

## All Leads Call Meeting Notes

May 12, 7:30pm ET

May Volunteer Spotlight:

- Dr. Marina Watanabe, Vice SLA, MA

1. Welcome, **Tom Delleart**, *NAT Member*
2. Campaign Updates, **Korinne Moore Berenson**, *Senior Director, Grassroots Campaigns*
  - a. Thank you for all your work in 2026 so far!
  - b. Clinical Trials Modernization Act Update, **Nishith Pandya**, *Director, Federal Advocacy*
    - i. House version of the bill introduced last year (H.R.3521), and the Senate version (S.4440) was just introduced by Sen Tim Scott of SC and Sen Mark Warner of VA
    - ii. Many barriers to clinical trials participation including cost and geography
    - iii. This bill addresses barriers by:
      - a. Supporting enrollment for historically underrepresented groups
      - b. Coverage for food, travel, and lodging
      - c. Reimbursement of copays and insurance tied to trial participation
      - d. Encourage remote monitoring when possible to minimize travel/doctor's visits
      - e. Makes up to \$2000 in trial payments tax exempt while not counting towards income limitations for programs like Medicaid and Medicare
    - iv. Plan to use 2026 as a year to educate your Congress members, increase number of cosponsors, and lay the groundwork for passage in 2027
    - v. Will provide talking points and materials soon
  - c. Funding for cancer and research prevention programs update, **Alex Sutton**, *Director, Federal Advocacy*
    - i. Support robust funding and maximized reach for cancer research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), and the Advanced Research Project Agency for Health (ARPA-H), and cancer screening and prevention programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
    - ii. Fed team has been submitting letters, putting in requests for meetings with Congress members (pointing to President's proposed budget as very low)
    - iii. In the next month or so, there will be Senate and House markups
    - iv. Expect quiet summer and continuing resolution signed before Oct. 1

- v. Congress will come back during lame duck and hopefully get a bill done with increases we're seeking
- d. Toolkit and Campaign updates as important Memorial Day recess nears:  
[https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/docs/final\\_protecting\\_cancer\\_cures\\_volunteer\\_toolkit\\_spring\\_summer\\_2026.pdf](https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/docs/final_protecting_cancer_cures_volunteer_toolkit_spring_summer_2026.pdf)
  - i. We encourage you all to get out to town hall events to ask lawmakers where they stand
  - ii. Scripts for anyone who has upcoming meetings with lawmakers or staff in-district
  - iii. Templates for Letter to Editors
  - iv. Updated petition as many community events in the next few months

3. Cancer Votes, **Greta Johnson**, *Director, Grassroots Advocacy*

- a. Thank you all for your work so far!
- b. Cancer Votes is ACS CAN's nonpartisan electoral program where we work to inform candidates about the actions needed to make cancer a national and state priority and ensure candidates hear directly about issues that affect cancer patients, survivors, and caregivers
  - i. Nonpartisan, we do not endorse or oppose candidates, and we do not contribute to campaigns
  - ii. We are asking candidates seeking Federal office to sign our Cancer Promise. Also gubernatorial candidates in select races to complete candidate questionnaire with more state specific questions
    - a. Provides an opportunity to get candidates on the record supporting cancer policies, setting stage for 2027 legislative work and build relationships
    - b. In 2024 we had 93 candidates sign on and our goal this year is 150 candidates
- c. Please visit our new volunteer hub where you can access the Cancer Votes training (there is still time!) and other resources:  
<http://www.cancervotes.org/volunteerhub>
  - i. Pride toolkit added today
  - ii. Very close to adding new tool to look up candidates and get their social media info and campaign contact info
- d. Early successes
  - i. 463 volunteers across 47 states have already signed up for Cancer Votes
  - ii. 14 campaign meetings held already
  - iii. 14 candidates have signed the Cancer Promise

- a. Shoutout to our KY volunteers who attended 2 candidate Senate forums and got 2 candidates to sign the Cancer Promise at the events
    - e. Volunteer Spotlight: **Anne Zajic**, *Vice SLA, KS*
      - i. Attended candidate forum for governor with GRM and GRD (wearing CV shirts of course), found out about event on social media
      - ii. There were scripted questions at the event so not a chance to ask one but able to meet with both candidates afterwards and took photos with them (one of the candidates posted on social media)
4. Affinity Group Updates, **Beth Parker**, *ACT Lead, LGBTQIA+ & Allies Engagement Group Member, WA*
- a. Please register and attend our Planning for Pride 2026 virtual call: Thursday, May 21 at 5pm PT / 8 pm ET
    - i. [tinyurl.com/2026PRIDE](https://tinyurl.com/2026PRIDE)
  - b. Best practices, tips for getting involved in Pride events for ACS CAN staff and volunteers only
5. Volunteer Engagement - **Rachael Eerdmans**, *Director, Grassroots Advocacy*
- a. SLA Emeritus Update
    - i. Meeting with this group quarterly
    - ii. Get them involved with your state activities where/when you can
  - b. Save the LS&LD dates: September 13-16
    - i. Registration will launch June/July
  - c. LOH
    - i. In the midst of our sponsorship challenge
      - a. New video and graphics available on [LOH site](#)
    - ii. Please register for our May 19 Hall of Fame call: <https://www.fightcancer.org/hall-fame-interest-call>
6. Wrap up, *Moderator*
- a. Action items:
    - i. Download, review, share, and act based on the Protecting Cancer Cures Spring and Summer Toolkit: [https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/docs/final\\_protecting\\_cancer\\_cures\\_volunteer\\_toolkit\\_spring\\_summer\\_2026.pdf](https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/docs/final_protecting_cancer_cures_volunteer_toolkit_spring_summer_2026.pdf)
    - ii. Check out the Cancer Votes Volunteer Hub at [www.cancervotes.org/volunteerhub](http://www.cancervotes.org/volunteerhub). Sign up to become a Cancer Votes volunteer by completing the brief on-demand training at

[www.cancervotes.org/training](http://www.cancervotes.org/training) and submitting the form at the end to request your Cancer Votes kit.

- iii. Lights of Hope Sponsor Challenge: Now through June 15. Recruit and track one sponsor to win.
- iv. Register to learn more about joining the Volunteer Fundraising Hall of Fame on May 19: <https://www.fightcancer.org/hall-fame-interest-call>
- v. Sign up and join Planning For Pride: May 21, 8pm
  - a. This call is just for ACS CAN volunteers and staff
  - b. Participants must register at: [tinyurl.com/2026PRIDE](http://tinyurl.com/2026PRIDE)

b. Next Meeting: All Leads call August 4 at 7:30pm ET

7. Lights of Hope Rollout, **Rachael Eerdmans & Molly Waite**, *Senior Development Manager, Peer-to-Peer Fundraising*