

alzheimer's  association  
desert southwest chapter

**Advocacy E-Newsletter**

**June 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! June is typically the month for vacations and well deserved rest and relaxation. However Alzheimer's advocates throughout the country have been busy and there is a lot to report this month.

**FEDERAL**

There has been 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

Three more legislators have signed on to the Breakthrough Act as co-sponsors in the past month. None of these legislators are from Arizona or Nevada; however we in Arizona have an exciting opportunity to help garner support for the Breakthrough Act in connection with the nationwide Breakthrough Ride. This is a fund and support raising effort which has researchers bicycling in ride segments from San Francisco to Washington DC starting on July 17 and ending on September 21, World Alzheimer's Day. There will be events in many locations along the ride, including in Phoenix, to collect signatures in support of the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act and other important legislation. Electronic signatures can also be collected online. More information on the ride and related activities can be found at <http://www.alz.org/breakthroughride/index.asp>.

## **CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are urgently needed to help with the Breakthrough Ride signature event on Wednesday July 28 at the Arizona Center, 400 East Van Buren Street, in Phoenix:

Setup will begin at 9:30 AM

The event will take place from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Cleanup will be completed by 3:00 PM

If you are willing to help with this important event please contact Cathy Griner at 602-528-0545 ext. 209 or at [cathy.griner@alz.org](mailto:cathy.griner@alz.org), and include the hours you are available. Thank you!

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

This federal priority, which has to date been in "Dear Colleague"

letter and draft form, is expected to be introduced as a numbered bill this month. More information to come.

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

Seven new legislators have signed on to NAPA as co-sponsors in the past month; none are from Arizona or Nevada. Please consider either sending an email in support of NAPA and other dementia-related priority legislation to your representatives, or writing a Letter to the Editor to your local newspaper. For help with these activities see [http://www.alz.org/alzheimers\\_disease\\_trajectory.asp?type=homepage](http://www.alz.org/alzheimers_disease_trajectory.asp?type=homepage).

### **District Work Periods**

Upcoming congressional district work periods, when legislators will most likely return to their home district offices, are July 5-9 and August 9-September 10. Many legislators will be busy with their reelection campaigns during this period, but this might be a good time to arrange visits or send emails. Also be on alert for town hall meetings conducted by phone or in person by your legislators.

### **Changing the Trajectory of Alzheimer's Disease: A National Imperative**

This new report from the Alzheimer's Association which debuted in May 2010 states that from 2010 to 2050 the total costs of care for Americans age 65 and older with Alzheimer's disease will increase five-fold, from \$172 billion to \$1.08 trillion per year. It describes how research to develop ways of delaying onset or slowing progression could have a very significant positive impact

on treatment costs during this period. See the full report and related information at [http://www.alz.org/alzheimers\\_disease\\_trajectory.asp?type=homepage](http://www.alz.org/alzheimers_disease_trajectory.asp?type=homepage).

### **News from Southern Arizona**

We are sad to announce the resignation of Felipe Jacome, Regional Director for the Southern Arizona Region, whose last day with the Alzheimer's Association will be June 25. Felipe has been a tireless advocate and dedicated leader for his staff and very active advocacy volunteers in Southern Arizona. Several Southern Arizona volunteer advocates serve on Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords' (CD-8) Senior and Aging Issues Advisory Council. This council was constituted in 2007 and is frequently asked to provide input on bills that Representative Giffords intends to introduce or support as a co-sponsor. Recently she asked this advisory council to review and provide suggestions on two bills she had drafted that will make finding employment and returning to school easier for older Americans. These include The Older Americans' Job Opportunities Blueprint (JOB) Act and The Back to School Act. Felipe presented the draft bills to the Southern Arizona Regional Leadership Council for their review and comments. These comments were returned to Representative Giffords along with a request that she support pending Alzheimer's and related dementias legislation. Opportunities like this to both influence upcoming legislation and gain support for current legislation are very valuable, as they support our mission of seeing a world without Alzheimer's disease! We thank Felipe for his great work in support of that mission, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

### **News from Southern Nevada**

On 6/15/10 Luis Carrillo, Southern Nevada Regional Director,

testified before the Nevada Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults with Special Needs. The focus of his testimony was the Alzheimer's Association's request that the Governor appoint a task force to address issues related to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias as a step toward developing a Nevada state plan for Alzheimer's. The Committee acknowledged the importance of the request, and it was referred to the Strategic Plan Accountability Committee (SPAC) within Aging and Disability Services Division so they can further work with the Alzheimer's Association on establishing a task force and developing a plan for addressing dementia-related issues.

### **Advocate Training**

To help make training more convenient for participants, the next advocate training will be conducted on July 21 at 6:00 – 8:00 PM as a webinar. 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](mailto:cathy.griner@alz.org).

### **IN CLOSING**

Next month's e-newsletter will provide updates on the Breakthrough Ride, pending bills, and more information on how Alzheimer's disease advocates can make their voices heard.

Please see [http://alz.org/join\\_the\\_cause\\_advocacy.asp](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](mailto:cathy.griner@alz.org) if you have any questions or comments. Please also let me know about your advocacy efforts so we can keep

track of and celebrate our advocates' work. Please send an email to Ernie Otto at [ernie.otto@alz.org](mailto: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!

Cathy

Please visit us on our chapter website, [www.alz.org/dsw](http://www.alz.org/dsw)