

# LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

- **Proposing legislative concepts, consistent with the *Legislative Objectives*:**

LAC Board Members begin in the fall of odd-numbered years to **develop recommendations** on legislative proposals that provide remedy to key pressing issues. This is done by soliciting input from members in his/her UniServ area and bringing written ideas back to LAC. Issues that appear to fall outside the parameters of the *Legislative Objectives* may be considered in conjunction with proposals to alter that document.

- **Proposing changes to the *Legislative Objectives*:**

In the process of soliciting and developing ideas for legislative action, it may be necessary to **add to or alter sections** of the *Legislative Objectives*. In general, changes to the *Legislative Objectives* ought to take the form of broad guiding policy principles rather than narrow legislative language, to allow for maximum flexibility in advancing OEA's interests in the public policy arena. LAC Board Members may propose such changes and bring them to LAC for consideration no later than February in even-numbered years, so that such proposals may be considered by the OEA Board of Directors, who would then recommend them, if accepted, to the Representative Assembly. The Representative Assembly adopts the *Legislative Objectives* annually.

- **Adopting the OEA Legislative Agenda:**

By December of even-numbered years, the LAC makes its final advisory decisions regarding new **legislative initiatives** to be introduced in the next legislative session. Members weigh competing priorities, the realities of the political climate and legislative makeup, and available resources in determining the legislative agenda.

- **Advocating OEA's legislative program:**

An essential part of OEA's legislative program is grassroots contact of legislators by informed members. LAC Board Members, along with PIE Board Members and other leaders, supply vital information on specific legislative issues, as coordinated through the Government Relations team. These contacts may take the form of telephoning, letter-writing, emailing, sending faxes, or having direct in-district or in-Salem contact with specific legislators. It is also possible that members may be asked to provide written and verbal legislative testimony before a committee as needed. OEA's lobby team will provide all supportive data needed to make such presentations maximally effective. For details of how LAC Board Members are asked to interact with their senators and representatives, please refer to two attached documents: "**Legislative Contact Team** Coordinator Responsibilities" and "How to Have Impact as a Citizen Lobbyist".

- **Regular meeting attendance:**

Interacting with fellow board members, receiving and sharing information, reporting on the concerns of each person's UniServ area, and bringing LAC meeting reports back to the UniServs are key elements of LAC Board Members' responsibilities. The value of this **two-way communication role** cannot be over-emphasized. Regular attendance at meetings (both LAC and UniServ) as well as at such events as Lobby Trainings and Legislator Receptions is therefore extremely important.

▪ **Political program:**

LAC members often participate in other political activities of the association, coordinating with their UniServ PIE-Board member, including: **PIE drives, candidate recommendations,** and electioneering activities (signature-gathering, phone banking, canvassing, and building meetings).

▪ **Ongoing dialogue on policy issues:**

Keep abreast of emerging education policy issues through independent and staff-provided research; communicate with colleagues and fellow LAC members about these issues. New LAC Bulletin Board is designed to be an effective tool in facilitating information flow and dialogue.

## **OFFICIAL CHARGES (AS OUTLINED IN OEA Policies 2410, III B)**

1. The Legislative Advisory Council shall propose, coordinate and promote legislative and political action necessary for goal accomplishment.
2. The Legislative Advisory Council shall present its recommendation(s) in writing to the OEA Board of Directors for review, amendment and approval.
3. Work with the Center for Public Affairs Cabinet to coordinate efforts.
4. As time allows, examine OEA's governing documents\* related to your committee's subject and recommend changes as necessary.
5. Provide the OEA President a brief written report detailing:
  - a. Action taken and recommendations regarding each of your committee's charges
  - b. Number of meetings held by your committee
  - c. Attendance at committee meetings (indicate each person who did not attend and if they were excused)
  - d. Recommendation(s) for next year's charges.

\* Goals, Bylaws, Policies, Resolutions, etc.