

TIPS FOR DEVELOPING SUCCESSFUL PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

The APhA-ASP Policy Process is one the most important activities of the Academy. APhA-ASP Resolutions cover a wide variety of pharmacy issues that student pharmacists believe to be most important to the profession. This process gives every APhA-ASP member the opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns to influence the goals and objectives of the Academy. So where do you begin to create proposed resolutions at the chapter level?

Inform and Educate

Encourage chapter members to stay up-to-date on issues affecting pharmacy through state association updates, as well as local and national news networks. The APhA-ASP Policy Process is a great way to address issues currently affecting pharmacy!

Give the APhA-ASP Policy Process PowerPoint presentation in a chapter meeting to encourage your membership to start thinking about potential resolution topics. Show resolutions previously adopted and discuss how resolution topics can come from:

- Discussions with mentors or peers
- Recent legislative efforts affecting pharmacy
- Information from journals or other publications
- Work experiences
- Knowledge and skills gained from interacting with the community through APhA-ASP initiatives

Brainstorm and Discuss

Set up a resolution brainstorming session so that as many of your chapter members as possible can be present. At the meeting:

- Ask for policy topics from chapter members. During the session have an individual assigned to search for current resolutions on the topics discussed in the book of APhA-ASP Adopted Resolutions, accessible online at pharmacist.com/apha-asp in the APhA-ASP Policy and Advocacy section. This will ensure that your ideas are not already “on the books.”
- Open the floor for discussion on the topic to determine if your chapter would like to propose a resolution on the idea.
- If your chapter decides to pursue the topic, invite the proposing individual, Chapter Policy Vice President, or chapter legislative committee to work on drafting the resolution. Be sure to include solid background and supporting information for your proposals.

Components of a Good Proposed Resolution

- **Actionable:** Once resolutions become officially adopted by APhA-ASP, they are not merely statements that we as an Academy believe in -- we take action on them! Imagine how your policy proposals could help direct the future of pharmacy.
- **Addresses national concerns in pharmacy:** APhA-ASP resolutions represent the profession of pharmacy across the nation. Try to make sure your resolution applies to the concerns of all 50 states, not simply your state or region.
- **Timely and not covered in previous policy:** All too often a great idea for a resolution is brought up at MRM only to be discovered that it is already “on the books.” If you feel an adopted resolution does not adequately cover your chapter’s concerns, develop a proposal that updates an old or out-dated resolution.

- **Do your research:** Prepare a background statement with very descriptive and factual information on the topic. Be ready to share your chapter's perspective on the issue, how it furthers the profession of pharmacy, and why it should be supported.
- **Be creative:** Proposed resolutions may not be feasible to implement in the short-term, but think of how you envision the future of pharmacy practice. Some proposed resolutions may focus on implementable topics, but they can be visionary as well.
- **Don't get stuck on the wording:** Wording for your MRM proposed resolution only needs to clearly communicate your idea. Voting at the MRMs should be based on the intent of the proposed resolution. If your proposal gets passed, the APhA-ASP Resolutions Committee will refine the wording.

Although one proposed resolution will be finalized for discussion/debate at the MRM, chapters will be required to submit two (2) proposed resolutions to the Regional Delegate at least four (4) weeks prior to the start of the MRM. Chapters should utilize the time at the start of the semester to discuss and debate submission of a primary (preferred) proposed resolution and a secondary proposed resolution. The secondary proposed resolution will serve as an alternate proposal, and used only if the primary resolution cannot be presented because of duplication with other chapter submissions, redundancies with resolutions already within the APhA-ASP Adopted Resolutions, incompleteness, and/or any other reason precluding the proposal's use.

Come to MRM ready to discuss your proposed resolution with any necessary background research and/or additional information. During the Policy Webinars and the Policy Proposal Forum, your chapter will have the opportunity to explain why you believe this issue is important.

Resolutions: From MRM to APhA Annual Meeting

After the MRMs, resolutions from all eight regions are brought to the APhA-ASP Resolutions Committee. In January the committee meets to review the resolutions and craft the proposed resolutions to be presented to the APhA-ASP House of Delegates at the APhA Annual Meeting & Exposition.

Here's a look inside what happens at the Resolution's Committee Meeting:

- The APhA-ASP Resolutions Committee is sent a collective list of resolutions from each of the regions. Each member reviews the list and ranks each resolution for consideration.
- In January, the Regional Delegates discuss the proposed resolutions in greater detail and make a list of the issues they intend to address with the proposed resolutions.
- The committee narrows the list of topics to be addressed by the APhA-ASP House of Delegates down to the most important issues (typically 3 to 5). The Resolutions Committee researches the topics, drafts the wording for the proposed resolutions, and develops the background statements. The final product is presented first to all APhA-ASP Chapters for discussion. At the APhA-ASP Open Hearing on Proposed Resolutions, members as well as non-members of APhA-ASP can voice their opinion on the proposed resolutions. The APhA-ASP Reference Committee presides over the Open Hearing and makes recommendations to the APhA-ASP House of Delegates for final voting.

Words of wisdom from the APhA-ASP Resolutions Committee:

The more research you have done on an issue and the more contact the original author of the proposed resolution has with his/her Regional Delegate, the better the Regional Delegate can communicate the importance of a particular proposal to the other members of the Resolutions Committee.

The proposed resolutions that pass through each MRM are important to the Resolutions Committee; so do not be discouraged if your ideas do not appear at the APhA Annual Meeting. Contacting your Regional Delegate for information on why your topic was not addressed at the APhA-ASP House of Delegates may also help guide your research on the topic. If you feel an issue is important, be persistent and bring it up again next year, providing information on why you again feel the topic needs to be addressed.