

Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Fact Sheet

Chair

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What is the Government Affairs Committee (GAC)?

The Government Affairs Committee (GAC) monitors legislation and regulatory activities affecting physical therapist-owned businesses, participates in coordinated activities with the Section's Lobbyist, completes Section strategic plan objectives, and encourages grassroots action from the Section membership in support of key legislative priorities.

How is the Government Affairs Committee organized?

The GAC is led by a Chair and supported by a staff liaison. The Committee is also supported by a Board liaison who represents the committee to the Board of Directors.

The GAC may choose to establish task forces that facilitate the support of key legislative priorities and the completion of strategic plan objectives.

The volunteer is usually appointed for a three-year term and may be re-appointed for no more than a total of two consecutive terms of service. **Volunteers begin their term at the Annual Conference.**

How often does the Government Affairs Committee meet?

The GAC meets about 6 times per year via scheduled conference calls. Meeting frequency may change based on the needs of the Section.

Who pays my expenses?

When approved by the Board, expenses incurred at face-to-face meetings will be reimbursed pursuant to the Section's Financial Policies and Procedures. A reimbursement form with original receipts must be submitted to the office to receive payment.

What are my responsibilities?

Volunteers are expected to attend the Annual Conference.

Other responsibilities include active participation, prompt responses to messages, and the following:

1. Attend in-person meetings and scheduled conference calls.
2. Identify and encourage Key Contact Program member participation.
3. Identify and recommend, along with the Chair and Lobbyist, key legislative priorities.
4. Identify communication and educational needs to keep members informed.
5. Chair a task force for project completion if requested.
6. Assist with review of information and links related to legislation and regulatory affairs.

What are the qualifications?

- Must be a APTA Private Practice member in good standing.
- Must be organized and detail-oriented to complete assignments.
- Must maintain a working e-mail address in the APTA Private Practice membership database.
- Must be able to respond to queries promptly.
- Must be able to attend the Annual Conference.

Chair Position Description:

The key roles of the Chair include facilitation, coordination, communication, and volunteer group leadership. The chair ensures that the committee members, including ad hoc volunteers, are actively engaged in advancing the committee's scope of work and supporting the Section's strategic plan. In collaboration with the staff liaison, the Chair actively participates in the work of the Government Affairs committee, contributes thoughtful input during discussions, and helps guide the committee's efforts. This individual represents the best interests of the APTA Private Practice members and partners, prioritizing the needs of the section over individual interests, and works to advance the goals outlined in the strategic plan.

The Chair serves a three-year term and is appointed by the Board of Directors.

What are the Chair's responsibilities?

1. Attend all in-person meetings and scheduled conference calls.
2. Attend meetings of Committee Chairs, if convened.
3. Collaborate with staff liaison to develop meeting agendas.
4. Review all relevant materials prior to meetings to facilitate discussion and task completion.
5. Communicate regularly with Committee members to ensure that volunteer responsibilities and commitments are fulfilled.
6. Assist in the identification and development of future Section leaders.
7. Appoint task force chairs for selected projects.
8. Communicate and collaborate with section Lobbyist.
9. Coordinate advocacy efforts with APTA on identified key legislative issues
10. Participate in the development of key legislative priorities.
11. Support the APTA Private Practice Key Contact Program.
12. Monitor specific federal issues and lobbying efforts affecting physical therapist-owned businesses.
13. Recommend potential strategic alliances to the Board to support legislative and strategic priorities.
14. Review informational resources and links related to legislation and regulatory affairs.
15. Represent the section at the APTA Federal Advocacy Forum.
16. Provide timely updates to the Board of Directors on the activities of the committee, as requested.
17. Collaborate with APTA Private Practice Committee chairs for the benefit of the section members and completion of the strategic plan.