

alzheimer's  association
desert southwest chapter
Advocacy E-Newsletter
August 2010



Advocacy is supporting a cause and having your voice heard by someone with the ability to make change. We speak for those who can't speak for themselves.

Greetings, fellow Alzheimer's Association advocates! There is a lot of good news to report this month, but first we would like to ask you for some valued input. Please click on this link - <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5DLN9JQ> - by August 31, 2010 and answer a very quick six-question survey regarding advocacy support provided by the Desert Southwest Chapter. Your answers will be anonymous, and will help the Chapter and Advocacy Committee assess how we're doing and what can be improved. Thank you!

FEDERAL PRIORITIES UPDATE

There has been positive movement on all three of the Alzheimer's Association's 2010 federal priorities:

1) The Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act, S. 1492/H.R. 3286, (ABA), the bill that would authorize allocating \$2 billion per year for Alzheimer's disease research

The Alzheimer's Breakthrough Ride, a bicycle ride made by Alzheimer's disease researchers in segments from San Francisco to Washington DC, has been so successful that the goal has been raised from gathering 50,000 signatures to 100,000 signatures in support of the Breakthrough Act. The riders are currently in Texas. You can add your electronic signature to the petition to be presented to Congress on September 21, 2010 and get more information regarding the ride at www.alz.org/breakthroughride. We can be very proud of Drs. Michael Sierks from ASU, Matthew Huntelman from TGen, and Lee Ryan from U of A who participated in the ride as it traversed the southwest. ASU, TGen, and U of A are all members of the Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium.

2) The Alzheimer's Detection, Diagnosis, Care and Planning Act (ADD-CAP)

This federal priority, which has been in “Dear Colleague” letter and draft form for an extended period, was introduced to Congress as the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act (S. 3674/H.R. 5926) on July 28, 2010. This bill was created to improve detection, diagnosis and care planning for individuals with Alzheimer's and their families.

3) The National Alzheimer's Project Act, S. 3036/H.R. 4689 (NAPA), the bill that would create a federal inter-agency office charged with creating a national plan for addressing Alzheimer's disease-related research, programs, and services

Representative Gabrielle Giffords (AZ D-8) recently signed on as a cosponsor of this bill, which is the national Alzheimer's Association's primary focus and has a good chance of being passed this year. Advocate requests often lead to positive congressional leader action! Please express your thanks to Representative Giffords if you are in her district, and check to see if your representatives are supporting NAPA if you are not: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h1111-4689>. Don't know your state and federal districts and representatives? You can find a complete list at <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/findyourreps.xpd>.

ADVOCATE TRAINING

The advocate training via webinar was successful in July, so webinar-based training will be offered on a quarterly basis. To participate you just need a computer to see the PowerPoint presentation and a phone to hear and speak with the other participants. This means you can be anywhere in the chapter area. There is no cost associated with this training; a toll free phone number will be given to you before the session. The purpose of this training is to discuss the meaning of advocacy, why it's important, and how you can effectively advocate for people with dementia and their families. You need no experience working with government officials. The next advocate training will be conducted on October 26 at 6:00 – 8:00 PM. The event is limited to twenty people, so please get your reservation in early to Cathy Griner at 602-528-0545 ext. 209 or at cathy.griner@alz.org.

MEMORY WALK

Despite the fact that it's still very hot in most of the chapter area, we are headed toward Memory Walk season! Here is the schedule for Memory Walks throughout the chapter:

Prescott 10/2/10
West Valley 10/23/10
Verde Valley 10/30/10
Las Vegas 11/6/10
Tucson 11/6/10
Phoenix 11/13/10

Please see our chapter website at www.alz.org/dsw for more information on these and other upcoming events.

IN CLOSING

Next month's newsletter will focus on the status of pending bills and progress made toward developing state plans for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia in Arizona and Nevada. If there are other relevant state bills pending or other state-related events they will be included as well.

Please see http://alz.org/join_the_cause_advocacy.asp for a variety of information regarding advocacy efforts and results throughout the national organization.

Please call me at 602-528-0545 ext. 209 or send an email to cathy.griner@alz.org if you have any questions or comments. Please also give me your contact information if you would like to be paired with an experienced advocate to visit a congressional leader's district office. Send an email to Ernie Otto at ernie.otto@alz.org if you would like to be removed from our distribution list, or to change your contact information.

Above all, thank you for your commitment to the fight against Alzheimer's disease and related dementias!

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