How Chapters Advocate for Surgeons - Arizona Chapter Experience

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Arizona Chapter History

• Minimal state advocacy efforts in the past

• Geography provides a challenge

• What are the pressing advocacy needs for the chapter?
Arizona State Legislature

- Citizen-run legislature
- Session runs from January – April
- Limited health care professionals in both House and Senate
Some of Current Legislative Issues

• Scope of practice

• Opioids

• Surprise billing/network transparency

• Graduate medical education
Engaging the Membership

• First Lobby Day – January 2018

• Submitted for ACS Lobby Day grant

• Allow all surgeons to come participate for a day at the capital

• Linked with Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) Doctor of the Day
Lobby Day 2018

• Focused on three issues – Opioids, Colorectal Cancer Screening, Stop the Bleed

• Idea was to start conversations

• Provided breakfast and lunch

• Part of money reserved for people from out of town for hotels

• Scheduled visits with Representatives and Senators
Lobby Day 2019

- Lobby Day grant used again

- Focus on Stop the Bleed with demonstration, colorectal cancer screening legislation – improve access rurally

- Positive feedback – State Senator wishes to explore further
  - Plan to work over the break to write legislation for 2020
Future Advocacy Opportunities

• Looking to move past Annual Lobby Days

• Introduce legislation

• Engage rurally – attract more members to come to state capitol
  • Also want to have people advocate from home

• Looking to make less dependent on Lobby Day Grants

• Presenting at our Annual Chapter Meeting
• Publish in our newsletter
• Display our website
Some Advice...

• Start things one step at a time

• Our first lobby day – mostly people who had not done it before
  • They saw the benefit at the end of the day

• Emphasize the point of building RELATIONSHIPS

• Can use it as a way to recruit and build Chapter leadership
THANK YOU