



MA & ME Cancer Advocacy Call February 24, 2021

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Updates and Action Items
- COVID Relief Package
- State Team Time





Updates & Action

- Ambassador Action Center
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Lights of Hope
- March Call



Ambassador Action Center:

- Shout out to Mikala in Maine, and Dan, Dana, Patti, Kate, JoJo, Nancy and Steve logging actions in the Ambassador Action Center since our December call
- Don't have access to the Ambassador Action Center? Email Melissa (melissa.stacy@cancer.org) and she'll hook you up!

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

- As we wrap up Black History month, Melissa, Hilary, Marc, Mikala, and I are wondering what your thoughts are on the D,E,I section of the weekly volunteer updates. This is something new we began to help you all find resources to learn more about groups that may not be your own, and the impact that health equity has had in their culture. If you have specific resources that you find helpful or would like to share, please let us know.
- Is someone willing to come off mute or type in the chat what their thoughts are on this new feature?
 - Feedback from team on call was positive and asked that we continue these, and expand to all groups.

Lights of Hope:

- As a reminder, the Lights of Hope page is up and running! Check out

fightcancer.org/lightsofhoperesources to start your page.

- Sponsorship is a great way to reach your Lights of Hope goal – I challenge each of you to take 30 minutes in the next week and look through the materials. Then send them to 5 businesses or individuals you think would sponsor Lights of Hope this year!
- Lights of Hope sponsorship started in Maine two years ago and Massachusetts led the country last year – raising a combined \$39,000 in Lights of Hope – largely through sponsorship. We GOT this!
- In regards to fundraising, Dan asked for the materials on the “donate one billable hour” challenge to be included. You can find them here.
<https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/hOUR-Challenge.pdf>
- We will be creating a virtual cookbook to use as a fundraiser this year. This will be New England wide, and will be all digital. Watch for requests for regional recipes. IF anyone is interested in helping format the cookbook in Canva, please let Melissa know. Shout out to Bethany in Maine and Ella in MA for being part of the team!

March Meeting Date and Topic:

- Our next volunteer meeting will be March 24 at 7pm. Our focus will be on updates and federal grassroots actions, as well splitting into state groups to talk about actions we all can take to move our states 2021 priority legislation forward. Our focus of the joint call will be on media advocacy and actively keeping the drum beat going.
- What topic areas would you like to hear more about on our monthly calls? Being proactive in media advocacy, tips and action steps to help you to continue to build a relationship with your lawmakers, an in depth walk through of the Ambassador Action Center, how D,E,I is woven through into everything we work on, something else? We want these calls to help you reach your goals as advocates and be a valuable use of your time. Type in the chat or come off mute and let us know what’s valuable to you!

117th Congress and the White House

➤ Congress

- House: 222 Ds, 211 Rs
- Senate: 50 Ds, 50 Rs
 - VP Harris will serve as tie-breaker
- New committee assignments/campaign targets
- New member meetings

➤ White House

- Biden Administration
- Nominations
- Executive Orders

www.congress.gov



Reminder – not partisan organization – everything through the lens of cancer patients, COVID and health equity

- Reviewed make up of House and Senate
- New chairs/and committee assignments have been made. Visit www.congress.gov to see if your lawmakers are on a different committee or in leadership now. As an aside, you can also track priority bills and have the system email you when there are changes made.
- The ACS CAN Fed team is working on outreach to new members. They will follow up with us when it's time to set up new virtual meetings in district. For ME and MA, it's only CD4 that has a new rep.
- The question was asked if we had thought about utilizing state volunteers in outreach to other states whose lawmakers are not as supportive of ACS CAN priority issues. While a good thought, we don't do that for a few reasons.
 - 1. Most lawmakers really only want to hear from constituents that live in their state or district. Hearing from other states would upset them.
 - While we have great champions of our issues in the Northeast, we need to ensure that we keep them as champions and keep that relationship

strong. If you have a good relationship with a current member or one of their staff, that's great! Work to continue to grow that relationship. Or focus some efforts on a different staff member, perhaps one in DC if your relationships are local, or one in district if your connections are in DC. This will provide multiple avenues for outreach.

White House

- Dem White House
- Cancer Fighting Friendly
 - Biden's made a statement that the US will seek to end cancer as we know it after the pandemic. The link is in the email.
- Exec Orders of impact to ACS CAN
 - Expanding Access to Care and those that deal with health equity

Congress.gov to follow bills, find new committee assignments, see leadership opps

ACS CAN and COVID Stimulus

- Health Insurance Coverage
- Reigniting Research
- Nonprofit Sector Stimulus



Research Appropriations:

- We are on a dual track for increasing funding for cancer research this year, working both through the COVID relief process and the regular appropriations process.
- Working through the regular appropriation process, the President will release his “skinny budget” at the end of next month, which will only have high level funding numbers but is expected to include an overall funding level for National Institutes of Health (NIH). The timeline for this process looks like this:
 - End of March – deadline for Members to put their numbered priorities into the House system
 - Late March/early April – congressional hearings with the NIH and National Cancer Institute (NCI)
 - April – House Labor, Health, and Human Services (LHHS) public hearings
 - April/May – House markups
 - June – Senate LHHS public hearings
 - June/July – House floor votes
 - September 30 – appropriations deadline to fund the government

COVID Relief Package/Reconciliation:

- The COVID timeline is still the same. The House is expected to pass the \$1.9 trillion COVID relief package today or tomorrow, and the Senate will take up the House passed

bill next week, with a goal of having a final COVID/reconciliation package passed into law by March 14.

- Next week we will begin request action from our volunteers nationwide around Senate passage, asking them to email and then tweet at their Senators with the ask being that they keep our three priorities in their version of the bill. There will also be a thank you message once the bill passes.
 - Note that this bill does not contain any money to restart cancer research, as we had hoped it would, but there is likely a larger package to follow.
 - On the COVID relief/stimulus front, an outline for the next COVID emergency package is expected late March/early April. This package will once again use reconciliation, which means that it will go through authorizing committees, not appropriations. It is expected to pass sometime in May/June, and our primary ask will be \$10 billion to restart cancer research impacted by the pandemic.

STATE TEAM BREAKOUTS



Maine:

- [Link in chat](#)
- **1-917-727-7985 513 376 250#**

Massachusetts:

- [Link in chat](#)
- **1-917-727-7985 122 568 210#**



MELISSA:

Now it's time to move into our State Teams. I'll be sharing specifics on how to do this momentarily. A few things to note: I'm going to stay in this room and provide support until everyone is able to move into their state specific room. We are not coming back together at the end. For the Maine team, Hilary S. will be moderating the call and sharing any Maine specific updates. For the Massachusetts team, Patti will get you started and I'll be joining as soon as everyone is set. Thanks to everyone for joining the joint call tonight!

For those of you that have joined via computer – I'm putting the link to the rooms in the chat. Find the Massachusetts or Maine Room and click the link to join.

For those of you that have joined via phone, you will need to hang up and call in to the number I'm about to give you.

For Maine: the phone number is **1-917-727-7985 513 376 250#**

For Massachusetts: the phone number is **1-917-727-7985 122 568 210#**

Got it? Ok, everyone break!

Maine Conversation

- Budget
- Access to Care
- COVID Patient Bill of Rights
- Hot Topic Call Reminder
- Cancer Action Day



- Budget process is in full swing in Maine. In addition to Hilary testifying last week on the need to not cut the tobacco prevention and treatment program in Maine, Mary Lou and Jake Warn each submitted testimony on the need for funding. Sent an email last week, and followed up on Thursday when we realized there was an internal error that was preventing people from taking action. We'll continue to engage the grassroots as the process moves forward.
- Cancer Action Day is April 13 from 8:30am to 2:30pm. The email invitation will be coming out soon!