

**PRESIDENT REPORT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING
APRIL 6, 2023**

**eat[™]
right.** Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics

Following are activity highlights since our February meeting.

Nutrition and Dietetics Advocacy Summit

More than 400 health and nutrition advocates from across the country came together March 28 to 30 for the virtual Nutrition and Dietetics Advocacy Summit. This year's event focused on two of the Academy's top policy and advocacy efforts: medical nutrition therapy expansion and nutrition security in the upcoming Farm Bill. Guest speakers included members of the White House Domestic Policy Council and U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service staffs; as well as a live demonstration with a U.S. Senate staff member. Thanks to the generous support of attendees, nearly 100 students received scholarships to attend the summit.

Follow-up to the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger

I joined Academy honorary member Jose Andres, the founder of World Central Kitchen, on March 24 to kickoff the [Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities](#) in Washington, D.C. The event was a follow-up to the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health. Information was shared with members on how they can support the goals of the conference by joining the Academy's Affinity Groups and advocate for top policy priorities affecting the nutrition and dietetics profession.



Value of Profession Highlighted During Awareness Weeks

The Academy developed social media messaging to promote the value of the profession during Obesity Care Week (February 27-March 3) and National Consumer Protection Week (March 5-11). The Policy Initiatives and Advocacy (PIA) staff worked closely with the Weight Management DPG to create Obesity Care Week messaging for the Academy and DPG's social media channels that focused on the importance of access to care. Messaging to practitioners for National Consumer Protection Week focused on the importance of licensure in protecting consumers as well as how nutrition and dietetics regulation varies across states. Social media messaging for consumer audiences included how people can find a nutrition expert.

Academy Applauds Introduction of the Bipartisan Farm Fresh Food for Families Act

Introduced March 8 by U.S. Sens. Jon Ossoff (Ga.) and Joni Ernst (Iowa), [the bipartisan Farm Fresh Food for Families Act](#) would expand options for those participating in the Women, Infants and Children program to access local produce from local growers. I [voiced the Academy's support](#): "By ensuring access to healthful, fresh, local food for families with low incomes who are most affected by disproportionate rates of chronic illnesses, and by supporting local farmers, this important legislation will have a tremendous impact on communities across the country."

Planning Meetings: LPPC, ANDPAC, CPLS, NSPC

In February, PIA staff hosted its yearly planning meetings for the Legislative and Public Policy Committee, ANDPAC Board, Consumer Protection and Licensure Subcommittee and Nutrition

Services Payment Committee. These groups have conducted environmental scan discussions to consider current trends and their impact on the groups' programs of work.

Weekly Office Hours: Licensure and Payment and Reimbursement

The PIA team hosts weekly office hours to answer members' questions. [Licensure](#) office hours are held on Wednesdays, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Eastern time) with staff answering questions on state licensure requirements or consumer protection and professional regulation issues. For questions on payment, reimbursement or coverage for nutrition services, Academy members are encouraged to join [the payment and reimbursement](#) office hours on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Eastern time). No registration is required.

Join Academy's Policy Affinity Groups

Add your support and connect with fellow Academy members to advocate for top policy priorities impacting our profession. [Affinity groups](#) meet monthly; they are forum-based events where staff, policy leaders and members discuss Academy advocacy priorities and strategies, share experience and determine how they can become involved in advocating.

Meetings

March

- March 4: Kevin Sauer presented *The Academy in Action* to the Utah state affiliate.
- March 10: Kevin Sauer presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* to the Dietetic Internship at Vanderbilt Medical Center.
- March 11: I presented *The Academy in Action* to the Nevada state affiliate.
- March 15: Lauri Wright presented *The Academy in Action* to the Illinois state affiliate.
- March 17: Lauri Wright presented *The Academy in Action* to the Puerto Rico affiliate.
- March 27: Livleen Gill spoke in Washington, D.C., at a meeting organized by the Food Is Medicine Coalition on medically tailored meals for individuals with serious or chronic illnesses.
- March 27: Kevin Sauer presented *The Academy in Action* to the Mississippi state affiliate.
- March 31: I presented *The Academy in Action* to the Massachusetts state affiliate.

April

- April 3: I presented *The Academy in Action* to the Connecticut state affiliate.

May

- May 16-17: Alison Steiber is scheduled to speak healthy food labeling and food classification at a conference in Washington, D.C., organized by the Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences. The conference is on "Considerations for Formulation and Degree of Processing in Food Classification Systems that Support Research."

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