Writing the Best Resolutions

Is there something about the practice of pharmacy you wish were different? If you’re like most student pharmacists, there are a number of things you would like to see changed. As a member of APhA-ASP, in collaboration with your fellow chapter members, you have the opportunity to influence the future of our profession.

By drafting a proposed resolution as a chapter, you have the unique chance to make your voice heard and impact the future of pharmacy in a powerful way. To get started, think about brainstorming potential topics with your chapter then head to the Policy Vice President Toolkit on pharmacist.com for guidance on how the policy writing and discussion process works.

Once your proposed resolution is complete, be sure to submit it to your Regional Delegate for consideration at your Midyear Regional Meeting (MRM). We look forward to hearing YOUR VOICE in the 2014 APhA-ASP House of Delegates!

Here are some tips when writing your chapter’s proposed resolution:

- **Actionable**: Once resolutions become officially adopted by APhA-ASP, they are not merely statements that we as an Academy believe in – We take action on them! Imagine how your policy proposals could help direct the future of pharmacy.

- **Addresses national concerns in pharmacy**: APhA-ASP Adopted Resolutions represent the profession of pharmacy across the nation. Try to make sure your proposed resolution applies to the concerns of all 50 states, not simply your state or region.

- **Timely and not covered in previous policy**: All too often a great idea for a proposed resolution is brought up at MRM only to be discovered that it is already "on the books." If you feel a current adopted resolution does not adequately cover your chapter’s concerns, develop a proposal that updates an old or outdated resolution.

- **Do your research**: Prepare a background statement with very descriptive and factual information on the topic. Be ready to share your chapter’s perspective on the issue, how it furthers the profession of pharmacy, and why it should be supported.

- **Be creative**: Policy proposals may not be feasible to implement in the short-term, but think of how you envision the future of pharmacy practice. Some proposed resolutions may focus on implementable topics, but they can be visionary as well.

- **Don’t get stuck on the wording**: Wording for your MRM resolution only needs to clearly communicate your idea. Voting at the MRMs should be based on the intent of the proposed resolution. If your proposal gets passed at MRM, the APhA-ASP Resolutions Committee will refine the wording.

Provider Status Spotlight
A quick update on provider status and APhA. Included is a link to more information.

October is American Pharmacists Month
Some ideas on how to make the most of your advocacy efforts during American Pharmacists Month at your chapter

Policy Process in Detail
A detailed description of the APhA-ASP policy process, beginning at the individual at the chapter level and continuing to the final steps of implementation

Spotlight on the PVP Toolkit
Become familiar with the Policy Vice President Toolkit and all of its content to help prepare you for a successful semester of policy and advocacy

Chapter Spotlight
East Tennessee State University discussed their plans for the year and how they will impact the profession during American Pharmacists Month

Resolution Update
Stay current on the implementation of the resolutions passed by the 2013 APhA-ASP House of Delegates

PowerPoint slides to accompany the September / October SPARC are available at: www.pharmacist.com/node/81732
As this semester kicks off for student pharmacists across the country, APhA-ASP as well as the other Academies in the Association will be putting most of our energy and effort into achieving provider status for pharmacists. Before we begin this semester, we should get very familiar with what exactly provider status means and the barriers we face in attaining this paramount status.

What is provider status?

Pharmacists and pharmacists’ patient care services are not included in key sections of the Social Security Act (SSA), which determines eligibility for health care programs such as Medicare Part B. In the case of Medicare Part B, the omission of pharmacists as listed providers limits Medicare beneficiaries’ access to pharmacists’ services in the outpatient setting. Other health care professionals who are listed as providers in Part B of the SSA include physicians, physician’s assistants, certified nurse practitioners, qualified psychologists, clinical social workers, certified nurse midwives, and certified registered nurse anesthetists. In addition to providers, Part B provides the list of medical and other health services covered. In support of this priority undertaking, the APhA Board of Trustees has allocated $1.5 million toward a multifaceted, long-range effort by APhA and others in the profession to gain “provider status” for pharmacists as health care providers.

What are the barriers to provider status?

Congress is currently focused on fundamental issues related to the nation’s spending and other issues such as immigration, which adds to the difficulty of moving provider status legislation or other legislation that can be used as a vehicle for provider status. Additionally, because of immense financial pressures being experienced in all three sectors, decision makers are focusing on initiatives that save money, referred to as “savers,” rather than those that require new spending, referred to as “costers.” Other health care providers who already have provider status and bill Medicare on a fee-for-service basis may have strong opposition (both in political strength and numbers) to the pharmacy provider status initiative. APhA is reaching out to other health care providers, consumer organizations, payers, and policy makers to educate them about the health and economic benefits of recognizing pharmacists as health care providers and facilitating access to pharmacists’ patient care services.

What can we, as student pharmacists, do?

We as student pharmacists can show our support of this initiative by being involved in our own action item passed at APhA2013, Action Item 2013.4: Pharmacists as Providers. There are 3 major activities that that you and your chapter can take part in.

1) Participate in an Academy-wide Facebook campaign promoting provider status
2) Attend several webinars throughout the year related to provider status
3) Compete in the APhA-ASP Policy Postcard Challenge that will be addressed to legislators and written from the perspective of patients explaining the value of student pharmacists and the health care services student pharmacists and pharmacists can provide. We will be explaining and implementing this postcard competition throughout the year.
October is American Pharmacists Month!

October is American Pharmacists Month (APhM), and it is an excellent opportunity to put your Policy Vice President (PVP) skills to work by advocating for the profession of pharmacy. With the theme of “Know Your PHARMACIST, Know Your MEDICINE,” APhM presents an opportunity to plan numerous activities that integrate policy and advocacy into the month-long celebration of the profession. Many of these events require you to plan ahead, and there is no better time to start than the present. Below you will find a list of suggested advocacy opportunities to plan for APhM:

- **Organize a health screening at your state capitol** – Set up a health screening in the halls of your state capitol to offer screenings to representatives, and use this as an opportunity to also talk to them about pharmacy and the value-added services that pharmacists provide. Section IVd Health Screening at Your State Capital of the PVP Toolkit provides additional instruction, and Section III also includes more information on legislative visits. Lastly, your state association is a great resource and may be able to help you in arranging a health screening at your state capitol!

- **Invite elected officials to a local pharmacy** – Invite your mayor, state representatives, state senators, or any other public figures to a local pharmacy to give them a tour and promote flu vaccines, health awareness, medication safety, and much more. Furthermore, invite the media! This is a win-win situation to provide positive media coverage for the elected official and for pharmacists at the same time. Consider planning your event on October 3, 2013, which is the official Pharmacy in the Media day. Lastly, visit section IVc Generating Media Interest in the PVP Toolkit for the do's and don'ts of contacting the media and some other helpful resources.

- **Invite elected officials to visit your school of pharmacy** – Take your elected officials on a tour of your school and explain the unique opportunities that you are provided through your education. Pharmacists are highly educated health care professionals, and the public is often not aware of the profession’s extensive training. Some potential talking points involve interprofessional education, clinical education, pharmacy residences, and the structure of your curriculum involving both formal coursework and pharmacy practice experiences.

- **Write and Opinion Editorial for your school or local newspaper** – Often times the public only sees one aspect of pharmacy through getting their own prescriptions filled at a local community pharmacy. Write about a less visible aspect of the profession to open the public’s eyes to the wide variety of roles for pharmacists within the health care arena. Furthermore, tell personal (HIPAA-compliant) stories about how pharmacists have saved lives and made a big difference!

- **Pass out advocacy flyers at sporting events** – Think of any events that draw a big crowd and seek permission to pass out advocacy flyers. If your school is associated with an undergraduate campus this may be an excellent opportunity to partner with the athletics department and pass out flyers at football games, basketball games, etc. If your school does not have sports teams, branch out into the community and consider approaching local undergraduate schools or professional sports teams.

- **Include advocacy pamphlets in patient medication bags** – Prepare brief “bag-stuffers” with information to educate the public about the profession of pharmacy. Distribute these to local pharmacies and ask them to include them in their patients’ medication bags when they pick up their prescriptions during the Month of October. Some pharmacies may even offer to help cover the cost of printing!

- **Hang APhM Logo in local pharmacy windows** – Create a laminated poster of the APhM logo and ask local pharmacies to hang it in their drive through window or on a pharmacy wall during the month of October. You may also consider asking the pharmacies to return these to you at the end of the month so that you can save for reuse. Don’t forget the APhM has a new logo this year!

- **Utilize social media** – Every year APhA provides a list of 31 facts about pharmacy to share during APhM. Each day of the month consider updating your Facebook status and/or Tweeting a new fact. Use the hashtag #APhM2013 and #Pharmacists when tweeting about the profession during APhM. Furthermore, consider changing your profile picture to the APhM logo. You can also use social media to promote events that you’ve planned for the month.

- **Create a PharmFlix video** – Develop your entry for the PharmFlix video contest and get it to go viral during APhM to increase public awareness of pharmacists’ capabilities. PharmFlix guidelines are available at the following address: [http://www.pharmacist.com/apha-asp pharmflix-video-contest](http://www.pharmacist.com/apha-asp pharmflix-video-contest).

- **Public proclamation of October as American Pharmacists Month** – Encourage your elected officials including mayors, city managers, county executives, state governors, state representatives, and state senators to designate October as APhM. Review section IVb APhM Proclamations of the PVP Toolkit for additional instructions.

We hope that you are inspired to advocate for the profession during American Pharmacists Month! APhM is a time to *Educate* your patients, *Motive* your peers, and *Engage and Inspire* your community to “Know Your Pharmacists, Know your Medicine.” Good luck planning, and if you have any questions about APhM or need help planning an event, feel free to contact your Policy Standing Committee regional liaison. We are
APhA-ASP Policy Process in Detail

We understand that reading through “APhA-ASP The Capsule: Introduction and Orientation to the APhA-ASP Policy Process” can be a daunting task so we have broken down the APhA-ASP Policy Process into a flow chart pictured here, which consists of five phases.

Phase 1 of the policy process begins with one member with an idea about something they want to see changed in the profession of pharmacy. The chapter then works to develop that idea and checks the APhA-ASP Adopted Resolutions book to see if the idea has been implemented in previous year and if not, writes a proposed resolution. This year, regional webinars hosted by your Regional Delegate will occur before the resolution deadline to help facilitate idea exchange and resolution development. Once the resolution has been written, the chapter sends that one resolution to their Regional Delegate for discussion at the APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting.

Phase 2 of the policy process, held at MRM, includes the Policy Proposal Forum, where any student pharmacists can express their opinion either for or against proposed resolutions. Next, during the Closing Business Session, only those chapter members designated as their chapter delegate are permitted to speak for or against the resolutions. Each resolution passed at MRM is forwarded to the APhA-ASP Resolution Committee, which consists of your eight Regional Delegates.

Phase 3 of the policy process occurs at the January Business Meeting when the Regional Delegates get together and write the resolutions that will be discussed at the APhA-ASP House of Delegates. Those resolutions will be released to chapters with enough time before the APhA Annual Meeting for your chapter to discuss your opinions on the proposed resolutions.

Phase 4 of the policy process occurs at the APhA Annual Meeting and Exposition. During the open hearing on proposed resolutions any student pharmacist or member of the public is given the opportunity to state their thoughts on the proposed resolutions. This is an amazing session where you can experience a variety of different perspectives from student pharmacists across the country.

During this session, the Reference Committee, consisting of the eight Regional Members-at-large, hear all the ideas and opinions expressed during the open hearing. They then meet in a closed session to make their recommendations to the House. They can recommend one of four actions: adopt, adopt as amended, reject, or refer. During the APhA-ASP House of Delegates, chapter delegates vote on the recommendations made by the Reference Committee.

The final phase of the policy process, phase 5, is the implementation phase. The APhA-ASP Policy Standing Committee (PSC) reviews the report of the House of Delegates and, at the Academies Leadership Meeting, formulates ideas on how to best implement the passed resolutions throughout the year. In addition to the work done by the PSC, the report of the House of Delegates also has to be approved by the APhA Board of Trustees.

You can also learn more about the policy process in “APhA-ASP The Capsule: Introduction and Orientation to the APhA-ASP Policy Process.” This document is available in Section I of the Policy Vice President Toolkit.

We encourage you to share this flowchart with your chapter and to start brainstorming ideas for a resolution to represent your chapter at your Midyear Regional Meeting!
Spotlight on the PVP Toolkit

The Policy Vice President (PVP) Toolkit is your resource and guide to leading fun and effective policy and advocacy campaigns at your chapter. The Toolkit is a one-stop shop for all of your SPAN ideas, guidance, and tools, and it was just updated in September 2013. This month we will dive into Section I of the PVP Toolkit. This first section is an introduction to the Student Policy and Advocacy Network (SPAN). This section will give you a great overview of what to expect with your role as Policy Vice President as well as an overview of APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting (MRM) and APhA Annual Meeting. Access the PVP Toolkit at [http://www.pharmacist.com/node/55322](http://www.pharmacist.com/node/55322).

Section Ia – Welcome

This should be the first stop in your planning of the semester. This first subsection will tell you:

- Common duties of chapter Policy Vice President
- APhA-ASP Capsule: The Policy Process in Detail
- All APhA-ASP Adopted Resolutions: 1973-2013
- SPAN Calendar of Events by Month
- Policy Process 101 PowerPoint Presentation – to introduce the policy process to your chapter

Section Ib – All About MRM

This section will get you geared up for the Midyear Regional Meeting and developing a resolution for MRM. This second subsection will tell you:

- Perfecting Resolution Development – components of a good resolution and tips for developing a successful resolution that can make it to the APhA Annual Meeting.
- APhA-ASP Mock MRM House of Delegates Script – a script that can be used to prepare you and your chapter for MRM by holding a mock House of Delegates

Section Ic – Annual Meeting

This section is designed to make you feel more comfortable with the House of Delegates procedure at the APhA Annual Meeting. This third subsection will tell you:

- APhA-ASP House of Delegates Rules of Procedure
- Guidelines on Parliamentary Procedure – Robert’s Rule of Order, which is followed during all APhA-ASP proceedings

Chapter Spotlight:
East Tennessee State University

East Tennessee State University has not only been busy studying throughout the first weeks of class, they have been ramping up and kicking off their policy and advocacy efforts. Over the summer, their legislative action committee, or LAC, laid out a packed calendar of advocacy.

The LAC is a unique committee made up of representative leaders from the APhA-ASP, Tennessee Society of Student Pharmacists, and other pharmacy related student organizations with advocacy initiatives. It has been successful in serving the interests of all on the committee and aims to advocate as one entity with one voice and one message. The LAC’s chairman, Aaron Garst, has been hard at work recruiting, inspiring, organizing, and developing the chapter’s policy proposal for their quickly approaching Mid-Year Regional Meeting.

Meanwhile, Will Beaty, the APhA-ASP Policy Vice President, has been working closely with Tennessee’s five other pharmacy schools to coordinate the distribution of the patient advocacy postcards. The schools in Tennessee recognized the dilemma in the distribution of the postcards. The same area of East TN is split up into 3 different US Congressional districts, 4 different State districts, and 9 different State House districts. The schools across Tennessee are to working to establish a coordinated distribution solution across the state of Tennessee to establish the most efficacious postcard campaign.

According to sources, ETSU has quite a bit in store for American Pharmacists Month. As the month quickly approaches, ETSU has a billboard advertisement ready to debut, a full blitz of media outlets planned, patient care events and advocacy efforts scheduled throughout the area, and special guest speakers at chapter meetings patient care events. The chapter’s members have already been interviewed by a local radio station to promote APhM and recorded multiple public service announcements set to air throughout the month. We look forward to seeing all this chapter has in store for APhM.

Radio Interview Podcast Recording
Resolution Update

2013.4 - Pharmacists as Providers: Prescriptive Authority, Compensation, and Behind-the-Counter Class

The issue of “Pharmacists as Providers” has been referred to the APhA-ASP Policy Standing Committee to address as part of the Committee’s charge for 2013-2014.

The APhA-ASP Policy Postcard Challenge presents a unique opportunity to merge APhA-ASP Patient Care Projects and grassroots advocacy. Every APhA-ASP chapter holds numerous Patient Care Project events throughout the year. At each of these events, student pharmacists perform valuable clinical services that patients genuinely appreciate. The APhA-ASP Policy Postcard Challenge offers an opportunity for patients to show their appreciation for student pharmacists and the clinical services they provide by sending postcards to their state and federal legislators. Student pharmacists across the country are active advocates for the pharmacy profession. This challenge enables student pharmacists to broaden their reach by not only advocating for pharmacy themselves, but by also helping their patients advocate for the profession. By participating in the Policy Postcard Challenge, student pharmacists and the patients they serve will help demonstrate the value of pharmacist-provided services to legislators.

Through advocacy efforts by pharmacy organizations like APhA and APhA-ASP and by individual pharmacists across the country, we hope the value of pharmacist-provided clinical services will be recognized by including pharmacists on the list of healthcare providers in the Social Security Act, thus permitting compensation for pharmacist-provided clinical services under Medicare Part B. Studies like the Asheville Project and the Diabetes Ten City Challenge have shown that when pharmacists are involved on the health care team, overall medical costs decrease and patient outcomes improve. Thus, inclusion of pharmacists as health care providers will directly benefit patient care.

The Policy Standing Committee believes the more postcards student pharmacists facilitate being sent to state and federal legislators, the greater impact we will have on demonstrating the value of pharmacists. Thus, we have created a challenge to encourage student pharmacists across the country to help their patients advocate for pharmacy. APhA-ASP chapters are asked to keep track of the postcards they send to elected officials throughout the year and report the total number to the Policy Standing Committee, as directed below. The chapters that make the greatest impact will be recognized at the APhA2014 Annual Meeting and Exposition.

How can my chapter participate?

Step-by-step procedures for printing, sending, and keeping track of the postcards are available on pharmacist.com. A few key points are highlighted below:

- Add your school or college of pharmacy logo in the designated location on the postcard. Please do not make any other modifications to the provided template!
- Several different printing options are listed in the document on pharmacist.com. There will be a cost to your chapter; however, several affordable options have been identified for you.
- Be sure to explain the process to all of your members involved in patient care events. This is a great way to connect policy with patient care, and it will be most successful if all of your members understand the significance of the postcards and how it works!
- Ask your patients to fill out the return address and a small note about the services that they received from student pharmacists. Then use www.myrepresentatives.com to find the mailing address for each patient’s elected official(s).

The APhA-ASP PSC is very excited to hear about your chapter’s successes with the Policy Postcard Challenge. We encourage you to contact us to share your progress and to ask any questions that arise throughout the year.

The postcard template and procedures and guidelines for the challenge can be accessed at: http://www.pharmacist.com/apha-asp-policy-postcard-challenge