

Alzheimer's Association, Desert Southwest Chapter
Public Policy Committee
Advocacy E-Newsletter
January 2009

CHAPTER UPDATE:

The website for the Alzheimer's Association, Desert Southwest Chapter has a new look!

<http://www.alz.org/dsw/>

The DSW Chapter website is hosted by the national chapter as part of our effort to bring you more information, resources, and announcements on one site. Advocates also can access the most current federal update and keep current with all things related to public policy. We hope that you enjoy this new feature.

State Legislature

The Arizona State Legislature now is in session. Representatives have a huge task in working to balance our state's budget. Our primary goal this year is to advocate for continued support and funding for programs and services that aide Persons with Dementia and their Caregivers. It is crucial that funding which provides much needed assistance to this population is not cut.

The Public Policy Committee of the Desert Southwest Chapter will be keeping a close eye on the current legislative session at the state and federal level. Please keep a close watch for further updates. Your help as advocates may be called upon to let legislators know what their constituents think about the issues as the session moves forward.

You can become familiar with the legislative process, bills, etc. by going to www.azleg.gov . Take some time to check out this web site.

This is also a good time to get acquainted with your state and federal Senators and Representatives. Take a few moments to email them, call them or make a personal visit to introduce yourself and let them know what your priorities are. Tell your story.

Public Policy Forum – Washington, DC – March 23-25, 2009

The annual Public Policy Forum will be held this year at the Omni Shores Hotel in Washington, DC from March 23rd through the 25th. As the country moves forward with a new president and Congress, there are many fiscal challenges ahead that may threaten funding for research; as well as decrease assistance that so many Persons with Dementia and Caregivers need on a regular basis. We must take the opportunity to present the case for why Alzheimer's disease must be a national priority. If you are interested in attending the forum, please contact Jami Goldman at (602) 528-0545.

Advocate Training

Our Advocacy Training is being scheduled for the spring. An announcement with information on locations, times and dates will be sent out shortly. We will begin with trainings in the Sun City area and in Phoenix.

As advocates, it is important to feel comfortable in sharing our stories and real situations with our legislators. The Advocate Training modules are designed to ensure that Persons with dementia, Caregivers, families and friends feel confident in their abilities to make a difference. We hope that you will join us for one of our training sessions and continue working with us to advocate to help ensure funding for research, programs and services at a minimum does not get cut.

Coming up: Caregiver Education Conferences being held in all of our regions: including Arizona and Nevada. Please go to our website for more information <http://www.alz.org/dsw/> (We have attached a brochure for the Central Arizona Region's conference).

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| Central Arizona Region | February 5-6 |
| Southern Arizona Region | March 18 |
| Northern Arizona Region | March 26 |
| Southern Nevada Region | April 30 |

Upcoming Events

[Beauty of a Bonzer - Central Arizona](#)

[Birdies for Charity - Central Arizona](#)

[5th Annual Cameo Ball - Central Arizona](#)

[18th Annual Caregiver Education Conference - Central Arizona](#)

[2nd Annual Caregiver Education Conference - Northern Arizona](#)

[4th Annual Mayor's Caregiver Education Conference - Southern Arizona](#)

[6th Annual Caregiver Education Conference - Southern Nevada](#)

[12th Annual Alzheimer's Association Golf Classic - Central Arizona](#)

[5th Annual Alzheimer's Association Memorial Golf Tournament - Southern Nevada](#)

[Memory Walk](#)

FEDERAL UPDATE – JANUARY 2009:

Alzheimer's Association (<http://www.alz.org>)

Welcome, President Obama

On January 20, President Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States. The Alzheimer's Association has been in communication with the new administration throughout the transition process.

We have outlined our key priorities which include:

- * Increase Alzheimer research funding
- * Ensure health care reforms meet the needs of people with Alzheimer's and their families
- * Make Alzheimer's disease a national priority

Advocates attending Public Policy Forum will learn more about our specific messages and action steps to take.

Our Proclamation to the President action is now closed. As of publication, over 52,000 signatures were received - exceeding our goal. We will be delivering the Proclamation to the administration and other relevant agencies over the next few weeks. Thank you for helping make this action a resounding success.

Advocates in Action

Advocates across the US continue reaching out to new and returning members of the 111th Congress. Throughout December and January, advocates met with their members of Congress asking them to:

* Join the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's disease and

* RSVP for the Honorary Committee for the National Alzheimer's Gala on March 25, 2009 in Washington, D.C.

Local Advocacy Highlights:

Bob LeRoy, the Greater Pennsylvania Chapter CEO, and his staff welcomed freshman Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper (PA) to the Greater Pennsylvania Chapter's Erie office in December 2008.

Dottie Gandee, West Virginia Chapter Advocate, attended a meeting in Senator Jay Rockefeller's (WV) Charleston office. Congratulations to the West Virginia Chapter for becoming the second state to visit their entire congressional delegation as part of the Welcome Back Congress Tactical Plan.

We thank Bob, Dottie and the hundreds of advocates and local staff meeting in-district with members of Congress! Keep your visit reports coming.

What Can I Do Now?

1. Register for the 21st Annual Alzheimer's Association Public Policy Forum taking place March 23-25, 2009, in Washington, D.C.

With a new Congress and president, and competing national priorities demanding attention, it is more important than ever that you attend the Public Policy Forum.

Our goal is to have one advocate representing every congressional district in the country. The Public Policy Forum home page features an interactive registration map. Check our progress online!

See: <http://www.alz.org/forum>

2. Help Put Alzheimer's Issues on President Obama's Health Care Agenda!

The Obama administration continues to offer new opportunities for citizens to talk about important issues.

Read the voices of advocates speaking up about Alzheimer's. Go to <http://citizensbriefingbook.change.gov> and search for Alzheimer's.

We look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C. at the Public Policy Forum on March 23, 2009!!

Would you like to receive this monthly update in your inbox? Sign up today!

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