

alzheimer's  association  
desert southwest chapter  
**Advocacy E-Newsletter**  
**October 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! World Alzheimer's Day on Tuesday, September 21 was commemorated with several very important events in Washington, DC (see [http://www.alz.org/news\\_and\\_events\\_world\\_alzheimers\\_day.asp](http://www.alz.org/news_and_events_world_alzheimers_day.asp)). One involved delivery of over 110,000 signatures from the Breakthrough Ride to Congress asking our legislators to make addressing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias a national priority. The other involved a meeting of representatives of the Alzheimer's Association and other organizations including the Alzheimer's Study Group with some of the Obama Administration's key leaders from the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institute on Aging, and the White House Office of Health Reform with. In her September 29, 2010 White House Blog (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/09/29/preparing-nation-better-address-challenge-alzheimer-s-disease>) Melody C. Barnes stated "The Obama Administration is committed to strengthening our nation's response to the disease and this meeting was a serious effort to better understand the challenges and opportunities available to us."

## **Federal Priorities**

The US Congress adjourned on October 8, and will not reconvene until sometime after the November 2 elections. On January 5, 2011 the newly elected legislators will be sworn into office and begin their work. The Congress that will be in session between the reconvening in November and the new session in January is often called a “lame duck” Congress because some of the legislators will be shortly giving up their seats to others. However, this time period is a good time to contact both continuing and departing legislators, as many will be interested in supporting legislation that will show their constituents they are serious about issues of interest to them. The focus of the Alzheimer’s Association is still on NAPA, the National Alzheimer’s Project Act (S. 3036/H.R. 4689), 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, as it has the best chance of being passed before the end of the year.

## **The Shriver Report**

“The Shriver Report: A Woman’s Nation Takes on Alzheimer’s” is a groundbreaking report on a study by Maria Shriver and the Alzheimer’s Association (<http://www.alz.org/shriverreport/index.html>) that was just published today. The focus is on women because women are disproportionately affected by the disease as persons with dementia and as caregivers. The report covers research, economics, workplace issues, and caregiving responsibilities, as well as other dementia-related issues that impact women. It hopes to inspire and empower women to take a stand against Alzheimer’s disease and advocate assertively for change. Watch for media coverage on this report, which should be extensive, as ABC and Time are among the partners on the project.

## **Advocate Training**

The next advocate training session will be held October 26 at 6:00 – 8:00 PM by webinar (computer and phone). Topics covered will include the meaning of advocacy, why it’s important, concrete public policy changes that have resulted from advocacy, and how you can effectively advocate for people with dementia and their families. Anyone in the chapter area who has a phone and computer available can participate at no charge. Contact Cathy Griner at 602-528-0545 ext. 209 or at [cathy.griner@alz.org](mailto:cathy.griner@alz.org) to sign up.

## **Advocate Database**

A database of people who would like to be paired with an experienced advocate to visit a congressional leader’s district office in their area is now available. Please send your name, congressional district, phone number, and email address to Cathy Griner at [cathy.griner@alz.org](mailto:cathy.griner@alz.org) if you are interested so legislator visits in small groups can be arranged. Don’t know your state and federal districts and representatives? You can find a complete list at <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/findyoureps.xpd>.

## Memory Walk

It's not too late to sign up for a Memory Walk in your area! Full details are available at [http://alz.org/dsw/in\\_my\\_community\\_memorywalk.asp](http://alz.org/dsw/in_my_community_memorywalk.asp). Here are the dates of the upcoming walks:

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

## IN CLOSING

Next month's e-newsletter will include updates on topics previously reported, news items of note, and some information about how Alzheimer's-related advocacy has positively impacted the lives of people with dementia and their families.

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. 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 Griner, LMSW  
Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter Director of Program and Advocacy

Please visit us on our website at [alz.org/dsw](http://alz.org/dsw). Thanks!