

PHI's mission is to enhance the lives and independence of polio survivors and home mechanical ventilator users through education, advocacy, research and networking.

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PHI sends PHI Membership Memos via email. Be sure to set your spam filter to receive emails from info@post-polio.org.

Moving? Change of address?

Notify PHI before you move by calling 314-534-0475 or email info@post-polio.org, and tell us your old and new addresses.

Away Temporarily? Send us your "second" address and dates you will be there, and we'll do our best to send your newsletter.

WE'RE STILL HERE! ... AND WE VOTE!

PHI's goal for the week of October 7-13, 2012, is to alert elected politicians and those running for office that WE'RE STILL HERE!, that their decisions affect our lives and that we vote!

PHI created a letter that lists the topics that concern us – our health, our participation, our homes and our rights (see insert in this issue of *Post-Polio Health*).

Send the message: On October 3-5, send **at least one letter** to an official in power, so the letters arrive en masse during WE'RE STILL HERE WEEK 2012.

Who needs to hear from us? In the United States, the letter can be sent to President Barack Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500, or online at www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments or to the presumptive Republican candidate, Mitt Romney, at Romney for President, PO Box 149756, Boston, MA 02114-9756, or call 857-288-3500 or visit www.mittromney.com/forms/other.

Don't forget our representatives and senators. Their addresses can be found at www.contactingthecongress.org. (If you do not have access to the Internet, call us at 314-534-0475.)

It is equally, if not more, important to educate our governors, other state and local policymakers. They have control over policies that affect us day to day and are making difficult choices as to where they spend limited resources.

Let them hear from you. Send the PHI letter. Copies can be downloaded from www.post-polio.org/werestillhere/wsh2012a.pdf.

Consider sending a personal letter that succinctly focuses on one major concern, such as the importance of health insurance, protecting Medicare and Medicaid, funding medical education and research and funding accessibility projects.

The major international effort on behalf of people with disabilities today is the worldwide acceptance of the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). PHI recently signed a letter reminding U.S. Senators that on May 17, 2012, they received a treaty package to ratify the CRPD. To learn more about the content and history of the CRPD, check out the official UN site, www.un.org/disabilities.

Mark your calendars now to remind you to send your letters on October 3-5, saying WE'RE STILL HERE! ... and we vote!

Joan L. Headley, Executive Director, PHI

