

Membership in the Orthopaedic PAC begins with a monetary donation of any amount.

Who Decides How the Orthopaedic PAC's Funds are Dispersed?

The Orthopaedic PAC Executive Committee is charged with developing a method and strategy for determining and making contributions to federal candidates. Orthopaedic PAC reports are made to the AAOS Board of Directors on a regular basis and the chair of the Orthopaedic PAC Executive Committee also reports at least annually to the Board of Directors regarding its specific activities and progress.

The Orthopaedic PAC strongly encourages its PAC members to attend "in-district" events to facilitate open communications and develop relationships with their members of Congress. To facilitate this, the Orthopaedic PAC Executive Committee considers all contribution requests brought forth by a contributing Orthopaedic PAC member. To make a request, simply contact the AAOS PAC Manager in the AAOS Office of Government Relations at (202)546-4150 or at Monroe@aaos.org

The Orthopaedic PAC has also developed and regularly updates a "Criteria for Making Political Contributions to Candidates" which helps to better guide the dispersal of funds in a strategic and coordinated approach. Visit aaos.org/pac to view this "Criteria for Giving." In 2014, the Orthopaedic PAC was over 88% successful in the 213 Congressional races it supported and has set even greater expectations for each new election cycle it faces.

Why it Matters?

Political, social and economic changes continue to have dramatic effects on the practice of orthopaedic care in the United States. PACs

have a significant role within the political discourse and continue to be the primary means by which organizations gain access to policy makers. When the Orthopaedic PAC makes a contribution, it sends a strong, collective and clear message from orthopaedic surgeons to a particular candidate. As the PAC grows, that message resonates deeper. The Orthopaedic PAC is the only national PAC solely dedicated to representing the interests of orthopaedic surgeons in the nation's capital. It strengthens our voice on Capitol Hill!

The choice is simple: to either sit and watch from the sidelines, or to stand up, make the collective voice of the orthopaedic community heard, and give orthopaedic surgeons the opportunity to help shape legislation that is in the best interest of our patients and our profession.



John Gill, MD, Chairman, Orthopaedic PAC

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To contact the Political Affairs Manager, Stacie Monroe, or the PAC Chair, Dr. John Gill, please email pac@aaos.org.

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Orthopaedic Political Action Committee Manual

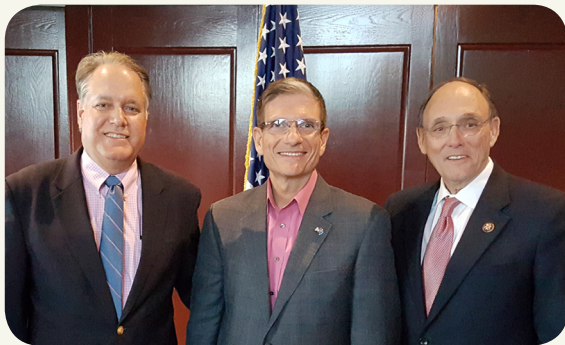
Orthopaedic Political Action Committee Manual

Understanding the legislative issues that affect you as an orthopaedic surgeon is a critical first step in becoming more politically active. Political advocacy covers a wide range of activities, including voting in elections, lobbying a member of Congress, or contributing to the political action committee of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (Orthopaedic PAC). Formed in 1999, the Orthopaedic PAC works to advance the advocacy goals of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the Specialty Societies.

The Orthopaedic PAC is the only national political action committee in Washington, DC solely dedicated to representing the interests of orthopaedic surgeons before Congress.

What is the Orthopaedic PAC?

Political Action Committees are organized for the purpose of raising and spending money to elect or defeat candidates for public office. PACs such as the *Orthopaedic PAC* are legal entities affiliated with and administered by an organization that can solicit contributions from its members and other individuals connected with the organization. Most PACs represent professional or ideological interests and maintain separate, segregated funds from their associated organization's general treasury which allows a group to advocate on



Fred Redfern, MD, Representative Joe Heck, DO, and Representative Phil Roe, MD

behalf of a large constituency with related interests; in our case Orthopaedic Surgeons who are AAOS members.

The Orthopaedic PAC specifically supports members of Congress and candidates for federal office who understand the issues orthopaedic surgeons face on a daily basis, and who will be sensitive to these concerns while in office. The PAC is a nonpartisan entity that contributes to Democrats, Republicans and party committees who share and support its views. By engaging politicians and their staff, the Orthopaedic PAC promotes access to musculoskeletal care and influences health policy.

The mission of the Orthopaedic PAC is to help advance the legislative agenda of the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons and Specialty Societies by opening political doors and providing access to policymakers. This access provides opportunities to express our well reasoned viewpoints on the issues of the day (e.g.: Physician Payment Reform, Medical Liability Reform, Access to Care Issues, Anti-trust reform, Research Funding, GME funding etc).

How Much Can PACs Spend and What Role Did the Citizens United Decision Play?

Federal multi-candidate PACs may contribute up to \$5,000 to a candidate or candidate committee each election (primary and general elections are treated as separate elections). PACs can also contribute up to \$15,000 annually to a political party or party committee (e.g.: Democratic or Republican National Committee) as well as up to \$5,000 to another PAC per year. PACs can also participate in races by making unlimited contributions



Chad Krueger, MD, PAC Resident Fellow with Rep. Renee Ellmers, RN

to fund expenditures independent of a specific candidate or political party (independent expenditures; or expressed advocacy on an issue).

In 2010, the United States Supreme Court decided in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* that laws prohibiting political expenditures

by unions and corporations were unconstitutional. The Citizens United decision legalized corporations and unions to spend from their general treasuries to finance political expenditures independent of a specific candidate or political party. The Court did not alter the prior prohibition excluding corporations or unions from contributing directly to federal campaigns or party committees.

With the influx of special interest groups in Washington and in lieu of the Citizens United decision, the advocacy bar has been raised. This is why it has become increasingly important to develop and maintain relationships between elected officials and AAOS members and Government Relations staff. These relationships establish an open line of communication between the orthopaedic community and policymakers.

How Much Can an Individual AAOS Member Contribute and What is the Difference between Corporate and Personal Contributions?

Individuals can contribute up to \$5,000 to any PAC per year. Corporate contributions (or soft dollars) include checks and credit cards processed on a physician's business account (LLC, PC, or Inc.) Personal contributions (or hard dollars) are checks and credit cards from a physician's personal account. Under federal FEC law, personal contributions can be used for political candidates whereas corporate contributions cannot. Corporate contributions are in turn used to pay the PAC's operational expenses (FEC filing software, etc.). Therefore, all contributions are greatly appreciated but *personal contributions are preferred*.