



SUMMER 2013
NATIONAL MS SOCIETY
OREGON CHAPTER

MS CONNECTION NEWSLETTER



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THIS IS WHY WE RIDE

BY KEVIN BYRNE

Since 2003, I've cycled with the National MS Society in Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and Oregon. Every year I proudly proclaim why I ride to my friends, family, co-workers and everybody else who is within earshot of my fundraising message. Like this one:

ABOUT MY FIGHT

It's been thirteen years now since I first heard those words "You have MS." Like many others, my course is a daily struggle with pain and damaging effects ever since the first onset of my disease. I am able to fight back, though! Through the amazing medical treatment that I receive from my doctors at the Veterans Affairs Hospital, my body is strong. Through the constant love and guidance from my friends and family, I have been able to maintain my daily life. All the time, the support from advocacy groups like the NMSS have kept me prepared for today and whatever may happen next!

Now, Brie and I are focused on giving back and fighting for those who have helped so many.

It will never stop...nor will we
It will never quit...nor will we
This is why we ride!



KEVIN BYRNE & BRIE STOIANOFF - BIKE MS 2010

THAT WAS LAST YEAR

Everyone fighting MS knows how this disease can change over years, months, days...even hours. After the past year I need to add another reason why I ride: because sometimes, I can't.

The struggles with my disease have become quite extreme. On good days, I can move, walk and talk with relative normalcy. On bad days, I can't. The peaks and valleys are extreme. They can hit me five, ten-even fifteen times in a single day.

So, this year my goal is to ride-just ride.

I'm not sure how far or how fast, but I will ride. I'll ride to increase the awareness of our fight: a World Free of MS. That's the vision, but we have a long way to go.

It will never stop...nor will we
It will never quit...nor will we
This is why we ride! ■

REGISTER TODAY: bikeMSoregon.com