



# SGRC REGIONAL ADVOCACY MEETINGS

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What's the purpose of the State Government Relations Center Regional Advocacy Meetings?**

To build on the momentum from 2021 state legislative wins, the AOA State Government Relations Center (SGRC) will bring together state advocates who have been in the trenches to share experiences in the legislative arena at their respective state capitols. Like-minded optometric professionals, along with members of the AOA staff and SGRC committee, will use this time to connect with neighboring states to identify areas of growth, discuss opportunities, challenges, topics of interest and importance.

### **How many days are the SGRC Regional Advocacy Meetings?**

There will be four SGRC Regional Advocacy Meetings through 2022 summer and fall. Each meeting will kick off with a Friday evening welcome reception, followed by a day of discussions on areas of importance for legislative success and concluding late afternoon around roughly 4 or 4:30 local time.

*Note: The Northeast Meeting is the only outlier as it will be a Thursday-Friday format due to unavoidable hotel limitations. Timing for these days will stay the same as the Friday-Saturday meetings.*

### **What topics will be covered in the SGRC Regional Advocacy Meetings?**

A range of topics will be covered, including what it takes to pass (or defeat) a bill, how to effectively counter opposition at your state legislature, best practices on hiring a contract lobbyist, setting realistic timelines and how to prioritize your money, time and efforts.

### **Can I attend a meeting that is in a different region than the region that I live in?**

Interested attendees may attend any of the four regional meetings (including those taking place outside of their home region).

### **Which members of my state association should attend the SGRC Regional Advocacy Meetings?**

These meetings are designed to assist with strategy on pursuing—or defeating—legislation at the state capital. All members engaged and interested in grassroots advocacy are encouraged to attend, including but not limited to state affiliate presidents, presidents-elect, legislative or grassroots chairs, executive directors, key persons, etc.