPARTMENT

EDUCATION BACKGROUND: GRADUATE SIOUX VALLEY SCHOOL OF INHALATION THERAPY 1969

Liz has devoted the major part of her career in Respiratory Care to our professional organization the AARC/SDSRC. She has been a huge advocate for the profession.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Liz graduated from Sioux Valley Hospital Inhalation Therapy School in March 1969. In September 1969 she became an instructor in that school until appointed the Assistant Department Head in August 1974. In mid 1976 she assumed the position as Pulmonary Specialist and Supervisor of the Esophageal Motility and Pulmonary Function Lab. She helped Dr. Rodney Parry perform the state's first sleep studies in the late 70's. She designed and opened a one bedroom Sleep Lab in 1985. That lab now has grown to 10 beds (9 adult and 1 pediatric) under Liz's guidance. She was Sioux Valley Hospital Citizen of the month in July 1986. She has been the Coordinator of the Sleep Disorders Center since 1988. In 1989 she served as the United Way Loaned Executive for Sioux Valley. Liz retired September 2, 2011 after 42 years at Sioux Valley/Sanford.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

She is active in giving presentations to various community groups on the subject of sleep disorders and how sleep issues affect our general health and our lives. She has been featured in the newspaper and on television for her sleep expertise. She has led the AWAKE group for CPAP/sleep patients in the community. She is active in her church on the church decorating committee, 'friend' to an house bound church member. She is a member of Sanford's breast cancer support group and is an active participant in the Susan Komen Race Against Cancer and walks with the Sanford Survivor Team locally. Additionally she is on a National Advisory panel to evaluate grants related to breast cancer. She also supports her husband's (of 46 years) Shrine activities (works at the Circus, etc).

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SDSRC AND AARC

She has been a member of the AARC/SDSRC since 1970 and has held many positions in both the DSRT and later the SDSRC after the 1988 divestiture with North Dakota.

Here is a list in chronological order (although it undoubtedly is incomplete):

1972 DSRT Secretary (could not find records between the years of 1972-76 so there may be more!)

1976 *The Flowmeter* contributor

1977 Program Chair, Publication committee member and *The Flowmeter* contributor

1977 DSRT Vice President, Budget and Audit committee member

1978 DSRT President Elect (appointed)

1979 DSRT Vice President

1983 Program and Publications Chair

1984 DSRT President's Award for Outstanding Performance in Service to the DSRT

1984,85,86,88 & 89 Liz as Editor helped the *The Flowmeter* receive either the AARC Newsletter of the Year or Honorable Mention

1988 DSRT Program Chair

1992 Program Chair

1993 to Present She has supported the Publications committee and Program committee every since 1992 whenever the SDSRC meeting has been in Sioux Falls especially when Sanford has been the host hospital or she was asked.

*Please join us in congratulating Liz and
thanking her for her commitment and
dedication to the profession.*