**PAC 101: Part 2: The Importance of Having a Political Action Committee**

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The first installment of PAC 101 explained how and why PACs (Political Action Committees) were formed and also the four types of PACs common in the United States. The four PACs in the United Sates are:

* Separate Segregated Funds (which is the classification ASCLS falls under)
* Non-connected or Ideological
* Leadership
* Super.

This installment discusses the importance of having a PAC and explains how PACs help an organization and why having a PAC makes a difference for an organization.

As previously discussed PACs were established in 1943 as a way of raising money for candidates in favor of the donating organization, i.e. union and labor groups. The monies donated by PACs to political candidates are considered ‘hard’ money; meaning these groups are regulated by the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and must adhere to very specific rules and regulations. Under FEC regulations ASCLS is considered a Separate segregated funds PAC (SSF) which means we are associated with an organization, but the Board of Trustees is considered ‘independent’ of the organization. The SSF classification means we can only solicit members of ASCLS directly; however non-members may donate of their own free will.

Now for the BIG question; why have a PAC, why is it important?

1. PAC contributions ***enhance*** an organization’s voice in the political arena and in turn provide said organization with a certain amount of ***clout*** when it comes to issues concerning the organization.
2. PAC contributions are ***directly*** associated with ***your*** organization:
   1. Anyone can access the FEC website to discover how much and to what candidate a PAC has given a donation
   2. The importance of this is other candidates whom have the same ideals may approach the organization and ‘ask’ for a donation. In turn the candidate will protect the values of the organization and fight for the organization in their perspective chambers. They become a ***Champion*** for the organization.
      1. **More funds = more Champions** for our organization.
3. By donating to multiple candidates, ASCLS increases awareness of our issues on Capitol Hill.

Having a PAC gives us a voice on the Hill; ASCLS PAC donations will ensure we are not forgotten. We will be heard and we will no longer sit by quietly as laboratory science is targeted by members of Congress. We are ready to fight and we are ready to have our voices heard!

It’s time for action; donate to ASCLS PAC Today!