



**Governmental Affairs Committee Chair  
Job Description  
6.27.14**

**Term**

- Two Years
- Shadowing for the role begins in mid-September through December of the year leading up to term.
- GAC Chair will take office at the Annual Chapter Meeting in December.

**Description of Role**

The Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) Chair monitors state and national policy actions to ensure that the Association's interests and objectives are adequately represented at all levels of government, and supports and advocates for legislation and policies that promote the profession and practice of art therapy.

**Desired Attributes**

Friendly, excellent communication skills, detail-oriented, dedicated, passionate, politically savvy, ability to work independently and as part of a team

**The GAC Chair shall adhere to the Association's bylaws, policies and procedures adopted by the Board of Directors, and carry out the following tasks:**

- Maintain membership in IATA and AATA
- Attend and actively participate in all Executive Board and Chapter Meetings, and assist the President and Secretary in gathering agenda items for each meeting.
- Assist President in preparing and submitting Chapter paperwork as delegated.
- Set annual goals at first board meeting
- Receives and disseminates legislative alerts, makes contacts with regional/state officials and agencies on behalf of the Chapter and AATA
- Monitors a GAC list serve, and disseminates legislative information to the IATA Chapter members.
- Affiliate Chapter Governmental Affairs Chairs will become a liaison to the AATA Governmental Affairs Committee, will represent the Affiliate Chapter on the AATA GAC, and will provide information regarding legislative issues in their state to the AATA State Legislative Subchair.
- Sit on the CICO board (Coalition of Illinois Counseling Organizations) and will monitor relevant trends in state legislature that may impact art therapists in the state.
- Work with the President and President-Elect to establish yearly strategic goals that focus on advocacy for the profession of art therapy in IL.
- Advocate for title protection and licensure in state
- Lead regular meetings with committee members to achieve goals.
- Keep BOD informed through direct report to the Board Committee & Community Liaison as well as though attendance at board and chapter meetings, and written reports.
- Take on additional responsibilities as requested by President.

**Approximate Time Commitment Per Week:** 2-4 hours. More hours required during peak periods of Chapter activity, such as week prior and following Chapter or Executive Board Meetings.



Relevant Excerpts from AATA P&P – Chapters

**Designated Chapter representative to participate in the Governmental Affairs Committee states network.**

Optimally, this person would be the Chapter Delegate; alternately, it would be another individual, designated as the GAC contact person, who would receive and disseminate legislative alerts, make contacts with regional/state officials and agencies on behalf of the Chapter and AATA, and monitor a GAC list serve, disseminating legislative information to the Chapter members.

**6.4 Relations with Governmental Affairs Committee**

AMERICAN ART THERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

POLICY NUMBER: 6.4

CATEGORY: Chapters

SUBJECT: Relations with Governmental Affairs Committee

**POLICY:**

Affiliate Chapters engaged in state legislative efforts are encouraged to contact and work with AATA's Governmental Affairs Committee.

Affiliate Chapter Governmental Affairs Chairs will become a liaison to the AATA Governmental Affairs Committee, will represent the Affiliate Chapter on the AATA GAC, and will provide information regarding legislative issues in their state to the AATA State Legislative Subchair.

The Affiliate Chapter President and Governmental Affairs Chair will be notified by the AATA Governmental Affairs Chair whenever NCATA is approached by their state for the purpose of support or advise in state legislative matters.

Requests for AATA's endorsement of state legislative measures/policies will be referred to the AATA Board of Directors for consideration accompanied by pertinent data and recommendations from the AATA GAC.

**CHAPTER GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVES**

The Chapter governmental affairs representatives shall carry out the following tasks:

1. Maintain membership in the Association.
- 2. Provide the GAC Chair and Director of Public Policy with a monthly update on legislative, policy, and advocacy activities and priorities.**
3. Disseminate GAC and National Office policy and advocacy information, requests for Chapter action, and requests for state-specific policy information.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Motion #52.2010, April 2 2010.

**PREVIOUS REVISIONS:** November 1994 (Motion #42); April 1995 (Motion #6); November 1995 (Motion #48); May 2000 (Motion #65).