



APhA-ASP Regional Officer Elections

Candidate for Regional Delegate - Region 8



Tien Dinh

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Previous Leadership and Experience

- APhA-ASP Chapter President
- APhA-ASP P1 Liaison
- Chapman University School of Pharmacy Student Ambassador

As my school's APhA-ASP Chapter President, I am primarily responsible for overseeing the operations of the executive board. As a standard, my position does not require me to spearhead my own events, and I could simply do the minimum that is required of me; however, I know that there is more I can do in my position to positively impact our members. A year ago, I was a new pharmacy student being exposed to numerous opportunities, many of which I was overwhelmed by the application processes that required interviews and documents such as a cover letter or letter of intent. Now, as a seasoned student pharmacist inspired by my past experience, I decided to take on the challenge of spearheading a series of consecutive events, consisting of speaker panels, workshops, and mock interviews, so that the new cohort of students below me would not experience that same overwhelmed feeling I did. These events were not a simple task, and I was continuously challenged to balance these events alongside my standard responsibilities as both Chapter President and as a student pharmacist adapting to a new semester. Towards the end of my event series, I had students from the new cohort approach me, thanking me for organizing these events and sharing their appreciation for the knowledge they gained from the experience. There were students who had updated me about positions they have attained, crediting their success to their attendance of the events I organized. These recollections and updates fill me with an overwhelming sense of joy, as I know that my efforts have made an impact on these students. I am constantly reminded of this feeling as I continue to strive to positively impact our members and the community, and it has inspired me to spread this same impact to members outside of the peers in our school's chapter. I am confident that as Regional Delegate, I will execute ways to have this same impact, if not greater, on the many members within Region 8.

Talents and Skills

It is the Regional Delegate's responsibility to not only promote advocacy initiatives, but to also stir interest and engagement amongst student pharmacists within their region. To be able to fulfill these responsibilities to the best of one's capabilities, it requires someone who is able to manage time well and inspire their peers to take initiative on the policy resources provided to them. In my position as Chapter President and as a student pharmacist in an accelerated program, I am continuously utilizing various organizational and time management skills to ensure that all aspects of my life are given ample time and attention. These experiences have challenged the ways I allocate my time, to prioritize and invest care into the areas I am involved in without disregarding others. This skill that I have polished over time will serve me well in the position of Regional Officer, to go above and beyond in fulfilling my responsibilities without neglecting my responsibilities as a student pharmacist.

For our APhA-ASP chapter's first general meeting of the fall, I knew that we would need to make a strong first impression on the new pharmacy students. To make this happen, we would need to do something outside the box, something with impact. Although this was never done before in our chapter, I arranged to have the APhA-ASP National President, Miranda Montoya, speak at our first general meeting. While this did require more time and effort than normally required of a general meeting, the announcement of our guest speaker resulted in an attendance double of our average, as well as a substantial increase in memberships. As a general practice, I am constantly striving to innovate both new ideas as well as enhance old ideas, and will utilize these skills as Regional Delegate to implement and polish ways to actively engage students in the policy process.

Plans as a Regional Delegate

As Regional Delegate, there are two primary goals that I will strive to achieve: properly advocating for the needs of my fellow student pharmacists, as well as developing region-wide events to strengthen member's relationships. To serve as a proper advocate, I plan to regularly meet with the various chapter presidents and gather an understanding of their member's concerns. I will also create a platform that members can directly discuss current issues and verbalize their needs directly to me. While in this position, I would like to better connect the chapters within Region 8 by executing various regional-level events. In the past, pharmacy schools within close proximity of each other have held joint-chapter watch parties, such as the pharmacy schools within Southern California; However, this may be more difficult for in areas with minimal chapters. As Regional Delegate, my goal is to serve as the bridge to connect chapters as well as facilitate the execution of more joint-chapter watch parties. I would also like to encourage collaboration between chapters by coordinating events orientated around achieving a common goal, such as an event where members are encouraged to send letters to the local legislators with a certain goal amount to be achieved.

Keeping informed on policy is one factor, but being involved in the process is a whole other task. As pharmacy students, the concept of taking action can be daunting. As Regional Delegate, I plan to increase student pharmacist involvement through implementing a monthly newsletter including an understandable breakdown of the various topics of discussion within region 8 as well as a regular reminder of the policy process. To do this, I plan to regularly communicate with the President's and Policy Vice President's of the student chapters within region 8 to coordinate the platform, either through email or a social media page such as Instagram. These newsletters could either be coordinated by rotating chapters responsible for the upcoming newsletter, or by pre-dividing sections within each monthly newsletter. To gather a better understanding of the status of each chapter's involvement in policy and the areas of improvement, I plan to organize meetings with the President's and Policy Vice President's of the region 8 student chapters at the beginning and intermittently throughout my term. While the methods previously discussed address how to increase student involvement, another important factor is maintaining that involvement. To keep students continuously engaged in the APhA-ASP policy process, I would like to aim to include milestones and updates as to where in the APhA-ASP policy process certain issues are. Chapters could also be featured on the newsletter by submitting events and accomplishments they have made to help support these policies, motivating chapters and their members to remain engaged. Opportunities to contribute to the making of the newsletter would also be added to the end of each update to encourage involvement of individual members. These announcements would serve as regular reminders to students of the importance of taking action, the impact of their involvement, as well as different ways to be involved, motivating them to continuously be active in the APhA-ASP policy process.