

The FAC is a coordinated role with WPA and APA, but is mostly supported and facilitated at the APA level. Every United States state, territory and district has at least one FAC that represents that location at the national level. The primary role of the FAC is to advocate and support legislation that is positive to the role of psychologists, our clientele or to mental health in general.

APA identifies the specific agenda for the year and prepares communication and action alerts that are then distributed to the FAC and others. It is then the FAC's responsibility to distribute those alerts via email to psychologists and other interested parties in Wisconsin. APA provides a data base and a portal to distribute the alerts.

The FAC attends a yearly conference in Washington D.C. where we are educated on cutting edge issues pertinent to psychology and we visit the Wisconsin legislators to advocate for that year's agenda. This conference is by far the best conference I have ever attended and it makes me proud to be a psychologist. The FAC has other roles including: communication with Senators and Representatives (Federal) on home turf in WI, educate WI psychologists about the issues, encourage psychologists to advocate for issues via the portal that is available in the action alerts and schedule the meetings with legislators in D.C.

The FAC position is typically a long-term position because it takes several years to learn how to advocate and develop relationships with legislators. APA funds the majority of travel and other expenses incurred.

While this is not a committee per se, typically other members of the WPA board of directors attend the annual D.C. conference. It is important that a number of psychologists participate in the advocacy portion of the annual conference. An APAGS (APA grad student) from WI also typically attends. Early Career Psychologists are especially encouraged to get involved and APA has specific funding to help with that. WPA also assists with funding as needed.

The FAC role benefits WPA:

- Informs WI psychologists about what is going on nationally with regard to pertinent legislation
- Provides a simple portal for individual psychologists to advocate for important legislation
- Educates WI senators and representatives about important mental health and psychologist related issues
- Provides in person advocacy by Wisconsin psychologists
- Provides education regarding important advocacy issues and other cutting edge information
- Creates a link between WI and APA experts in Washington

- Creates a link between WI and a variety of other psychologist experts across the nation.
- Provides a blog related to Medicare issues
- Provides FAC with other opportunities to get involved at national level, e.g. represent APA to the Physician Consortium of Provider Improvement (PCPI) and practice strengthening through Medicare projects.
- Travel with a very enjoyable group of psychologist experts
- Provides opportunities for graduate students and early career psychologists to get involved.