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My first ASHP Policy Week was action packed. It started off with a luncheon with Jill Haug and several other New Practitioners. Orientation followed, with all the other first time Policy Week participants. The orientation gave me an understanding what to expect during the week, as well as, give me an idea of what topics are important to ASHP this term. It also gave me the opportunity to meet many new faces and see some old friends.

Once the orientation was completed, I met my fellow Public Policy members and discussed the agenda for the week. This was followed by a dinner in Bethesda, filled with icebreakers, which allowed me to learn a little more about all the members.

The rest of the policy week was filled with what else policy. I was not prepared for how much work goes into the discussion, approval, and finalization of the policies that ASHP put forth. Initially I was intimidated by the other members' knowledge of current policy, but after speaking with my Chairs, felt more comfortable and reassured me that everyone feels this way initially. I was given the opportunity to discuss 2 policies up for approval; it was interesting to see how differently people prepared for their discussions. The final day gave me a chance to discuss ASHP's current important policies with our government leaders. It was a great way to end the week.

In retrospect, I wish that I had prepared a little more, but having never been to a Policy Week before, I did not know what the roles of the participants were until I was actually in Bethesda.

Overall, the week was a success; I felt that our committee had accomplished a large amount of work in a small amount of time. My Chairs were very influential in providing a productive environment for accomplishing everything on the agenda.