

alzheimer's  association  
desert southwest chapter  
**Advocacy E-Newsletter**  
**September 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 is Tuesday, September 21 and our advocacy efforts are in high gear to help increase Alzheimer's disease awareness and engender support for dementia-related services and research. The current Congress has a 10/8 target adjournment date before the elections, then will reconvene after the elections and complete their work for the year. The Alzheimer's Association nationwide is very hopeful that the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA, 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, will be passed by this Congress due to its low cost and popular support. On World Alzheimer's Day the final riders in the coast-to-coast Alzheimer's Breakthrough Ride (<http://www.alz.org/breakthroughride>) will be presenting over 100,000 signatures to Congress asking our legislators to make addressing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias a national priority. I am very proud to tell you that our Desert Southwest Chapter (Arizona and Southern Nevada) is among the top ten chapters in the country in terms of gathering signatures in support of the Breakthrough Act and other federal priority legislation through the Breakthrough Ride initiative. **YOUR EFFORTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Want to Get Involved With Alzheimer's Advocacy but Don't Know Where to Start and What to Do?**

You're not alone! Help is available to you:

- 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, 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.
- 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/findyourreps.xpd>.
- Do you want to help produce more advocates and send a strong message to Arizona and Nevada US Senators that their support of Alzheimer's-related initiatives is vitally important to their constituents? Volunteer for advocacy at the regional Memory Walks! We need volunteers for each of the Memory Walks listed below to get signatures of participants on postcards that will be delivered to our senators. For full Memory Walk details please see [http://alz.org/dsw/in\\_my\\_community\\_memorywalk.asp](http://alz.org/dsw/in_my_community_memorywalk.asp). To be an advocacy volunteer at a Memory Walk please contact Cathy Griner at 602-528-0545 ext. 209 or at [cathy.griner@alz.org](mailto:cathy.griner@alz.org). Thank you!

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

## State Activities

You may be wondering what is going on in your state regarding Alzheimer's advocacy. The answer is something very exciting – work toward developing state plans to address Alzheimer's disease and related dementias! Alzheimer's priorities from research to early detection to public safety have been included in the Arizona State Plan for Aging. A community forum to identify needs related to these priorities was held in May, and the next step is to develop an action plan to help ensure these needs are addressed in Arizona. In Nevada an effort is underway to determine dementia-

related needs in the state and how best to address them. More information will be forthcoming as these projects develop.

The Arizona Supreme Court is asking for citizens' ideas regarding how to improve the guardianship and conservatorship processes so vulnerable adults are better protected from financial exploitation and physical abuse. If you have opinions about how guardianships and conservatorships can be improved in Arizona, please submit your comments online at

<http://www.azcourts.gov/Default.aspx?alias=www.azcourts.gov/pcc>.

## **IN CLOSING**

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 at our website [www.alz.org/dsw](http://www.alz.org/dsw)