

Government Relations Committee Chair

Volunteer Job Opportunity: Provide leadership and oversight in establishing the chapter's MS Activism priorities and agenda. Create strategies and tactics for issue resolution, offer access to and enhance relationships with key public policy officials. Guide efforts to market MS Activism and recruit and train volunteers as activists.

Key Responsibilities:

- Lead the Government Relations Committee in establishing priorities and forging strategies for issue resolution. Develop meeting agenda and plan meeting logistics. Preside at committee meetings.
- Collaborate with National MS Society staff and lobbyist, as relevant, to advance the quality of life for those affected by MS. Serve as a liaison to the board of trustees, as requested.
- Monitor and track state legislative proposals beneficial or harmful to those affected by multiple sclerosis.
- Recruit and collaborate with MS public policy specialists, as necessary, to conduct policy research and analysis.
- Establish and strengthen relationships with legislators and public policy officials to best represent the interests of those affected by multiple sclerosis.
- Create strategies to market MS Activism and recruit and train MS Activists.
- Serves as a resource expert to National MS Society staff.

Initial Impact:

- Serve a critical role in identifying and resolving significant state and local public policy priorities.
- Engage those affected by MS in the activism arena.
- Enhance the lives of those affected by multiple sclerosis until its cure is discovered.

Sustainable/Long Term Outcome:

- Collaborate with National MS Society staff to unite the voices of those affected by multiple sclerosis and enhance quality of life, until its cure is discovered.
- Represent the interests of those affected by MS, among state and local public policy officials and lawmakers.

Training and Support:

National MS Society staff will complement the chair's skill set, and provide:

- Briefings and background resources and information on critical public policy priorities.
- Access to legislative tracking services.
- Support in development of activism strategies and tactics.
- Networking opportunities with legislators and local public policy officials.
- Support for marketing MS activism and for training volunteers as MS Activists.

Commitment: Two to three hours monthly, with additional hours possible during the legislative session, for a two year commitment.

Qualifications:

- Interest or expertise in legislative processes, strategies and tactics.

- Interest in or expertise in health, disability rights or other relevant public policy areas.
- Willingness to forge or strength essential legislative relationships or relationships with local policy officials.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.

Benefits:

- Personal enrichment and experience within the public policy arena.
- Exposure to the legislative process, with the opportunity to influence outcomes and represent others affected by multiple sclerosis.
- Interaction with others, and a means to work toward common ends.