

WASHINGTON AMBASSADOR NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2018

AMBASSADOR ACTIVITY REPORT BACKS:

Eunice Hostetter, WA State Lead Ambassador (SLA), on attending the SLA Summit:

I was honored to represent our great ambassador team in early May at the annual ACS CAN State Lead Summit. Three days of training, team building, goal setting and sharing best practices with state leads, staff partners and national staff was both energizing and inspiring.

Energizing because of ACS CAN's achievements for research funding, children's cancer, support for the Affordable Care Act, tobacco control and prevention efforts, and growing congressional support for legislation on palliative care and removal of colorectal cancer screening barriers for Medicare patients. Inspiring because of the quality, passion, and

dedication of volunteers and staff in every state across this country determined to make cancer a national priority. While Congress has supported our requests for increased cancer research funding in recent years, sustained funding is not guaranteed. It will take all of our collective efforts to ensure cancer remains a national priority with appropriate funding and legislative support. I'm inspired to continue the fight and trust all of you are as well!

Christine Griffith, Ambassador from CD 1, on attending the OVAC Lobby Day:

Last month I represented WA state and ACS CAN in Washington D.C. at the "One Voice Against Cancer" Lobby Day. What an amazing experience to join 100 people representing every state from different cancer organizations, medical professionals and concerned people who had their cancer stories to share. All of our voices

came together to lobby our Representatives to prioritize Cancer Research and Prevention Programs by supporting our "asks". Congress will begin working on the 2019 budget in July. I was paired with another volunteer from WA State, Maria Williams is a volunteer with the



Eunice sharing the word that inspires her in a tough spot: "Sisu"—a Finnish word she learned from her grandmother that means the personal quality of persistence.

"Fight Colorectal Cancer." We met with the Legislative staff from Representatives Herrera Beutler's office, Suzan DelBene's office, with Representative Derek Kilmer and the staff of Senators Murray and Cantwell. Specifically, we were asking our electives to prioritize Cancer Research and Prevention programs by supporting \$39.3 billion budget for the NIH, including funding provided from the 21st Century Cures Act, \$6.375 billion for NCI and \$517 million for Cancer Prevention activities at CDC's Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. Our voices were heard. We received acknowledgement of the importance of our asks and a commitment to work for bi-partisan support for our "asks". I assured our Representatives we will be back. The highlight of my visit was to share our stories with Rep. Derek Kilmer and present him with the OVAC award for his support in our cancer requests. He is an amazing role model.

New Ambassador Nik Chadhry, CD 5, on the WA Tobacco 21 activity he organized at his High-School:

I am a rising senior at Saint George's School in Spokane, WA. I am captain of the debate and tennis teams, and love to volunteer at local hospitals and cancer centers during my free time. During the ACS CAN Meet up in Spokane we discussed the importance of having young volunteers advocate for issues related to raising the Tobacco Sale age from 18 to 21. Tobacco 21, an ongoing campaign, was the topic that piqued my interest most because of its increasing impact on teens and young

adults. I decided to bring this campaign closer to my community, and presented the issue to students in my "Community-Action-Service". During this presentation, I surveyed my peers on issues surrounding their ability to obtain vaping products, their opinion on raising the age to 21, etc. After reading the filled-out surveys, I noted a couple interesting observations: First, many students refused to put their name and email addresses. Second, some were uncomfortable with answering these questions, and often erased answers or responded with Yes/No. Others responded with long and informative

answers speaking to the high level of juul and suorin use at our school. I think this speaks to the high impact of tobacco and vape use in schools, as many feel embarrassed to criticize their peers or even admit that the problem is going on in the first place. While all answers differed, I think these surveys could easily be used to inform our continued advocacy in the Tobacco 21 Campaign.



Chris and fellow OVAC volunteer Maria presenting house Representative Derek Kilmer with an award for his steadfast supports of cancer research.

From Mary McHale, WA Director of Government Relations, planning for 2019 WA Legislative Session:

Day at the Capitol 2019

Mark your calendars: 2019 Day at the Capitol will be held on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at the Heritage Room. The registration site will go live in early fall 2018.

State Tobacco Control Developments

Increasing tobacco prevention program funding

Our state's tobacco prevention program is severely underfunded, and ACS CAN is making this issue a priority during the 2019 legislative session. We've been working with WA Secretary of Health John Wiesman to ensure a substantial increase in program funding is included in the requested budget he will be putting forward to Governor Inslee. We've also met with the Governor's health policy advisor around the important of increasing funding to this program. I am confident we will see an increase reflected in the proposed budget Governor Inslee will draft for the 2019 legislative session. The Governor's proposed budget sets the tone for the session, and gives the state House and Senate an indication of the programs that are a priority for the Governor.

Washington Tobacco 21

ACS CAN convened a meeting of the coalition working to pass Tobacco 21, including folks from Fred Hutch, American Heart Assn, American Lung Assn, Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids, Washington State Medical Assn and Foundation for Health Generations. Since the 2019 legislation session is the start of a new biennium, we will need to draft a new bill and reintroduce it. We are looking at potential tweaks to the original bill language to increase health equity in the legislation. Our coalition will continue to meet through the interim leading up to the next session, and we look forward to a successful effort in 2019.

ACS CAN, Federal Updates:

House Passes Childhood Cancer STAR Act!

On May 22, the House of Representatives unanimously passed the Childhood Cancer Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act, sending the bill to the president's desk for his signature. With 370 bipartisan cosponsors, the STAR Act is the most comprehensive childhood cancer legislation ever introduced in Congress. It will increase funding for childhood cancer research, improve data collection so pediatric oncologists can better learn from one another and expand research on the long-term effects of childhood cancer treatments. ACS CAN volunteers have worked hard to advance this legislation and advocate for childhood cancer patients, survivors and families.

Congress Passes Right-to-Try Legislation Despite Patient Safety Concerns:

On March 22, the House of Representatives passed Right-to-Try legislation, which will create a process that lacks robust patient safety protections for patients to access experimental drugs. ACS CAN and more than 100 other patient and provider organizations strongly opposed the legislation. While ACS CAN and other stakeholder groups made a concerted effort to engage with lawmakers about how the bill could be improved to protect patients while still allowing access to potentially lifesaving medications and treatments, the legislation excludes critical patient safeguards like expert input from the FDA on drug dosing, scheduling and administration. Check out the Cancer Candor blog for further details on ACS CAN's potential areas of promise and areas of concern: <https://www.acscan.org/cancer-candor/president-on-proposal-drug-affordability>

MEET SOME OF OUR NEWEST AMBASSADORS TO THE TEAM

Please join me in welcoming them!

Dawn Hackett from Marysville, CD 2, is a breast cancer survivor, caregiver, dedicated relayer, a Road to Recovery Driver & Coordinator and an inspiring Voice of Hope speaker. In addition to an adult daughter, she has three stepsons, and two granddaughters. Dawn works in Arlington as a Business Office Manager/Payroll & Human Resources Manager for Pro Admin Services. Dawn has been actively engaged with Relay since 2013 and is a Co-Event Lead for North Snohomish County. Dawn has attended past Day at the Capitol events in Olympia where she was inspired by ACS CAN volunteers. Dawn's motivation to become an ambassador, "this is VERY personal to me. I am tired of looking in my kids' eyes and seeing fear, pain and sadness. I am honored to be part of such an amazing group of people. I truly believe one person can make a difference and if there are a lot of one persons just imagine what we can do." dawn.relayforlife@gmail.com



Suzie Johnson from Whidbey Island, C.D. 2, knows firsthand the impact that cancer has on families and communities. Professionally, she works as a cancer registrar at Whidbey General Hospital collecting and reporting cancer data to the national cancer database known as SEER (Surveillance, Epidemiology and End Results Program). On a personal basis, her family and friends have been impacted by cancer. While she is thankful to count her mother, aunt, and grandmother as survivors she is saddened that others including two dear friends, her mother-in-law and brother-in-law were not as fortunate. Three friends are currently fighting ovarian and oral cancers. Suzie's motivation to volunteer with ACS CAN: "It is for all of them that I dedicate the job I do each day. It is also for them that I wish to join you in the wonderful work done by ACS CAN." Suzie was recruited by Lynda Walrath and attended our last Day at the Capitol. susandianejohnson@gmail.com

