



Chapter Advocacy Roundtable (CAR) Program

With the 50 chapters in the United States, one of HIMSS' many strengths is to connect HIMSS members with state, regional and national decision-makers on key health IT issues. Launched in April 2004, HIMSS' Chapter Advocacy program provides an opportunity for each HIMSS chapter to elect or appoint one or more members to serve in the Chapter Board level position of *Chapter Advocate*. Chapter Advocates and other volunteers participate collectively in the Chapter Advocacy Roundtable. For FY 2011, Martha Dameron of the Northern California Chapter was appointed Chair. Serving as Vice Chairs are David Cheli, Midwest Gateway Chapter; Terri Ripley, Virginia Chapter; Sharon Davis, Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter and Liddy West of the Arizona Chapter.

Throughout the United States today, over 50 HIMSS Chapter Advocates are engaged with planning and facilitating advocacy and public policy activities within their local chapters. Once a year, Chapter Advocates have an opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. to attend an off-site training seminar and participate in HIMSS National Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill. The advocacy activities conducted by chapters and Chapter Advocates, is celebrated through the Chapter Advocacy Recognition Program.

All Chapter Advocates are actively engaged in the Chapter Advocacy Roundtable (CAR). Conducted through monthly conference call meetings, the CAR provides a networking and educational opportunity for Chapter Advocates to promote chapter level advocacy programs at the grassroots level in coordination with the HIMSS advocacy and public policy Board-approved agenda.

For more information on Chapter Advocates and the Chapter Advocacy Roundtable, please contact HIMSS Regional Affairs Coordinator of State Government Affairs, Jessica Martin at Jmartin@himss.org.

What does it mean to be a Chapter Advocate?

To advocate on behalf of your organization and community about issues important to furthering health IT policy and legislative agendas.

Responsibilities:

- Work with HIMSS Chapter Advocacy Roundtable and/committee members to create an advocacy action plan specific to your community.
- Keep members of your Board informed about campaign efforts.
- Recruit Chapter volunteers and other community leaders to join the campaign.
- Organize visits and other avenues of frequent communication with regional, state and federal elected officials.
- Speak to local media about key policy and advocacy issues.
- Attend HIMSS-sponsored advocacy training and message development sessions.

HIMSS Chapter Advocacy Roundtable Guide

The *HIMSS Chapter Advocacy Guide* outlines the role HIMSS chapters can play to further HIMSS' national policy objectives and advocacy activities. It also explains the role HIMSS chapters can play to influence state-level legislation and regulatory issues and provides a starter set of suggested activities and tool sets to support these objectives. If you need a copy, please contact Jessica Martin at Jmartin@himss.org.

Want to get involved?

Learn more about HIMSS Advocacy at <http://www.himss.org/advocacy>.

Thomas S. Keefe, MA
Senior Director of State Government Affairs
703-562-8813
tkeefe@himss.org

Jessica Martin
Regional Affairs Coordinator of State Government Affairs
703-562-8819
Jmartin@himss.org