

PURPOSE
(As stated in our By Laws)

PPASS MN exists to raise community awareness of polio and post polio syndrome, to provide education and support to individuals, their families, and caregivers by assisting in the founding and organizing of local support group chapters throughout the state. The activities of PPASS MN and its chapters, educating and working in conjunction with the medical profession, increases the opportunity for those living with the effects of polio and Post Polio Syndrome (PPS) to have access to a broader range of support resources. Local Chapters will meet regularly according to their schedule to provide for education and support of their membership.

Philosophy Statement

The object of a support group is to empower its members with the tools necessary to make adjustment needed to continue a life of dignity and independence. It is with this objective in mind that we, the members of Post Polio Awareness & Support Society of MN (PPASS MN) have embraced the following statements:

We will:

- Share our common health concerns.
- Govern ourselves and our agenda with success dependent on each member's feelings of ownership.
- Use professionals as resource persons but not as leaders.
- Provide non-judgmental emotional support.
- Gather and share accurate and specialized information.
- Maintain a fluid membership – newcomers are helped by veterans and become veterans who may outgrow the need for a group.
- Increase public awareness and knowledge by sharing unique and relevant information.
- Charge small dues for involvement and seek sources of other funds for major expenses.

The purpose of the Support Group is clearly stated above and should be reviewed each year to assure proper focus of the group.

Mission Statement

It shall be the mission of the membership to convey the philosophy of the organization in everything it attempts to accomplish.

Suggestions for implementation of our mission are listed as follows:

Our mission is to:

- Exchange information, knowledge, ideas, and resources from and to health professionals, social workers, and lawyers about the late effects of polio and the needs of polio survivors.
- Become better health care consumers.
- Advocate for the rights of people with disabilities.
- Increase member's knowledge about the late effects of polio.
- Offer a supportive environment for sharing common experiences and concerns to polio survivors, their families, and friends.
- Provide an exchange of information, ideas, and organized political "clout" between polio survivors themselves' between polio survivors and others such as health care providers, legislators, and the public on a local, state and national level.
- Cooperate with other organizations dedicated in completely, or in part, to similar objectives by which such cooperation will serve the needs of polio survivors.
- Promote and assist research into the diagnosis and cause of the late effects of polio and promote and assist research leading to a maximum rehabilitation of those having the late effects of polio.
- Have FUN while we are doing all these activities.