

# Arthritis Foundation

## Arthritis Ambassador Briefing

**Dial In:** 1-866-487-9460

**Conference Code:** # 931 709 2991

**Materials available for download at**

[http://www.arthritis.org/ambassador\\_assignment.php](http://www.arthritis.org/ambassador_assignment.php)

January 14, 2014

3PM Eastern



[arthritis.org](http://arthritis.org)

# Agenda

- **Welcome / Introduction / Goals of 2015**  
*Laura Keivel, Manager of Grassroots Advocacy*
- **Federal Legislation and Caucus Update**  
*Anna Hyde, Director of Health Policy and Federal Affairs*
- **Welcome Back Congress**  
*Mike Splaine, Splaine Consulting*
- **State Legislation Update**  
*Mark Guimond, Director of State Government Relations*
- **Ambassador Activity Logistics**  
*Laura Keivel, Manager of Grassroots Advocacy*
- **Advocacy Summit**  
*Laura Keivel, Manager of Grassroots Advocacy*
- **Ambassador Commitment Form, Briefing Dates, and 2015 Platinum Ambassador Criteria**  
*Laura Keivel, Manager of Grassroots Advocacy*
- **Q&A**

# Welcome!

## Happy New Year!

Thank you for being a part of the  
Ambassador program

### Goals for 2015

- Sign up 16,000 new E-Advocates by the end of the year
- Grow the Congressional Arthritis Caucus to 128 members

# 2015 Federal Landscape

**Anna Hyde**

Director, Health Policy and Federal  
Affairs

# Patients' Access to Treatment Act

- Re-introduction likely in February
- AF is taking the lead on planning a briefing or press event for the re-introduction
- Goal is to have a bi-partisan bill in the Senate introduced at the same time
- Coalition for Accessible Treatment is currently meeting with Senate targets

# Arthritis and the Military

- AF has a brand new “ask” this year: create a stand-alone arthritis research program at the Department of Defense, funded at \$20 million
- This will be one of our 2 asks at the Summit
- AF is currently working on a White Paper on arthritis and the military, in addition to messaging materials for our advocates to use for their Members of Congress

# Arthritis Caucus Update

- We began the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress with 62 members of the Arthritis Caucus
- Our goal is to double that number by the end of the year
- We've already added 1 member (Sen Coons, D-DE)
- Our first quarterly Arthritis Caucus newsletter will go out within the next month

# Arthritis 101 Briefing Update

- Our December briefing was a great success
- 35 Hill offices represented, mostly high level staff
- Hill attendees and outside attendees gave us great feedback
- Video will be available soon



# Welcome Back Congress

Mike Splaine  
Splaine Consulting



# State Legislation Update

**Mark Guimond**

Director of State Legislative Affairs

# 2015 Action in the States

## Iowa

The Iowa Insurance Commissioner proposed a rule to allow for a 15 day prior authorization review period for “non-urgent” matters and 3 days for “urgent” matters.

# Arthritis Foundation Position

15 days is too long for any prior authorization approval and 3 days can be devastating and even life-threatening to people with arthritis.

# Advocates in Action

- Generated phone calls to the Assistant Insurance Commissioner
- Generated letters to the Assistant Insurance Commissioner
- Earned three op-eds on the subject
- Had direct testimony presented at the Commission's public hearing.

**The Gazette**

NEWTON DAILY NEWS

IOWA CITY  
**Press-Citizen**  
A GANNETT COMPANY

# Iowa Outcome

Due to the considerable advocacy against the provisions of the rule, it has been taken for further consideration. The state's legislature has taken notice of the issue and may seek to craft its own law rather than allowing the Insurance Commissioner to impose a rule.

# State Legislation Update

**We need your personal stories!**

Let us know! Contact **Mark Guimond** at  
**[mguimond@arthritis.org](mailto:mguimond@arthritis.org)**

# Welcome Back Congress

- Importance of the Caucus
- Importance of Staff Relationships

Let's Get Started!



# Activity Resources

- A guide with invitations, sample scripts, helpful tips, and the documents to take to the meeting are available on the website and will be sent out



# A Few Reminders

- Polite persistence is important – call again if you do not receive a response within 1-2 days
- If you are unable to meet in person, you may arrange for a 10-15 minute phone call
- If a phone call is not possible, please send the packet of materials to the Health Legislative Assistant
- Be sure to follow up and thank them!

# Ambassador Activity Resources

- Check out the Ambassador Program: Current Assignment page for materials
- Materials will also be sent around with the call recording
- Print out the packet of materials and give it to your legislator's staff at the meeting or by e-mail if you cannot attend in person

# Registration is Open!

## **2015 Advocacy Summit**

March 23-24

Doubletree Hotel Crystal City

**FREE registration!**

Visit [arthritis.org/summit](http://arthritis.org/summit)



# 2015 Advocacy Summit

- 2 day event – activities begin at 11:00 AM on Monday, March 23
- Panels on patient reviewers, state advocacy and expert advocacy trainings
- Rooms are \$219 for single and double \$229 for triple and quad

# Reporting Center

Please report your activity in the reporting center when you complete the activity

[www.arthritis.org/report](http://www.arthritis.org/report)

# Ambassador Commitment Form

The Ambassador Commitment form is a yearly document to confirm your participation in the Ambassador program

**The form will be available by the end of the month and is due Friday, February 27th**

# Platinum Ambassador Criteria

- Complete all 8 assignments plus 4 bonus and raise a minimum of \$500 (get or give)
- Assignments must be reported into the Reporting Center to get credit



# 2015 Ambassador Briefing Dates

Wednesday, March 11

3:00 PM Eastern

Wednesday, April 15

3:00 PM Eastern

Wednesday, May 6

3:00 PM Eastern

Wednesday, July 8

3:00 PM Eastern

Wednesday, September 9

3:00 PM Eastern

Wednesday, November 11

3:00 PM Eastern

# Questions?

Contact Laura Keivel

Manager of Grassroots Advocacy

[lkeivel@arthritis.org](mailto:lkeivel@arthritis.org)

202-887-2913



# Thank You!

We appreciate all of your support and  
dedication!

The next Ambassador call is

**March 11, 2015**

**3:00 PM Eastern**