

Recommendation Regarding Policy Change – PACS

Submitted by the California Chapter

Author: California Chapter Delegates: Mark Dixon (Delegate Coordinator), Jim Stern, Dorothy Swartzberg, Lucy Wojskowitz and Melissa Colburn

Subject: Policy revision to allow Political Action Committees (PAC's) by professional management services, subject to AMTA review and overseen by AMTA Chapters where needed and desired, in order to support appropriate legislative action.

Whereas:

- For profit companies such as ABMP have amply demonstrated their ability to donate thousands of dollars to individual lawmakers in hopes of influencing their decisions affecting our right to practice;
- Gaining legislative support requires professional skills in presenting the appropriate case for legislators, and in many states most professional associations and non-profits have PAC's established and controlled by Boards of Directors;
- There are professional companies available, which for reasonable fees, create and manage PAC's in full compliance with all state and federal laws and regulations;
- Donations received by lawmakers from independent PAC's will not be identified with the AMTA, but will allow individual AMTA Chapters the same access to legislators available to other groups of individuals with common interests;
- There is no anticipated financial impact to AMTA.

Therefore:

- We, the members of the California Delegation, move that a revision of AMTA policy be adopted allowing management of PAC's, subject to AMTA review, by professional management services and overseen by individual AMTA Chapters.

Guiding Principle:

- AMTA Chapters may most effectively meet the Mission Statement Goal #3 "To advocate that message provided to the public meets high public standards" by influencing legislators through the use of PAC's.

The AMTA Policy Manual, under Government Relations, Sec. 1. G. reads:

G. Political Action Committees

AMTA and its Chapters should not create or be affiliated in any way with political action committees (PAC). Federal laws significantly restrict political contributions from 501(c)(6) tax exempt organizations to political candidates. Also each state determines its own rules for PAC creation, contributions, financial disclosure and tax reporting making campaign finance laws that exist at the state level difficult to monitor. These complexities could put the Association at risk if it were involved in or affiliated with PACs.

The AMTA-CA Chapter Delegation proposes the following change in AMTA policy:

Subject to AMTA review, the AMTA and its Chapters may create political action committees (PAC) provided they are operated by professional management services overseen by AMTA Chapters.

Contact Information: Mark W. Dixon, 714 965-0104, [AboutYou88@verizon.net](mailto>AboutYou88@verizon.net)