

AMP Connection

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Technology That Works

People Who Care

Governmental Affairs: A Success Story

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A great benefit of becoming more visible through a targeted governmental affairs plan is that you no longer need to court other groups and organizations for attention.

They court you.

AMP works with many of its Business Partners to identify and reach important Governmental Affairs goals. Our Governmental Affairs Division, established in 2006, continues to provide value to our clients and bring success to their legislative and advocacy goals. One example of this is our recent success assisting the American Society for Pain Management Nursing (ASPMN) with their governmental affairs agenda. ASPMN was founded in 1991, and has been an AMP client for five years. The organization's mission is to advance and promote optimal nursing care for people affected by pain by promoting best nursing practice, which is accomplished through education, standards, advocacy and research.

We began talking with ASPMN in 2008 about how our Governmental Affairs Division could aid them in achieving their organizational goals. In July of that year, we began helping the ASPMN Board firmly establish a governmental affairs program and achieve success. For years, ASPMN relied only on volunteers to monitor and advance governmental affairs activities. While they had some success, the organization determined that

more direct attention and focus were required to follow the many happenings at the federal and state levels that could have an effect on ASPMN, its members and the field of pain management nursing. Additionally, ASPMN sought to be more visible within the pain management community and to be the voice for pain management nursing. To this end, they decided that AMP would be the right choice to help monitor legislation, engage lawmakers, and advance their goals and mission.

With ASPMN's mission and past experiences in mind, AMP worked with the Board to identify realistic goals and strategies.

Goal 1: Improve Information Flow and Processing

AMP immediately worked with ASPMN to centralize the review and analysis of information received by the organization, including requests for input from other organizations. It was decided that there were many areas where ASPMN's expertise was needed in developing and guiding lawmakers' and the Administration officials' policies. To streamline the information flow, AMP Governmental Affairs first analyzes

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the new information and provides a recommended action with rationale to the Board and other association leadership. With this method, the leadership of ASPMN is given the necessary information they need to evaluate the situation and make a final decision, while saving volunteer leadership time and effort to investigate and research each opportunity. This new process helps the Board to easily understand the issue by providing them with all of the information needed to make informed decisions. We also record all decisions and requests so that in the often intangible world of governmental affairs, tangible long term tracking can help to identify success and progress of the program and show a return on the dollars spent.

Goal 2: Increase ASPMN's Visibility and Industry Influence

With the reporting process evaluated and streamlined, we then began working with ASPMN to address



organizational visibility and influence. We reached out to organizations with similar missions and became not just another group around the table, but one who provides valuable input and is actively engaged on all issues affecting the field of pain management. Shortly after becoming more involved in a coalition of pain care organizations, ASPMN became their consolidated voice of nursing. ASPMN was then invited by other nursing organizations to become members of their coalitions and help engage lawmakers and policy implementers. ASPMN's goal of achieving greater visibility within the pain management field, and nursing in general, was quickly being achieved.

Through this networking, ASPMN is now being recognized as an important contributor to initiatives. In one case there was a letter, detailing nursing issues, being prepared to be sent to House and Senate leaders regarding the Healthcare Reform legislation. The letter had been in development for over a year with input from numerous organizations. Recently, those organizations reached

out to ASPMN requesting their support and assistance incorporating pain management issues into the letter. Within three weeks, one of ASPMN's major initiatives was included and supported by the entire group. The letter was then sent to Congress.

Another example of a success, which not only benefited ASPMN but the entire nursing field, involved funding for overall nursing programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). In 2009, funding for a variety of nursing programs at HRSA was at the \$171 million level. ASPMN, working with their partners in the nursing world, actively engaged law and policymakers to seek an increase. This engagement clearly showed the importance of nursing to those making funding decisions. ASPMN and the nursing world are very pleased with the response that was received. During tough economic times where many federal programs saw a cut in funding, the funding level for nursing programs at HRSA for 2010 was increased to \$243 million – a 42% increase in just one year.



New Business:

Founded in 1919, the *National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors (NBBI)* oversees adherence to laws, rules, and regulations relating to boilers and pressure vessels. Through training, credentialing, and continuing education opportunities, the organization promotes public safety encouraging uniformity in construction, installation, repair, maintenance, and inspection of pressure equipment. The NBBI membership is comprised of chief boiler inspectors representing most states and all provinces in North America, as well as many major cities in the United States. NBBI has recently selected AMP

to provide computer-based test administration, scoring and reporting for the Inspectors In-Service Commission Examination. The exam was made available to candidates in the United States and Canada in January 2010. To learn more about NBBI, please visit www.nationalboard.org.

The *Hand Therapy Certification Commission (HTCC)* offers an advanced practice credential for occupational therapists and physical therapists who specialize in hand therapy (which is the art and science of rehabilitation of the upper limb, including

the hand, wrist, elbow and shoulder girdle).

HTCC's mission is to support a high level of competence in hand therapy practice and to advance the specialty through a formal credentialing process. CHTs must understand the intricate anatomy of the arm and hand while

TECHNOLOGY FROM 1983 TO 2010

The Future

We continue to be encouraged by our ability to help increase ASPMN's visibility and the opportunities to work with other organizations in related fields. A great benefit of becoming more visible through a targeted governmental affairs plan is that you no longer need to court other groups and organizations for attention. They court you. You are able to help set the direction for united groups and can ensure that your position is heard and respected, thus driving the overall strategy. You also receive the added benefit of support and the voices of many related organizations to help further your own mission and goals.

Of course, it takes time to develop a solid governmental affairs program and relationships continue to evolve, but AMP's Governmental Affairs Division will continue to do all we can to help ASPMN enhance their governmental affairs program to the benefit of all ASPMN members. We are looking forward to continuing to work with the knowledgeable and highly respected ASPMN Board as they lead the way for the success of this important organization.



www.goAMP.com

See How Far We've Come... A Look Back at Testing History



In 1983, AMP (then NBRC/MS) and its parent company, the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC), had a vision: saying goodbye to repeated copying of test items on index cards and transitioning all examination content to a computerized system. Believe it or not, this idea was considered ground-breaking by others in the industry at the time. Yet, two years later, we had developed the first computerized item banking system, the Integrated Examination Management System (IEMS). For NBRC examination committee meetings, AMP staff would ship multiple crates containing a server and computer equipment to the meeting hotel and arrive three days in advance to set it all up. This involved positioning bulky monitors for reviewing items (one for every two committee members) and running cables to attach three committee meeting rooms to one central server. Frequently, the test developers performed complex technical repairs to the equipment while being coached through each step by technology staff at the NBRC/AMP headquarters. However, the results were worth the effort. What sounds like an archaic system today, was at the time a revolutionary idea that transformed the testing process and established both AMP and NBRC as innovative leaders in the credentialing arena. Today, one thin laptop computer, a projector and web-based technology allows committees to conduct item and examination review tasks with efficiency, ease and a fraction of the time and effort. Using web-conferencing, committee members from around the globe can collaborate without leaving their offices. And, large groups of candidates can be securely tested from anywhere in the world. At AMP, the visionaries that helped pioneer this change are still hard at work, continually challenging



AMP staff to improve testing processes to best serve our clients. Imagine what we will accomplish in the next 25 years.





ABNS Spring Assembly Meeting

03/05/2010 - 03/06/2010

Costa Mesa, California

ARELLO Mid-Year Meeting

04/07/2010 - 04/10/2010

Colorado Springs, Colorado

ARELLO District Conference

07/17/2010 - 07/19/2010

Des Moines, Iowa

ARELLO National Meeting

09/14/2010 - 09/17/2010

Anchorage, Alaska

CLEAR Annual Conference

09/23/2010 - 09/25/2010

Nashville, Tennessee

We look forward to seeing
you at one of these upcoming
On the Road events!



For more information about any
of our products or services, please contact the AMP
Marketing department at 913.895.4600 or visit our website at www.goAMP.com.

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mastering the technical complexity of rehabilitation. In October 2009, AMP was awarded a contract for computer-based test delivery of their Certified Hand Therapist (CHT) examination. Testing for the CHT exam is scheduled to begin in May 2010 in the AMP Assessment Center Network. For more information, please visit www.htcc.org.

The **American Academy of Health Care Providers in the Addictive Disorders (AAHCPAD)** is an international credentialing body devoted to establishing and upholding the highest standards for the provision of treatment in the addictive disorders. In 2009, AAHCPAD selected AMP to provide psychometric services for the Certified Addiction Specialist (CAS) certification program, a comprehensive credential which includes specialty areas of competencies, including alcoholism, drug addiction, eating disorders, gambling addiction, and sexual addiction. AMP has conducted a cut score study for the CAS program along with psychometric consultation, item writing training, and item review. For more information, please visit www.americanacademy.org.

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