

Government Affairs Mission Statement

The mission of the Government Affairs Committee is to promote the growth, development and health of the marine industry through effective communication with our elected officials, development of strategic partnerships and direct lobbying efforts. The committee will proactively work on the identified legislative priorities of the Association and will serve as the Association's central source of contact with public policy makers, community leaders and coalitions.

The education of the membership on government issues affecting our profession is of the upmost importance. The committee is responsible for leading the grassroots efforts of the Association with regard to those priorities and creating a consistent message to support our beliefs.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Recommends policy on legislative, regulatory and legal issues to the association Board of Directors.
- Monitors and tracks government activities and issues that may impact the industry.
- Conducts research where necessary.
- Cultivates relationships with elected public officials and staff.
- Develops and coordinates local legislative and regulatory goals and strategies.
- Prioritizes issues according to their importance, ability to succeed, and impact on association resources.
- Prepares regular communications regarding local government actions for distribution to members.
- Builds and implements a system to alert members about pending government issues of interest to the industry.
- Proposes solutions to industry problems in cooperation with members, elected and appointed officials, and government staff.
- Forms and operates a political education program designed to urge members to participate in the electoral process.
- Develops programs for association meetings involving government affairs issues, including participation by leading appointed and elected officials.
- Identifies members to testify before boards, commissions and committees regarding industry issues and identifies members interested in serving as an appointed or elected public official.
- Acts as the liaison with state and national government affairs committees and garners support among local members for state and national initiatives.