Happy Valentine’s Day!

I know it has been some time since you’ve received a Friday update from me but that is because things are fairly quiet at the moment. Thank you to those who were able to attend the Tri-State Ambassador Summit on January 29th. It was great to meet so many of you that I’ve not had an opportunity to yet. We really had a great time and I enjoyed learning from you!

In the training, we launched a NEW monthly engagement plan to maximize your engagement and impact. Attached to this email is the plan for March.

**Important Dates:**

* Monday, February 21st – President’s Day (offices closed)
* February 21 – 25th – President’s Day Recess (schedule meetings now!)
* Tuesday, February 22nd – All Ohio Volunteer Call [**(Join Here).**](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_OTQ2N2Y3YTktYWVkMi00Y2ZkLTk2NTQtYWYyYjcwZTAxNjA5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22afbb768c-d682-42ad-8f7e-7202d06c0b61%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2202219bd4-c04a-4deb-9894-8dea42647a16%22%7d) Biomarker education!

**Action Items:**

* [**Sign up for CAD!**](https://www.fightcancer.org/actions/2022-ohio-cancer-action-day-registration)
* [**Set up your CANRaiser Lights of Hope page**](https://secure.fightcancer.org/site/TR?fr_id=1340&pg=entry) and record your goal.
* Open the March Grassroots Engagement document and complete the easy actions….don’t forget to record it in the AAC!
* Schedule your President’s Day Recess meetings or connect with your ACT Lead regarding joining them for the calls (talking points attached).
* Check out the NEW ACS CAN Volunteer Home Page: [www.fightcancer.org/volunteerhome](http://www.fightcancer.org/volunteerhome)

**Your Email is also linked** [**HERE**](https://www.fightcancer.org/ohio-volunteer-resource-page)

**In This Email:**

* Cancer Action Day
* Lights of Hope
* State Update
* Federal Update
* Ambassador Action Center
* CEO update – Black Health and Wellness for Black History Month

**Cancer Action Day**

We’ve all learned to be agile and as we move through the month we are becoming more optimistic about an in-person element of Cancer Action Day. We know not everyone is comfortable attending in-person so we have created an option for all of you to be comfortable with your role. Tuesday, March 29th will be dedicated to virtual lawmaker meetings. Wednesday, March 30th we will hold an in-person event/program and meetings at the Statehouse.

Hope to see you there!

**Lights of Hope**

If you’ve not already set up your page, please plan on doing so by the end of February. Michigan is in the lead and we’re working on a strategy to keep this critical tactic in the front of our minds. If you’ve not fundraised for ACS CAN through Lights of Hope before, please reach out to me or Pam Manges and we will gladly hop on a call and coach you through it.

**Our state goal is: $36,500. What is your personal goal?**

As of this morning, only 7 Ohio advocates have pages set up. Let’s get to 14 by the end of February. Together, those volunteers have raised $20 dollars which is where we sat at the end of January.

Remember, sponsorships are a great way to increase your donations. There are many resources available to you on the [**Lights of Hope Resource Page**](https://www.fightcancer.org/lights-hope-resources)**.** We are also working on challenges to inspire you to get creative!

LOH will culminate in Lights of Hope Across America once again this year. Based on the incredible success and interest of those experiences so be sure to start brainstorming how you can create an event for your donors/sponsors. Currently, we are planning a LOH event as part of Leadership Summit and Lobby Day (on September 13). Some advocates will be invited to participate in LS&LD and can choose to EITHER do a community event or bring their bags to DC. More information to follow. Meanwhile, don’t forget to capture your journey in photos and send them my way!

**State Update…Got questions? Email** **leo.almeida@cancer.org**

**Redistricting**

Hmmm. Where to begin. Still in a holding pattern with the newest maps failing to receive the necessary votes. It continues to be a priority in Columbus and we will be watching it closely.

**Biomarkers**

For those of you who were able to participate in our training at the end of January, you would have learned a little more about Biomarkers which is a legislative priority for us this year. We are working with key lawmakers to introduce a bill that would make biomarker testing for certain individuals more accessible as a part of their treatment plan. Furthermore, the tests would be covered by insurance for those patients. Leo has been working with the statehouse to identify our targets and identify supporters and proponents. He has confirmed a sponsor and is now meeting with potential co-sponsors. Lots more to come and certainly our plan is to have this legislation a key part of our Cancer Action Day talking points.

To learn more about biomarkers and for our current updates, make it a point to attend our February all-Ohio Volunteer call on Tuesday, February 22nd at 6:30pm. It is on MS TEAMS. And the [**LINK IS HERE!**](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_OTQ2N2Y3YTktYWVkMi00Y2ZkLTk2NTQtYWYyYjcwZTAxNjA5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22afbb768c-d682-42ad-8f7e-7202d06c0b61%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2202219bd4-c04a-4deb-9894-8dea42647a16%22%7d)

We will be looking for biomarker stories so if you know someone that received biomarker testing and can share their story, please let me know and direct them to our story-collection survey. It is linked [**HERE!**](https://www.fightcancer.org/actions/share-your-story-7)

**Tobacco**

Tobacco legislation continues to be part of or policy priorities and there are coalitions in both Columbus and Cleveland working on targets and campaigns. At this time there is not much progress, but we expect that to change soon. If tobacco legislation is something you are passionate about, please contact me.

**HB371**

We’re keeping our on this bill which could help women afford advanced breast cancer screenings with newer tests earlier. This bill targets additional screenings for women with dense breast tissue or are at increased risk of breast cancer.

**HB135**

This is our co-pay accumulator bill which is going to be a priority for us to educate our lawmakers on the necessity of this bill for prohibiting certain cost-sharing practices that prevent contributions to healthcare costs from counting towards their deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums. The bill was introduced a year ago next week. It was referred to the Health Committee where it has sat since then. We’re hoping to influence the elevation of the bill so that it can move through the legislative process.

**Federal Update…Got questions? Email** **robyn.kaltenbach@cancer.org**

**Cancer Moonshot:**

Big news from the White House as last week President Biden announced the [reignition of the Cancer Moonshot](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001BRt7HGhB1GdHDQpEMu50_lcttpKNitIbLiPg7ach5r-naUVI-CCtqIH8c3QycMzE6oAww_1nMelbRzuGR_CCuNtiH7fBzaBlZGHnuMLCAGu0brKeRuUxXKNraZP22dSnp3FeCZDSzDPzJNGM4QITp2kb1JGQOWaQTkjDSki461WU9lEC5obR9dXtST7K09TeveZsQJNZRidWTVCcjsig_IafR23LMSF5TlbWGtVVrzYBryW7yCF_PJyBi3o35wVyWE5F5cQCJ4z-Z1f5uXY5Zz8HN-7mV5p-9pH6O8kaWY-FdP3kHyq-OJF4eu0LxLTzOBC0V4VjFko=&c=8d286K_7Kn8_ns9gzrLXTABYLOFzOVP-Cq6oBUcjvKFJdYq5TD2Qxg==&ch=vQgsSxzEpHFOCmUH5N9fIya-QpGGramZHU6XdYZuwY048080RNCr2A==) and both Dr. Knudsen and President Lacasse attended the White House event. The President’s initiative to ‘end cancer as we know it’ includes a goal to reduce cancer mortality by at least 50% in the next 25 years, a national call to action to increase screening rates, and plans to mobilize the federal government to accelerate progress against this disease. ACS and ACS CAN applaud the announcement and are ready to provide important leadership in this effort that directly aligns with our mission and the work we’ve focused on for more than a century: accelerating discovery, improving access to patient support and advancing public policy. More details are available in our [press statement](https://www.fightcancer.org/releases/white-house-shines-national-spotlight-cancer-reignite-moonshot) and in the [ACS2Go article](https://onfirstup.com/americancancersociety/ACS/contents/29090272?source=embed&program=2676).

**Presidents Day Recess:**

All SLAs and ACT Leads are being asked to request/schedule virtual meetings with their members of Congress during February to ask them for increased funding and inclusion of the health care provisions in the reconciliation package. Congress will be home on recess during the week of Presidents Day (February 21-25), which is why we are requesting that volunteers schedule their meetings for that week. Talking points for the meetings are expected to be approved and sent to the field soon! Connect with your ACT Lead to find out how you can participate in those meetings.

I have all of the talking points and will send them in a separate document to anyone upon request. There were too many attachments to include so if you are meeting with your lawmakers PLEASE CONTACT ME FOR THE TALKING POINTS.

**FY22 OVAC Omnibus Letter:**

To help provide additional transparency to the work our Fed team and National Grassroots team take part in to advance our priorities around appropriations, we want to share the ATTACHED One Voice Against Cancer (OVAC) letter. It was sent to ranking members of the House and Senate Appropriations committees. OVAC is a broad coalition of public interest groups representing millions of cancer patients, researchers, survivors and their families that ACS CAN helps lead.

This week, bipartisan, bicameral negotiators agreed on a framework for FY 2022 appropriations. An omnibus agreement has been made – looks like a new CR (continuing resolution) until March 11. **This means that the meetings during Presidents Recess will be VERY key.**

**Cancer Facts & Figures for African American Black People:**

In a major shift, breast cancer has surpassed lung cancer as the leading cause of cancer death among Black women as of 2019. This news is one of the key findings in Cancer Statistics for African American/Black People 2022, published yesterday in *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society and its consumer-friendly companion, *Cancer Facts & Figures for African American/Black People.* [Visit this article to learn more.](https://onfirstup.com/americancancersociety/ACS/contents/29277767?source=embed&program=2676)

**Cancer Facts and Figures for Hispanic/Latino People:**

The American Cancer Society’s Cancer Facts and Figures for Hispanic/Latino People, 2021-2023, is now available in Spanish.  [Visit this article to learn more.](https://onfirstup.com/americancancersociety/ACS/contents/29276472?source=embed&program=2676)

[**Ambassador Action Center**](https://www.fightcancer.org/ambassador-action-center?destination=node/6506) **(AAC)**

Don’t forget to follow the actions on the attached engagement plan and record in the AAC. If you have trouble logging in or need an account set up for you, contact me. Happy to help!

I know this has been quite a bit so let me know if you want to connect on any of it. Until we I see you next, take care of yourself and those around you.