Hello, fellow Buckeyes!

Happy icy Friday to my fellow northerners and I hope you are all staying safe.

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend or monthly volunteer call earlier this week. We had such a great conversation on some incredibly exciting policy work being introduced at the state level surrounding Biomarker testing.

Otherwise, we are moving towards an incredible Cancer Action Day on March 30th. If you haven’t already done so be sure to register to attend today!

**Important Dates:**

* Monday, March 7th (6:30pm) – Campaign Planning Volunteer Engagement Group Meeting – if you’re interested in joining this group let Robyn know!
* Tuesday, March 8th – International Women’s Day and ACS CAN Ohio’s Social Media Story SLAM!
* Wednesday, March 16th (6pm) – Cancer Action Day Q&A call (#1 of 4)
* Thursday, March 17th (12pm) – Cancer Action Day Q&A call (#2 of 4)
* Monday, March 21st (6pm) – Cancer Action Day Q&A call (#3 of 4)
* Monday, March 21st (6:30pm) – All Ohio Volunteer Call – Focus will be on Cancer Action Day, Recruitment & Engagement
* Wednesday, March 23rd (12pm) – Cancer Action Day Q&A call (#4 of 4)
* **Wednesday, March 30th – CANCER ACTION DAY!!!**

**Action Items:**

* See the attached March Engagement plan for more detail and how to record your actions in the Ambassador Action Center (affectionately referred to as AAC).
* [**Share your story with ACS CAN**](https://www.fightcancer.org/actions/share-your-story-7). Do you know someone who benefited from biomarker testing? Reach out to them and ask them to share their story!
* Check out the attached Why join ACS CAN and Your Donations at Work documents.
* [**REGISTER to attend Cancer Action Day.**](https://www.fightcancer.org/actions/2022-ohio-cancer-action-day-registration)
* Invite 3-5 people to attend CAD with you!
* Watch our volunteer call video from earlier this week to learn more about Biomarker testing (audio did not capture in the beginning so it starts part-way into the call). You can find it on the [**Ohio Volunteer Resource Page**](https://www.fightcancer.org/ohio-volunteer-resource-page)**.**
* Set up your Lights of Hope Fundraising Page. First stop is the [**LOH Resource Page**](https://www.fightcancer.org/lights-hope-resources)

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

**In This Email:**

* Cancer Action Day
* State Update
* Lights of Hope

**Cancer Action Day**

We are still looking for Ohioans to sign up to attend Cancer Action Day on March 30th in Columbus. We will be meeting at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square. Cancer Action Day is a key tactic where you can play a critical role in moving policy forward. I really hope you are able to join us!

Additionally, if you have friends or family members who would also like to join, please extend the opportunity to those individuals as well. We will be sending our talking points and begin scheduling mentors to work with groups of individuals who may not have had an opportunity to meet with lawmakers in the past. Thus, if you are nervous about meeting with you lawmaker and being able to communicate the important parts of our ask, have no fear! You will be well supported leading up to and throughout CAD.

Please consider attending. We can’t do it without you. [**REGISTER TODAY!**](https://www.fightcancer.org/actions/2022-ohio-cancer-action-day-registration)

We are working on language around two key priorities: copay accumulators and biomarkers. Additionally, Leo is keeping his eyes and ears out for any other topics that might surface between now and then. Curious what biomarkers are…keep reading!

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

**Biomarkers**

By now you should have already heard that one of our Ohio state Legislative Priorities is to introduce a bill that would allow Ohioans diagnosed with cancer the opportunity to take advantage of this innovative testing to help inform the best treatment options should their cancer type qualify for this type of testing. Illinois was the first state in the nation to pass model legislation just last year.

We have identified a sponsor and continue to have conversations with key lawmakers as the legislative language is drafted. Our hope is to have a bill introduced before Cancer Action Day.

What is biomarker testing? Biomarker testing helps get the right treatment to the right patient at the right time. This type of *precision medicine* and uses information about genes or proteins to access targeted therapies that can lead to improved survivorship and better quality of life for cancer patients. To learn more, watch these short videos:

* 1. [Animated explainer](https://youtu.be/77s_lWjCN_Q) (2 min)
	2. [Illinois overview – patients, cancer center director, legislators](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jvgCk_ZvvI&t=3s) (5 min)
	3. [Illinois patient impact](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVLdOwr5brI&t=2s) (1 min)

**Redistricting**

Is it possible that Ohio is coming one step closer to figuring out our legislative maps? We are watching the events carefully.

Meanwhile, this is a good opportunity to encourage you to figure out who YOUR lawmakers are!

On the Federal level, we tend to talk about our structure in terms of our Congressional districts. Ohio currently had 16 congressional districts with one Representative for every 747,000 citizens. Based on the 2020 Census, we will be losing one Congressional District. Each state has TWO Senators. Our Federal Senators are Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown.

On the State level, there is one Senator per 357,500 citizens and one Representative per 119,000 citizens. So, there are three Reps. To every Senator. To find out who represents you and what districts you are in, visit legislature.ohio.gov. Knowing who your state lawmakers are will be helpful for Cancer Action Day.

**Lights of Hope**

Many of you already know, but Lights of Hope (LOH) is our largest fundraiser for the organization. Last year Ohioans were incredible! You all worked independently to crush our goal! This year our goal has increased because I know you are up to the challenge.

It is my hope to double the number of current fundraisers. At this time, we have 13 volunteer pages set up and several have already begun collecting donations. Please consider setting up a page and setting a goal for yourself. I’ve attached a document that outlines some of the ways that money is put to use.

Check out the LOH resource page linked above to help guide you through this important role as a volunteer. Each bag is in honor or memory of someone in our lives impacted by cancer. Bags are decorated and volunteers can choose to do an event to honor/memorialize our collective cancer community. Events can be large or small and should be held in August or September. This year, some bags will be returning to our capital in September during Leadership Summit and Lobby Day.

Your ACT Lead can help you with your fundraising efforts, but I am also here to help. We will be discussing LOH and fundraising on our monthly call in April so be sure to mark your calendar now for April 19th at 6:30pm.

Thank you to those that have already set up their pages:

Tracey – who won our FIRST challenge!

Carrie

Carolyn

Barb

Thomas G.

Lorna

Melissa

Pam M.

Vince

Pam N.

Tom P.

Julie

Amanda

As a reminder, for every $50 you raise, points will automatically be added to your AAC score!

Thank you all and please take care of yourself!