

Join Us For Dietitian Day At Our State Capitol

As RD's WE KNOW we improve the health of Alabamians and decrease health care costs....but "Dietitian Day at Our State Capitol" will make sure our state legislators know this! Come join RD's from across the state for a day of promoting the RD as "THE NUTRITION EXPERT!"

Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Time: We will meet at **8:30am** at the Cattleman's Association Building 201 South Bainbridge Street Montgomery AL 36102.
(You will be able to park here, but car-pooling is strongly encouraged!)

Message: A training session including the "How-To" of advocating, the "Why" of advocating, and "Key Messages" will be discussed. Visits to the Representatives and Senators will be reviewed/assigned. Immediately following the session we will walk to the Alabama State House, located at 11 South Union Street in Montgomery, behind the historic State Capitol.

Committee Meetings: Potential to attend the Health Committee meeting on the 6th floor at 10:00am and any scheduled hearings, these change daily and will be determined that morning.

SENATE Planning Ahead: If you plan on attending please coordinate with others in your area so that you can phone ahead to schedule a **group meeting** with your specific District **Senator** at <http://www.legislature.state.al.us/misc/zipsearch.html> . Senators have office assistants who coordinate their schedules (you will need a specific agenda item – suggest inclusion of RD's as the nutrition expert in all venues of the healthcare realm, or something similar, inclusion of the RD in their home district, etc.)

HOUSE Planning Ahead: House members coordinate their own schedules/visits etc. If you know yours well and can coordinate with others in your area to schedule a group meeting please do so, otherwise they will be assigned on Wednesday April 7th for 'stop by' meetings.

Questions? Call or e-mail ALDA's State Public Policy Representative, Julie Drzewiecki, RD at 256-880-3594 or mardrz@comcast.net OR ALDA Public Policy Coordinator Susan Miller, MS, RD at 205-934-3223 or miller1@uab.edu.

American Dietetic Association's

Public Policy Workshop

March 22 kicks off the ADA's second on-line Public Policy Workshop. For 2010, the focus will be on preparing you, the ADA member to be effective in making a difference in ADA's public policy work at all state and federal levels. Information regarding this event is available at www.eatright.org/ppw.

- **March 22:** Opening Session Kick-Off Event – please respond to the evite invitation sent to all district members. We will meet in the UAB School of Nursing Building, room number 27, 3:30-5:30pm.
- Plenary parties are planned for Birmingham, Mobile and Huntsville

Additional seminars that you can register for include:

- **March 25:** ADA Priority Areas, Stances and 2010 Messages
- **March 30:** Essentials for Success: How Government Works
- **April 1:** Perspectives from a State Administration
- **April 6:** Perspectives from a State Legislature
- **April 8:** Working with Congress s and Developing Relationships
- **April 13:** Shape the Rules that Guide Our Profession
- **April 15:** Learn How to Get Involved: Participate, Don't Wait!

The American Dietetic Association continues to strive for the inclusion of preventative services, including nutrition services in health care reform. Key points that affect us as Registered Dietitians, dependent of the final version of the bills that are passed are found on the ADA's web site. Please continue your on-going advocacy for the inclusion of preventative services i.e. nutrition coverage in the final proposals.

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