



APhA-ASP Regional Officer Elections

Candidate for Regional Delegate - Region 6



Hayden Wood

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
College of Pharmacy - Little Rock
Haydenwood2211@gmail.com

Previous Leadership and Experience

National:

- Currently serving as a member of the National APhA House of Delegates Policy Review Committee. While on this committee I have the opportunity to review and make recommendations on newly adopted resolutions and inspect our policy capsules.
- Served as a Legislative Director for National Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). While in this role, I had the opportunity to work with legislative officials and the national executive counsel to direct our advocacy efforts.
- Served as an Arkansas college of pharmacy delegate at the National APhA-ASP Annual House of Delegates. At the HOD session, I participated in discussing national ASP policy resolutions and provided either support or oppositional statements for each topic.

State:

- Served as one of two Arkansas APhA-ASP Midyear Regional Meeting Liaisons and Chapter Delegates for the 2023-2024 year and am currently serving in the same positions for the 2024-2025 year. This opportunity allows me to coordinate our MRM event with the Arkansas Pharmacists Association and present policy resolutions to the region 6 delegation.
- Served as the Arkansas FBLA State Parliamentarian. In this role, I was charged with maintaining proper parliamentary procedure during our executive sessions, as well as, serving as a third-party advisor for business meetings involving the state's student congregation.

Local:

- Served as Vice President of Policy and Legislation and Political Action Committee Chairmen for my local APhA-ASP chapter during the 2023-2024 year and am currently serving in the same positions for the 2024-2025 year. During these two terms, I have helped charter four policy resolutions, established a working relationship with our State Association, connected students with legislators to discuss advocacy issues, and assisted in writing call-to-action letters for the chapter.
- Currently serving as a UAMS College of Pharmacy Student Ambassador. As an ambassador I have the opportunity to welcome both prospective and new students to our program and provide them with the support they need to prepare for their interviews or curriculum requirements for the P1 year.
- Currently serving as the P3 representative for the UAMS Student Government Association. As a representative, I voice any and all concerns my graduating class has with the executive student government counsel, as well as, communicate opportunities and events the SGA provides for students.

As regional officers, we have the honor of leading policy and advocacy activities in our region. My leadership experiences in areas ranging from various local and state positions to national counsels and committees have equipped me with the proper foundation to serve in this role. Looking at my involvement with APhA, I currently serve as a national policy review committee member. This role gave me amazing insight into how our national office directs policy efforts. Aside from detailed insights into our policy and advocacy processes, I honed my skills in comprehensive resolution statement evaluation when performing an extensive review of the new proposed resolution items from the APhA House of Delegates. Together, my understanding of our advocacy efforts and policy review abilities give me a unique perspective that can guide the region and help achieve our full potential.

Within APhA-ASP, my time as the local vice president of policy opened my eyes to my local chapter's policy process and all the undertakings that a policy VP must perform. This puts me in a position to make a targeted approach to assisting our policy VPs and better serving our region. Additionally, my work as MRM coordinator and chapter delegate allowed me to see our situations. As a regional delegate, I can greatly assist those struggling through those same hurdles.

Outside of APhA, I was regularly involved with the Future Business Leaders of America organization on both the state and national levels. Serving as the state parliamentarian and a national legislative director, I oversaw legislative actions in multiple local school districts and numerous US states. This required extensive collaborative efforts to ensure all activities were moving in a smooth, orderly fashion. After my term ended, I learned to coordinate large-scale advocacy movements effectively. Using those same methods, I intend to harmonize our advocacy actions and promote our voices across the region.

Talents and Skills

Becoming a regional delegate means you commit to supporting your region's advocacy efforts and need unique skills to do so effectively. I have listed and described a few personal skills pertinent to fulfilling my role.

Understanding of Pharmacy Advocacy Issues

- To lead our policy efforts, I need a fundamental understanding of our policy process and advocacy issues we identify each year when writing resolution statements. The culmination of various leadership experiences and my time in advocacy at the Arkansas Pharmacists Assoc. have established a working foundation of knowledge in policy and advocacy that will notably assist Region 6.

Public Relations

- A lack of proper communication and engagement often leads to stagnation, thus hindering professional goals. When a regional delegate does not effectively communicate and engage between their region and the national committee, the region cannot achieve its advocacy goals. My public service roles have honed my PR skills to the point where I can effectively do so between student pharmacists and our national committee.

Project Management

- Our advocacy work is always under a time constraint. What can be central today can be obsolete tomorrow. This policy process requires strict planning and prioritization. My experience in project management while serving as a national legislative director and working at my state association provides me with the subset of time management and delegation skills necessary to assist student pharmacists in the region through our policy process.

Plans as a Regional Delegate

My platform consists of three goals that I will pursue for Region 6. First, I desire to equip all student pharmacists with the tools necessary to advocate for the profession successfully. I plan to create a comprehensive policy care package that can be sent directly to students involved with our policy process. Second, I aim to encourage student pharmacists by promoting their policy activities and advocacy efforts. By showcasing their activities and the impact of our students outside the policy capsule, we can inspire others to engage and help change the profession. Finally, I desire to unite our pharmacy schools by fostering collaborative networks to strengthen advocacy efforts. I propose a shared file system where students can share their policy creations, ideas, and additional resources to inspire greater involvement.

APhA-ASP offers a diverse and unique platform that supports all student pharmacists, regardless of professional goals; it is why I fell in love with the organization. From broad opportunities to provide direct patient care through national and international service projects to a transitory support system for student pharmacists transitioning to new practitioners, I could not think more highly of this incredible organization.

Many student pharmacists often doubt their ability to impact the profession through advocacy and policy. Even those who wish to get involved in the policy process may find it challenging due to limited promotion, which typically comes from local policy VPs and APhA-ASP mailing lists. These efforts are not standardized and rely heavily on individual engagement. As an APhA-ASP Regional Delegate, I aim to introduce programming designed for student pharmacists beyond policy VP and chapter delegate roles. My program consists of four key components:

Promotional PAC Script

- A customizable script for policy VPs to promote their chapter's Political Action Committee (PAC) at meetings, as the PAC often serves as the first step for members to engage with the policy process.

Proposal Forum

- An accessible platform where policy VPs can share ways for chapter members to participate in policy and advocacy activities.

Resolution Submission Programming

- A change in the policy resolution development process that allows all members, not just policy VPs or PAC members, to submit resolution topics to their local PAC, ensuring all student pharmacists have a voice.

Targeted Email Communications

- Regionalized policy emails providing resources to student pharmacists interested in the policy process.

