**RT in DC by Denise Porter**

RT in DC was held on March 3-5, 2013 at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel in Washington DC. There were 4 representatives of the WVSRT in attendance, Jackie Johnson, RT, Denise Porter, RT, Justin Litteral, Student and Sarah McKibben, Student. Sunday evening we all arrived safely and attended the welcoming reception.

 Monday morning was full of discussions on education and certification standards, presentations on imaging technology updates and Medicare reimbursement. After lunch, we were updated on federal legislation affecting medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals. We were coached on how to promote our profession on Capitol Hill.

 We were informed of the change in strategy for lobbying this year. We were to encourage the members of Congress to attach the CARE Bill to another larger bill instead of trying to get it passed as a stand alone bill. We would also lobby for the Medicare Access to Radiology Care Act of 2013 (MARCA). This act would amend the Social Security Act and allow Medicare reimbursement for procedures performed by Radiologist Assistants under the direction of a supervising radiologist. Right now Medicare will only reimburse for procedures performed by an RA under direct supervision of a radiologist.

 Early Tuesday morning we headed to Capitol Hill. We had appointments with a staff member of all WV members of Congress in the House and Senate. We were fortunate to meet with Rep. Capito and Rep. McKinley. This was indeed and honor and very exciting to speak with them in person! Everyone we met with seemed very interested in supporting our agenda.

 We were informed that RT in DC will be a little different next year. It will be a one day event instead of 3 days. The ASRT Board Members feel that this will be more cost effective and perhaps more will be able to participate.

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