



Events & Activities

- o April & May- Arthritis Walks

To find a walk near you:

<http://www.arthritis.org/chapters/southern-california/arthritis-walk.php>

- o May ~ Arthritis Awareness Month
- o July 10-13 ~ Juvenile Arthritis Conference in Costa Mesa, CA
- o August 11-15 ~ Advocacy Week
- o August 16-24- Camp Esperanza

Check it out:

Blog Updates

<http://arthritisaction.blogspot.com/>

Arthritis Advocacy Online

<http://www.arthritis.org/advocacy.php>

Welcome to the first edition of the Southern California Chapter Public Policy and Advocacy quarterly newsletter.

Arthritis Action is a quarterly newsletter to help keep arthritis advocates in the Southern California, Southern NV, and Hawaii area informed on public policy and advocacy updates.

Message from our Public Policy & Advocacy Committee Chair, Dr. Wesley Mizutani, MBA

As the new Chairman of the PP&A for 2008 I would like to welcome all the advocates and e-advocates. I would particularly like to thank those advocates and their families who donated their time and efforts to attend the Summit in Washington DC. I believe you will all agree with me that the Summit has already had an impact on moving forward the Arthritis legislative agenda which will be reviewed later in this newsletter. Suffice to say, we believe that the Summit will be the turning point to bring the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act to fruition. However, for this to happen, we as advocates must be steadfast in communicating to our legislators. We have planned our advocacy week to coincide with local legislative visits so that we can achieve the most impact. One of the PP&A committee's goals for 2008 is to reach out to you the advocates. We would like you to feel part of what I like to refer to as the Arthritis Movement. This movement encompasses not only legislative goals but also will include addressing issue like access to care and medication for people affected by arthritis. It also will keep advocates informed of breakthrough in arthritis research.

The Public Policy & Advocacy Committee is excited about arthritis advocacy in 2008 and we hope you will join us.

Update from 2008 Advocacy and Kids' Summit and Virtual Summit

Volunteers and Staff from all over the Southern California Chapter visited six Senate offices and 32 Representative offices in two days! Summit Participants were urged to not only ask for support and co-sponsorship of the Arthritis Act, but also, to ask Representatives and Senators to assist in getting the Bill "marked up", so that it can be voted on in 2008. During our local visits please remember this message in when asking for support.

Top Ambassadors Recognized at Summit *(photo right)*

Laurie Miller, San Fernando Valley Branch Captain, and Karen Anderson, Vice Chair of the PP&A Committee and Santa Barbara Branch Captain were recognized as Top Ambassadors at the Summit Dinner. Only nine Ambassadors nationwide were recognized for their advocacy efforts; the Southern California Chapter is proud and thankful to have advocates like Laurie and Karen on our team! For more information on the Ambassador Program, please contact Jenn Ziegler at 323-954-5760 x243.



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Special thank you to our Co-Sponsors:

California: Representatives Lois Capps, District 23, Howard L. Berman, District 28, Adam B. Schiff, District 29, Henry A. Waxman, District 30, Hilda L. Solis, District 32, Diane E. Watson, District 33, Lucille Roybal-Allard, District 34, Grace F. Napolitano, District 38, Edward R. Royce, District 40, Ken Calvert, District 44, and Mary Bono, District 45
Senators Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein
Hawaii: Representatives Abercrombie Neil, District 1 and Mazie Hirono, District 2
Senators Daniel K. Akaka and Daniel K. Inouye
Nevada: Representatives Shelley Berkley, District 1 and Jon C. Porter, District 3