

Advocacy Council Charges February 2025

Purpose: The Council serves to identify, promote, and advocate the policy interests of the Alliance regarding policies, laws, regulations, and other developments that may affect the Alliance, orthopedic practice management, and/or orthopedic medicine.

Charge: The Council will advise the Board of Directors and staff on public policy topics affecting the Alliance, orthopedic practice management, and/or orthopedic medicine. The Council:

1. Helps establish the inter-organizational relationships necessary to effectively build coalitions and partnerships in pursuit of the public policy agenda.
2. Informs the content of the yearly public policy agenda. The public policy agenda will be planned to meet the public policy goals of the Alliance.
3. Provides guidance to AAOE staff on issues relevant to orthopedic practice management and/or orthopedic medicine.
4. Frames and reviews policy communications to policymakers.
5. Identifies and presents education to AAOE members on advocacy and policy topics.
6. With the assistance of the Benchmarking Council, develops an annual survey mechanism for collecting data as needed to support the public policy agenda and AAOE's other advocacy efforts. Reviews and edits draft pop-up surveys.

Time Commitment: The Advocacy Council is a working council that requires a time commitment from each of its members. During an average month, the time commitment will break down approximately as follows:

- Monthly virtual council meetings (30-60 minutes)
- Preparation for monthly council meetings (30 minutes)
- Review of written advocacy materials (30 minutes)
- Writing one to two advocacy blog posts (60 minutes)
- Outreach to members (as needed)

Council member volunteers missing three meetings within a 12-month period, for any reason, may forfeit their position. Attendance at legislative calls may offset missed meetings.

Composition: Board liaison, chair, and up to 19 members at large. Chair will be selected by the Council members. Members will serve a two-year term, renewable, as long as the member fulfills the other council requirements.

Qualifications:

- Interest in health and/or employment policy
- Willing to commit time to the council's work
- Willingness to help AAOE's Membership Council with member recruitment and retention activities
- Submit all required documentation
 - Code of Conduct
 - Non-disclosure agreement

Requirements:

- Must be capable of performing the work of the Council
- Must meet the attendance requirements
- Desire to advance the mission of AAOE
- AAOE member in good standing
- Attend any in-person meetings of the Advocacy Council
- Attend and actively participate in video conference calls
- Engage with AAOE social media platforms
- Write an advocacy blog post
- Attendance at the AAOE annual meeting is strongly encouraged
- Attendance at the AAOE Capitol Hill Day is strongly encouraged
- Participate in the AAOE benchmarking survey (strongly encouraged)
- Engagement on AAOE's Collaborate message board (strongly encouraged)
- Willingness to help recruit and retain AAOE members

Benefits of Service:

- Advocacy Council volunteers are intimately involved in AAOE’s public policy efforts. Volunteers will have the opportunity to positively impact the legislative and regulatory landscape for the benefit of the orthopedic industry.
- Volunteers will be an integral part of setting AAOE’s yearly public policy priorities for recommendation to the AAOE Board of Directors.
- Increase marketability within the practice management profession by becoming familiar with health policy and advocacy techniques.
- Expanded knowledge and network in federal policy to give participants and their practices a powerful voice.

Volunteer Recognition:

- Listed in volunteer directory on aaoe.net
- Listed in AAOE publications when volunteers are listed (i.e. Annual Conference Final Program, Annual Report, etc.)
- Bylines for written blog posts and other materials
- Press release announcing appointment to the Council

Relationship to Other Committees:

Benchmarking Council

When the need for member data arises, the Council shall work with the Benchmarking Council to coordinate data collection and analysis.

