## Measuring and Communicating the Value of PACs

#### Hannah Wesolowski Associate Director, Political Engagement Public Affairs Council

### June 28, 2016



## What We'll Cover



Hannah Wesolowski Associate Director, Political Engagement Public Affairs Council

#### **Today's Agenda**

- Metrics and processes that demonstrate both *quantity* and *quality*
- Sharing metrics effectively with internal stakeholders
- Effectiveness of
  benchmarking your program
- Connecting your PAC's activities to organizational priorities



#### How it Feels:





### How it Feels:

#### Leadership:

Desire to outright connect the dots on how this helps us enact legislation





# The Value of Government Relation Activities

Benefits of PAC Engagement

- Build relationships with candidates
- Increase audience's understanding of political process
- Educate candidates on issues, org
- Provide election/political information to further good government
- Advance organizational/ government affairs priorities

Benefits of Grassroots Mobilization

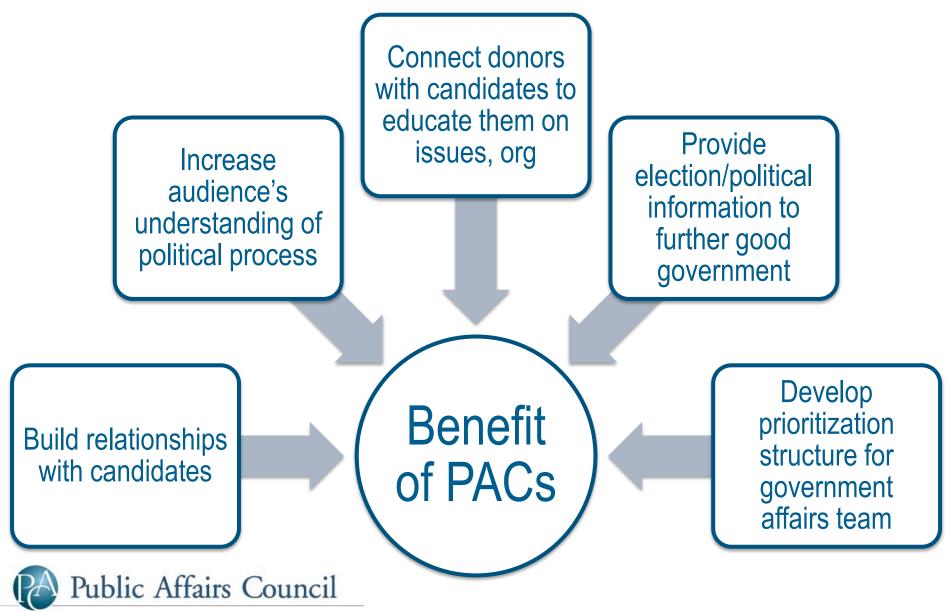
- Build relationships with legislators
- Increase audience's understanding of issues & process
- Educate lawmakers through personal stories
- Spur specific legislative or regulatory action
- Advance organizational/ government affairs priorities

Benefit of Government Relations/Lobbying Strategy

- Build relationships with legislators
- Increase decision-makers understanding of industry/issues
- Educate lawmakers through data and information
- Identify opportunities and threats and means to address them
- Advance organizational values



### The Value of PACs



Getting Buy-In on Your Measurement Process

Who's your audience? Who do you need buy-in from? Who do you need to report back to?





Getting Buy-In on Your Measurement Process

Who's your audience? Who do you need buy-in from? Who do you need to report back to?

- Leadership Board Donors Government Affairs colleagues
- PAC Board





## Getting Feedback

Define your value proposition: How do others see the PAC?

WHAT: Which metrics help them understand the PAC?

WHEN: When do they expect to get updates?



HOW: How do they want information shared? *Dashboards, reports, powerpoints, talking points* 



## **Defining Success**

#### What are your goals?

- Candidates supported
- Dollars raised
- Eligibles engaged
- Events hosted
- Events attended
- Incentive club/giving level growth



# *Is everyone on the same page about WHAT are you trying to accomplish?*



### **Mission Statement**

#### Example:

We, the members of our PAC, in order to encourage involvement in the political process and to help the organization achieve its strategic goals:

- Support the election of the best candidates, irrespective of party,
- Embrace the value of civic and ethical responsibility,
- Encourage voting as the fundamental right of citizenship, and
- Educate ourselves on public policy issues that affect the association, our industry and our community.



## **Tried and True Metrics**

- Typically, quantitative
- Database is a big resource
- Track percentage growth, not just whole numbers

#### Examples:

- Total dollars raised\*
- Participation rates\*
- # new PAC members\*
- Average contribution\*
- # Donors giving at rec. level\*

- Donor retention rate
- Disbursement success rate
- Split in partisan giving

\*Overall or by segment



### Dig Further: What Else Shows Progress?

- # PAC members who are new vs. returning (typically, association)
- # PAC members who increased contribution level
- # PAC members who jumped to a higher incentive club
- Cost to fundraise: \$ spent vs. \$ raised
- Average contribution/PAC member (trends over time)
- C-suite/leadership engaged in PAC events/solicitations
- Open rates/change in open rates over time
- Change in bipartisanship over time



### Dig Further: What is Moving the Needle?

Campaign/solicitation engagement

- Senders (make the case for someone sending)
- Subject lines
- Content/brevity
- Incentives
- Visuals





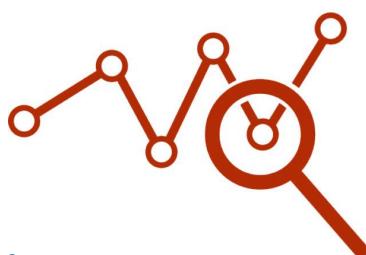
### Dig Further: What Shows Donor Engagement?

- PAC communications sent (newsletters, issue updates)
- # candidates recommended by PAC board/PAC donors
- # PAC peer-to-peer champions or ambassadors
  - New recruits
  - # peer solicitor presentations/solicitations
- # donor recognition opportunities offered
- Average time for contribution thank you to go out
- # eligibles who participate in teleconference/briefing

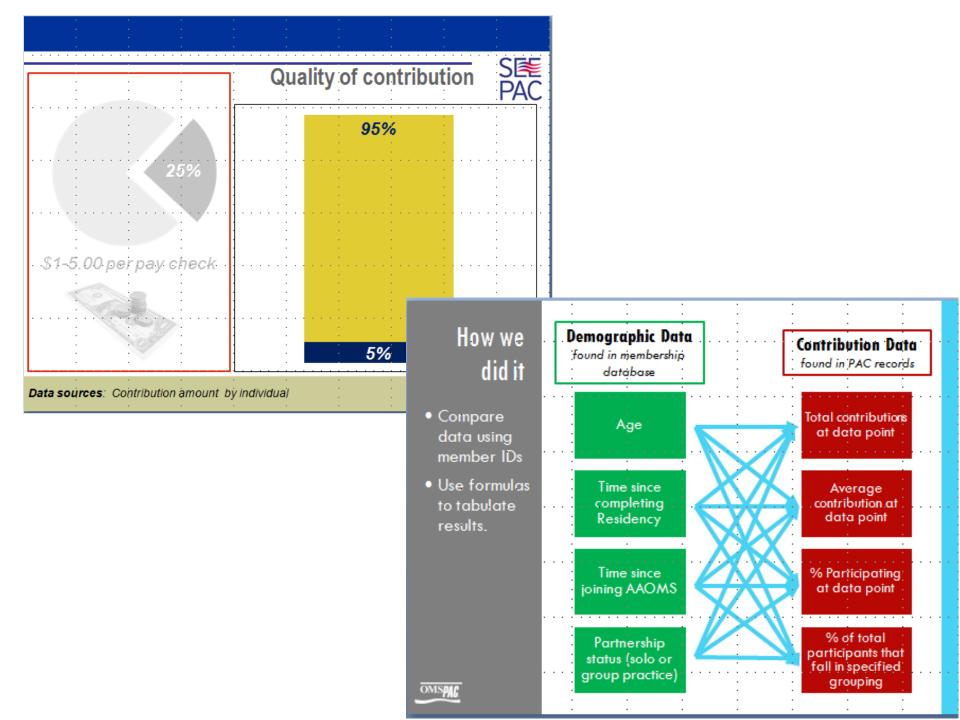


### Dig Further: Better Understand Your Own Data

- HR/membership data
- Site/location comparisons (Corp)
- Chapter/member comparisons
  (Assoc)
- Where is your money coming from?
- What does your typical donor look like?
- Where are your risks and vulnerabilities?

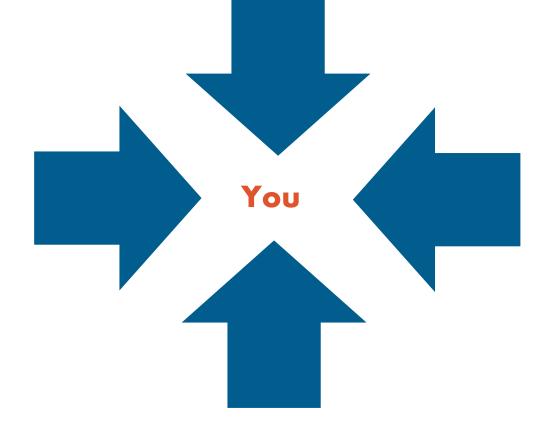






### Why Measure So Many Metrics?

Economy Spin-offs Acquisitions Layoffs Retirements

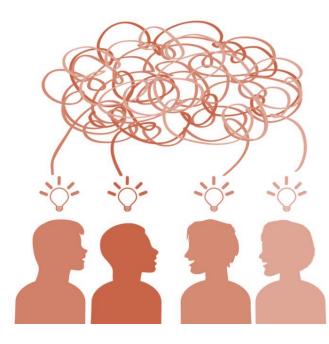


Bad press Leadership change Industry changes



## Quantitative vs. Qualitative

- Who are your stakeholders?
- What do they know/want?
  - Surveys
  - Focus groups
- Increase in PAC chatter?
- What are you doing to educate eligibles?





## Outputs vs. Outcomes

- Disbursements :: Key candidates supported
  - # pro-organization or pro-industry candidates in office
  - Checks delivered by donors
  - Fundraisers hosted/fundraisers attended
  - # candidates given party credit for party contributions
  - Defined process
- Participation rates :: Eligible education
  - Promotion of good government (GOTV)
  - Access to candidates (events for donors)
  - Information about issues (webinars hosted)
  - Conversion on Grassroots side



(All incumbents start with 0 points)			
Members of the Leadership (Speaker, Committee Chairs, Conference/Cauc		s, Party Campaign	
Chairs of Full Committee	+ 2 Points		
Ranking Member of Full Committee	+1 Point		
Key Committee Members (Key Committee House Ways & Means; House Small Business Commerce; House Appropriations; House Fin Senate Environment and Public Works; Senat Commerce, Science & Transportation; Senate Champions (designated by VP/Govern	s; House Science; House Rules; ancial Services; Senate Busines; te Finance; Senate Energy & Nat e Appropriations) + 2 Points nment Affairs in conjunctior +1 to +4 Po	House Energy & s & Entrepreneurship; ural Resources; Senate n with staff) pints	
PAC Member Requests (nominated by input level set by achievement of fund		based on PAC member	
	Candidate Point Level	House	Senate
National Party Targeted Candidates 2 or fewer points)	4 or More	\$2,000 to 5,000	\$2,500 to 5,000
	3 Points	\$1,000 to 2,500	\$2,000 to 5,000
	2 Points	\$1,000 to 2,000	\$2,000 to 3,000

	Candidate Point Level	House	Senate
National Party Targeted Candidates 2 or fewer points)	4 or More	\$2,000 to 5,000	\$2,500 to 5,000
	3 Points	\$1,000 to 2,500	\$2,000 to 5,000
	2 Points	\$1,000 to 2,000	\$2,000 to 3,000
	1 Point	\$500 to 1,000	\$1,000 to 2,000
	0 Points	0	0

### Outputs vs. Outcomes

- Peer recruitment :: Buy-in to the political process
  - Education efforts/training of champions
  - Education of eligibles
  - Senior management engagement
- Total dollars matched via PAC match :: Community engagement
  - Total charities supported
  - Total donors participating in PAC match



# **Benchmarking Against Peers**

- Total receipt/disbursements compared to competitors' PACs
  - FEC
  - Opensecrets.org
- Your activities compared to peers
  - PAC Benchmarking Report
    - Participation rates
    - Contribution amounts
    - Fundraising activities
    - Disbursement processes
  - Ask your peers!





### **The Goal:**

Work smarter. *Measure and adjust.* 

Be effective. *Track and improve.* 



# **Reporting Out**

- Dedicated reporting to key stakeholders (board, leadership, peer champions)
- Mimic other functions' reporting mechanisms
- Status reports on website/newsletters
- Talking points for leadership
- Post-election updates

Division	\$ Goal	Total Raised to Date	% of Goal	Participation Goal	# Participants	% of Goal
Division A	\$52,000	\$37,000	71%	105	78	74%
Division B	\$28,000	\$8,000	29%	49	13	26%
Division C	\$63,000	\$35,000	56%	118	72	61%



# **Reporting Out**

- How often?
- How will they receive it?
- Who gets what?
  - Leadership vs. board vs. peers vs. donors
- How does it weave into government affairs success?
- Use visuals



Congressman Charlie Dent (R-PA), middle right, visits RDC 5034 in Breinigsville, Pennsylvania.

#### Who contributes to AB-PAC?

YOU DO! In 2013 you contributed \$388,000 to the AB-PAC. Participation in AB-PAC is growing, and in 2014, AB employees are on track to raise \$454,982. Our goal is to reach \$500,000 pledged for 2015.



#### American Bakers PAC Check Transmittals





Jackie Forrest, Flowers Foods Lynchburg, presents an American Bakers PAC check to Rep. Bob Goodlatte (R-VA-6). Rep. Goodlatte serves on the House Agriculture Committee. American Bakers PAC hosted a food industry fundraiser for Rep. Goodlatte during the 2012 election cycle. He has a 100% key vote rating with the ABA. Kent Bickford, Clyde's Delicious Donuts, presents an American Bakers PAC check to Rep. Randy Hultgren (R-IL-14). Rep. Hultgren, who serves on the House Agriculture Committee, has a 100% key vote rating with the ABA and won his race for reelection.

# **Ex: Ongoing Transparency**

Monthly

#### Quarterly

#### Creative

 Weekly creative meetings to discuss goals and objective and plan editorial calendar

#### Manager

 Weekly meetings to review events, financial updates

#### **PAC Board**

 Summary of quarterly events, communications,

and solicitations.

- Assignment or "ask" of the Board each quarter
- Measuring their progress and supporting their needs

Annually

#### PAC annual report

 Annual summary of PAC activity and financial information

#### CSR

- Reporting externally about company's human, economic, and environmental impact.
- Portion on political engagement.

#### Cycle

 Keeping track of trends

Cycle

- Election outcomes



#### **RESTAURANT PAC** 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

#### 2015 PAC Leadership Team



Bill Kohl Greenwood Hospitality Group Harrisburg, PA



latinum Corral LLC Jacksonville, NC





The Restaurant PAC is the industry's leading trade association political action committee and contributes over \$IM each election cycle to pro-restaurant, pro-business candidates for Congress. Supporting and electing industry-minded legislators is the first step toward achieving sound, pro-restaurant legislation. The Restaurant PAC is an important part of our industry's advocacy efforts. For more information, please visit Restaurant. org/RestaurantPAC or contact Annie McEniry at amoeniry@restaurant.org or (202) 331-5920.

s the 2014 Chairman of the Restaurant A PAC, I'm pleased to report on the active role we played during the midterm election. This was an important election cycle and with your leadership and support, we were able to participate in a meaningful way.

In 2014, Restaurant PAC receipts topped \$620,000, bringing our cycle total to over \$1.29 million. As a result, our industry was able to invest \$1.2 million in over 200 pro-restaurant, pro-business candidates for Congress. Over 90% of our Restaurant PAC supported candidates won their races.

With the election behind us and a new Congress in session, it's important for our industry to stay involved in the political process. We must educate lawmakers about the impact of harmful legislation and work to achieve positive solutions. We need to change the health care law's definition of full-time from 30 to 40 hours, pass a broad tax reform package, and fight back against



Restaurant PAC

lational Restaurant Associat



anti-business assaults on wage and labor issues. These are just a few examples of the legislative challenges we face, which is why it is important that we continue to defend and promote the restaurant industry.

It has been an honor serving as the Chairman of the Restaurant PAC, especially during such an important election year.

With sincere thanks,







© 2015 National Restaurant Association. All rights reserved. The Restaurant PAC logo is a service mark of the National Restaurant Association.

#### 2013 - 2014 Political Disbursements / Election Review

American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Thanks to the generous support of PAC donors, the Orthopaedic PAC enjoyed tremendous success on election night. The PAC was involved in over 230 congressional races this election by supporting pro-physician incumbents, challengers and candidates in open seats.

In House races, the PAC enjoyed an 88 percent success rate in 213 races. Similarly, in the upper chamber, out of 22 races, 20 of those were won by incumbent members or candidates supported by the Orthopaedic PAC. In total, the PAC disbursed just over \$2.2 million across 22 Senate races and 213 House races.

#### Senate Totals:

Races:	22*
Open seats:	5
Challengers:	5
Democrats:	6
Republicans:	20
Primary Losses	3
General Losses	2
Total Losses in 2014 Cycle	5
Losses in Races Rated Tossup (on November 4)	1
Wins in Races Rated Tossup (on November 4)	7
Total Senate Wins:	20

#### House Totals:

Races:	213
Open seats:	22
Challengers:	7
Democrats:	80
Republicans:	133
Primary Losses:	10
General Losses:	13
Total Losses in 2014 Cycle	21
Losses in Races Rated Tossup (on November 4)	7
Wins in Races Rated Tossup (on November 4)	4
Total House Wins:	189

\*Multiple candidates were supported in some races

#### **U.S. House of Representatives:**

STATE/DISTRICT	MEMBER/CANDIDATE SUPPORTED BY PAC	ELECTION OUTCOME
ALABAMA		
AL-02 AL-03 AL-06	Martha Roby-R Mike Rogers-R Chad Mathis, MD-R (Candidate)	Elected Elected Defeated in Primary
ARIZONA		
AZ-02	Ron Barber-D	Defeated via recount



#### Refocusing our priorities

By Scott Doyle

This past year, CenterPoint Energy renewed its focus on local and state government activities. We closed our Washington, D.C. lobbying office, as



it primarily supported our FERC-regulated interstate pipeline business, now operated by Enable Midstream Partners. We continue to be active members of national industry associations that advocate our interests at the state and federal levels; however, our electric and natural gas utilities are primarily overseen by state and local regulatory bodies with the support and oversight of state legislatures.

To support our focused efforts, the PAC has adopted a strategy that places a priority on local races that are within the company's operating footprint. We will continue to give to candidates from both parties and seek to develop relationships that reflect our core values as a company.

#### CNPPAC 2014

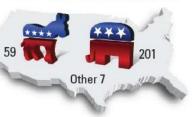






854 politically engaged employees

#### CAMPAIGNS SUPPORTED



To view last year's CNPPAC disbursements, click here

🗼 INSIDE	
State Highlights	2
Arkansas	2
Louisiana	2
Minnesota	2
Mississippi	3
Oklahoma	3
Texas	3
CNPPAC Political Council Members	5



GGF supporters gather in Norfolk for a Cookies with the Congressman event hosted by the GGF with special guest Congressman Randy Forbes of Virginia.

Marchant Kenny	\$2,000.00	U.S. House	TX	REP	FC
McCaul Michael	\$5,000.00	U.S. House	TX	REP	FC
Sessions Pete	\$5,000.00	U.S. House	TX	REP	FC
Smith Lamar	\$2,500.00	U.S. House	TX	REP	FC
Williams Roger	\$4,000.00	U.S. House	ТΧ	REP	FC
U.S.					
Dem Cong Camp Cmte (DCCC)	\$15,000.00	National Party Cmte-Fed Acct	US	DEM	FC
Dem Sen Camp. Cmte (DSCC)	\$15,000.00	National Party Cmte-Fed Acct	US	DEM	FC
Natl Rep Cong Crnte (NRCC)	\$15,000.00	National Party Cmte-Fed Acct	US	REP	FC
Natl Rep Sen Crnte (NRSC)	\$15,000.00	National Party Cmte-Fed Acct	US	REP	FC
New Democrat Coalition PAC (NDCPAC)	\$5,000.00	Federal PAC	US	DEM	FC
Republican Main Street Partnership PAC	\$5,000.00	Federal PAC	US	REP	FC
UTAH					
Constitutional Conservatives Fund (Lee-US	-\$5,000.00	Federal Leadership PAC	UT	REP	FC
S-UT)					
Constitutional Conservatives Fund (Lee-US S-UT)	\$5,000.00	Federal Leadership PAC	UT	REP	FC
S-UT)	\$3,000.00	rederal ceadership rAC	01	NEI -	

CenterPoint Energy PAC • 1

### Takeaways

- ✓ Gain consensus
- ✓ Measure on a variety of metrics
- ✓ Benchmark to inspire and to create a baseline/goal
- ✓ Standardize your reporting
- ✓ Invest in your stakeholders
- ✓ Be visual
- ✓ Have fun



# **Questions?**

#### Hannah Wesolowski Associate Director, Political Engagement Public Affairs Council hwesolowski@pac.org | 202.787.5969

