

# March Storm General Report



Stormers posing with Representative Kendra Horn (OK-5)



Preparing petitions to be delivered

March 10th - 14th, 2019

## Contributors

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# ALLIANCE FOR SPACE DEVELOPMENT



## Executive Summary

Following is the March Storm 2019 General Report. March Storm attendees participated in congressional office visits, meetings with key committee staffers, attending committee hearings, and delivery of NSS petitions.

The event ran from Sunday, March 10th through Thursday, March 14th. Twenty six (26) citizen advocates came together in Washington DC to complete 86 total meetings. 76 of these meetings were with key committee members, resulting in 91% coverage of the key committees. New this year was the partnership of the NSS and Waypaver Foundation to fund the work of Aaron Oesterle, who is working full time in D.C. on behalf of our policy points.

## MARCH STORM DESCRIPTION

March Storm is the primary legislative blitz for the Alliance for Space Development (ASD) and its two founding member organizations, the Space Frontier Foundation (SFF) and the National Space Society (NSS). During the month of March, a group of unpaid volunteers meet in Washington, D.C. to advocate for policies and legislation that support the development and settlement of space. The advocates focus on the ASD agenda for the year, and meet with as many congressional offices, committee staffers, and other relevant agencies as they can in a four-day period.

### **About the Alliance for Space Development**

ASD supports an annual campaign composed of like-minded groups focused on accelerating the development and settlement of space. It coordinates the activities of its member organizations, sponsors and stages events, and communicates with decision makers to further these goals. ASD particularly works with Congress and the Administration to fund space development and settlement and to embed these goals in the law of the land.

The Alliance for Space Development is comprised of organizations dedicated to making settlement and development a clearly defined part of why we are sending humans into space.

ASD members include:

*Founding Members:* National Space Society, Space Frontier Foundation

*Member Organizations:* Students for the Exploration and Development of Space, Students on Capitol Hill, the Lifeboat Foundation, the Mars Foundation, the Mars Society, the Moon Society, the Space Development Steering Committee, the Space Tourism Society, Tea Party in Space, the Space Development Foundation, Space Renaissance USA, and the Waypaver Foundation.

Further information about ASD, and its member organizations, can be found on the ASD website: [www.allianceforspacedevelopment.org](http://www.allianceforspacedevelopment.org).

### **Activities**

Three major activities occurred during March Storm: Meetings with Congressional Offices, meetings with key Committee staffers, and delivery of NSS petitions. The following are summaries of activities for March Storm 2019.

#### *Meetings with Congressional Offices*

The primary area of focus for March Storm is meetings with congressional offices. Teams of volunteers – typically between two and five people – hold meetings with as many offices as can be managed over the space of four days to advocate for the ASD agenda. Most of these meetings are with a congressional staffer, preferably one focused on space, science, and/or technology. In some instances, a meeting with the actual legislator occurred. Senators and Representatives on the committees impacting the NASA budget are the primary targets:

- House and Senate Committees on Appropriations
  - Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
- House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (Authorization)
  - Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics
- Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation (Authorization)
  - Subcommittee on Aviation and Space

### *Meetings with Committee Staffers*

March Storm attempts to meet with the staffers specifically assigned to committees of relevance to the ASD agenda. 2019 March Stormers met with the committee staffs:

- House Committee on Appropriations
  - Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (Majority)
- Senate Committee on Appropriations
  - Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (Minority)

### *Committee Hearings*

This year, March Storm attempted to have stormers sit in on committee hearings. 2019 March Stormers sat in on the following hearings:

- House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
  - America in Space, Future Visions, Current Issues
- Senate Committee on Science, Science, and Transportation
  - Space Race, and American Global Leadership on the Final Frontier

### *Delivery of NSS Petitions*

Prior to March Storm, NSS distributes petitions to its membership that support the annual ASD campaign objectives. They are asked to sign and date the petition, and it is then mailed back to NSS Headquarters to be distributed to the representatives and senators that represent each member. About 1,200 petitions were sorted and grouped at NSS Headquarters, and then distributed during March Storm. Petitions addressed to representatives and senators with whom there are scheduled meetings are delivered at the same time. Petitions for those who were not scheduled were delivered in brief drop-offs, some of which resulted in impromptu meetings with staffers. This activity was a great success during the 2019 March Storm, with something close close to 80% petition delivery being achieved, and a large number of business cards for space staffers being collected. To reach 100% petition delivery, Aaron Oesterle and selected volunteers delivered petitions after the event. Petition delivery also led to some key meetings that developed support for the SDSA.

## **Schedule**

March Storm 2018 took place from Sunday, March 10th through Thursday, March 14th. The following is a breakdown of how the schedule was arranged.

Sunday: Intensive training session from 9 AM-5 PM, where the volunteers were introduced to ASD, SFF, and NSS leadership, briefed on the ASD agenda and talking points, coached on conducting meetings with legislators, and engaged in roleplays of meetings with staffers.

Monday: First meeting begins at 9 AM, with most teams starting at 10 AM. Dead time between meetings is filled by teams visiting offices where at least one team member is a constituent, particularly offices who otherwise are not the schedule. Last meetings conclude at 5 PM.

Tuesday: Participants continue meetings as on Monday. Last meeting concludes at 5 PM.

Wednesday: Committee hearings began around 9 AM, with meetings scheduled in the afternoon.

Thursday: Handful of meetings for the remaining volunteers. Teams mostly dedicated to petition delivery. Last petitions delivered at 5 PM.

## **Statistics**

*Participating Advocates: 26*

*Petition Delivery Rate: 100%*

*Total Meetings (confirmed): 86*

*Meetings with key committee members: 76*

*House Science, Space and Technology Authorization Full Committee: 30 out of 38 (79%)*

*Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Authorization Full Committee: 21 out of 26 (81%)*

*House Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Sub-Committee: 9 out of 11 (82%)*

*Senate Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Sub-Committee: 16 out of 19 (84%)*

## March Storm Impact

- Advancing Human Spaceflight Act (S.584) [Authorization]
  - Development and Settlement Text
    - General bipartisan support, working off of years of advocating these points. Many referred to Space Frontier Act of last congress.
  - ISS Extension to 2030
    - Many offices understand commercial stations will not be ready within the next few years, supportive of an ISS extension.
  - ISS Transition Report
    - Many offices understand the importance of not only extending ISS but also creating a plan for what happens after ISS.
  - Advanced Space Suit Development
    - Not a huge priority during the event for any offices. Became a popular topic two weeks later when an all-female spacewalk was cancelled due to lack of correctly sized spacesuit.
  - Future Facilities in Space
    - General bipartisan support, not a priority for offices.
- Plan to Enable Space Development [Appropriation]
  - Office of Space Commerce Report for \$1M
    - Many offices did not know the Office of Space Commerce existed. More support on the Republican side than Democratic. Many offices asked us to fill out an appropriations form.
    - This was our first effort to introduce to the Hill the need to have new methods of financially supporting in-space infrastructure. This is the start of a 3 to 5 year campaign. Given that we are literally on day 1 of this effort, response on the Hill was good.
- Supporting Planetary Defense [Appropriation]
  - Funding the NEOCam mission for \$60M
    - Support from many Democratic offices, and some Republican offices. A few offices were overly supportive of this and other NASA science missions. Some Republican offices saw potential commercial opportunities from cataloging all these asteroids.
    - Good success in getting Senators to ask Administrator Bridenstine whether he supports NEOCAM during the Senate Hearing the Stormers attended. This led to Administrator Bridenstine endorsing NEOCAM on April 29, 2019: <https://spacepolicyonline.com/news/bridenstine-embraces-planetary-defense-endorses-neocam/>

## **March Storm Sunday Training Schedule**

March 10th, 2019  
Holiday Inn Arlington

### **Agenda**

- 9:00 AM [Ian Burrell] Registration**
- 9:30 AM [Ian Burrell] Introductions**
- 9:35 AM [Dale Skran / Gary Oleson] Welcome by NSS / SFF Leadership**
- 9:45 AM [Michael Mealling] Welcome by Waypaver Foundation**
- 9:55 AM [Ian Burrell] NSS Harassment Policy**
- 10:05 AM [Ian Burrell] How the Day will Go**
- 10:15 AM [Ian Burrell] March Storm Requirements**
- 10:20 AM [Dale Skran] How the Agenda was Developed**
- 10:25 AM [Dale Skran] Our Summary**
- 10:30 AM [Aaron Oesterle] Advancing Human Spaceflight Act**
- 10:35 AM [Dale Skran] Office of Space Commerce: Space Development Plan**
- 10:40 AM [Dale Skran] NEOCam Budget Request**
- 10:45 AM [Dale Skran / Aaron Oesterle] Questions about Policy Points**
- 10:50 AM [Ian Burrell] Red Herrings**
- 11:00 AM MORNING BREAK**
- 11:30 AM [Aaron Oesterle] Effective Briefings**
- 12:15 AM [Ian Burrell] Example Briefing Scenarios**
- 1:00 PM LUNCH BREAK**
- 2:00 PM [All] Mock Briefings / Lessons Learned**
- 4:00 PM AFTERNOON BREAK**
- 4:15 PM [Dale Skran] NSS Petition Distribution**
- 4:30 PM [Ian Burrell] Monday Teams Organized and Introduced**
- 5:00 PM TRAINING COMPLETE**