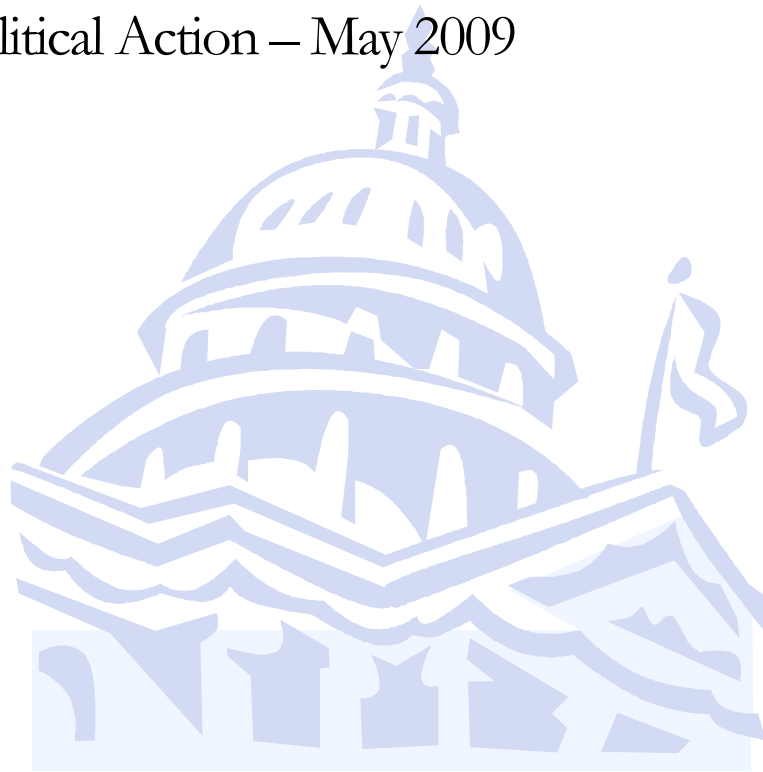


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A Guide to Political Action – May 2009



Midwives PAC

# American College of Nurse-Midwives

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Dear ACNM Member:

*Political activism is no longer a matter of choice - it is a matter of survival in today's health care environment. As the challenges of delivering quality health care services mount, certified nurse midwives/certified midwives (CNM/CM) must embrace a larger role in influencing the direction of public policy for the benefit of the patients we serve. Midwives-PAC can be of assistance to you.*

*The following is a tool to aid your growth as an advocate for the midwifery profession. Midwives-PAC has made a decision to maximize its resources by attending fewer political events in Washington, D.C., and instead focus its resources on developing relationships between midwives and their legislators at home, where it really matters. It's been said that all politics are local.*

*The following toolkit is meant to provide you the basic information you need to embrace your role as advocate. Your personal relationship with a U.S. Senator or U.S. Representative in your state can be the difference in ACNM's success on Capitol Hill.*

*The concept is simple. It is easier to get assistance from a legislator on a vital concern when they see you as a trusted friend or as an active member of the community. At a minimum, we hope this guide provides some education on the role of Midwives-PAC and demonstrates new ways for you to advance as an advocate.*

*Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of the profession.*

*Katy Dawley, CNM  
President  
Midwives-PAC*

## What is a PAC?

**T**he definition of a political action committee (PAC) is either the separate, segregated campaign fund of a sponsoring labor, business, or trade organization, or the campaign fund of a group formed primarily or solely for the purpose of giving resources to candidates. PACs are not formed by or directly connected to a political party even if all their resources is contributed to the candidates of a single party.

Federal PACs are defined by a series of statutes passed in the 1970s. The first in the series was the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA). The FECA legitimized PACs by explicitly granting to both corporations and labor unions the right to create, administer, and raise funds for their PACs, and to cover all organizational expenses from corporate and union treasuries. In 1974 additional amendments were added to FECA far more sweeping in their scope because of the corruption of the Nixon campaign created by Watergate. The 1974 amendments limited PAC contributions to \$5,000 per candidate per election (primary, general, and run-off elections are considered different elections). Later rules were created by the Federal Election Committee that prohibited membership organizations like the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) from soliciting non-members for contributions to its PAC. Only members of ACNM (restricted class) can be solicited for contributions to Midwives PAC.

## State PACs vs. Midwives - PAC

A State PAC is a state initiated campaign fund that can be used to donate resources to campaigns of local state legislators. A State PAC requires a formal application process which varies by state. ACNM's Chapter Chair Manual contains further information regarding the formation of a State PAC.

*For example, the Midwives PAC could donate to a U.S. Senator from New York campaign, but would not donate to a local state legislator in New York.*

The Midwives PAC however, is a federal campaign fund which donates resources to candidates seeking election to the U.S. House of Representatives or the U.S. Senate.

## Why was the Midwives - PAC formed?

Midwives-PAC was created to provide CNMs/CMs the opportunity to be more involved in the determination of federal laws and policies. Through the PAC, nurse-midwives as a collective group can contribute to candidates for national office who have demonstrated their support for the profession's goals and viewpoints.

The PAC gives midwives the ability to meet with Members of Congress by making it possible for members and ACNM staff to participate and join other health care groups

in attending political activities such as breakfasts, lunches, and receptions that benefit a candidate's federal campaign. Not only can CNMs/CMs help established friends of the profession in Congress through their political campaigns, but assist in developing new relationships with legislators in key positions. PAC resources can also allow midwives to attend events sponsored by political parties that cannot be financed with ACNM membership dues.

## Federal Election Committee Rules

As mentioned previously, the Federal Election Committee (FEC) regulates and imposes rules on political action committees and contributors.

### Political Action Committee Guidelines:

- Can contribute no more than \$5,000 per election to a particular campaign. The primary and general election are two separate elections, so PAC may give a total of \$10,000 to a candidate during an election cycle. An election cycle is six (6) years for a Senator and two (2) years for a Representative.
- Can only solicit from its restricted class (Dues paying members).
- Must file monthly, quarterly, or semi-annually reports to the FEC regarding contributions received by the PAC and disbursements to other political campaigns.
- PACs must make best efforts to obtain and report the name, address, occupation and employer of each contributor who gives more than \$200 in a calendar year.

### Contributor Guidelines:

- Individuals can contribute no more than \$5,000 per year to an organization's PAC, such as Midwives-PAC.
- Contributions to a PAC are not tax deductible.
- Individuals must use personal checks/credit cards or cash to contribute to a federal PAC. Cash contributions, however, are discouraged because they are hard to track.
- Business/Corporate contributions are acceptable, but can only be used for administrative purposes (such as telemarketing or printing) and not for political contributions. Such contributions, however, can help defray the costs of operating the PAC.

## Volunteer Activity in Political Campaigns

This information applies only to volunteer activity related to federal elections. It explains how individuals may volunteer their services and certain goods to candidates for federal office and to party political committees. Such activities do not count as a

contribution or expenditure to influence federal elections and are not reportable. However, certain activities are subject to a monetary limit; the volunteer's expenses that exceed the limit must be reported by a candidate or party committee as an "in-kind" contribution.

*Mary Jane hosts an event in her home for Representative Jones. The cost of invitations to midwives and other individuals, and food and beverages served at the event total \$1,234. Mary Jane would need to let the campaign know that her in-kind contribution to the campaign was \$234.*

*In addition to funds raised from individuals (not restricted to ACNM members) Midwives PAC could make a contribution to the campaign. In this way, Midwives PAC can help in reaching a fundraising goal that Mary Jane or the campaign have set for the event.*

For example, an individual might decide to offer his/her home to a candidate for a fundraising event. As host, the individual may spend up to \$1,000 for invitations, food and beverage without making a contribution. If the individual exceeds the limit by spending \$1,500, the \$500 would be a reportable in-kind contribution and would count against the individual's contribution limit.

Citations below refer to the Federal Election Commission regulations, contained in title 11 of the Code of Federal Regulations (11 CFR). If you have any questions, please call the Commission in Washington, D.C., toll free, 800/424-9530.

### Activity Subject to Limits

#### Food, Beverage and Invitations

An individual may buy food, beverage and invitations used in connection with candidate or party-related activity conducted in his/her home or in a church or community room (see below). The individual may spend up to \$1,000 per candidate, per election, for these items. 11 CFR 100.7(b)(6).

#### Travel

An individual may pay for his/her own travel expenses related to candidate or party activity. The individual may spend up to \$1,000 per candidate, per election. 11 CFR 100.7(b)(8).

#### Vendor Discounts

A vendor, whether or not incorporated, may sell food and beverage, at cost, to a candidate's campaign or to a party political committee. The cumulative value of such discounts (i.e., the difference between the normal charge and the amount paid by the

committee) must not exceed \$1,000 per candidate, per election. 11 CFR 100.7(b)(7) and 114.1(a)(2)(v).

## Activity with No Limits

### Personal Services

An individual may volunteer any personal service provided he or she is not compensated for the service by any other committee, individual or organization. 11 CFR 100.7(b)(3).

*Mary Jane decides to host an event at her office or at a local restaurant for Senator Kathy Smith. She contacts the campaign and they decide on a convenient date and location. The invitations, food and beverages, and rental of the space (if there is a rental fee) total \$757. This must be reported to the campaign as an in-kind contribution and it counts against the \$1,000 Mary Jane is allowed to contribute to Senator Smith for her primary election. So, Mary Jane can still donate \$243 toward Senator Smith's campaign for this election. She will be able to donate another \$1,000 if Senator Smith wins her primary election and goes on to the general election.*

*For simplicity, Mary Jane could ask Senator Smith's campaign to pick up the costs for the event she is hosting outside her home. Then Mary Jane would still be able to contribute up to \$1,000 for the primary election. Campaigns will be happy to do this, since you are bringing in more resources by hosting the event.*

### Activities in the Home

An individual may offer the use of his/her home or the recreation room of his/her residential complex for candidate and party-related activities, provided the room is available without regard to political affiliation. Any nominal fee charged for the room is not considered a contribution. 11 CFR 100.7(b)(4).

### Activities in Church or Community Room

An individual volunteer may obtain the use of a church or community room for candidate and party-related activities, provided the room is used on a regular basis by members of the community, without regard to political affiliation, for noncommercial purposes. Any nominal fee paid for the room is not considered a contribution. 11 CFR 100.7(b)(5).

### Living Expenses

An individual may spend any amount for his/her normal living expenses incurred while engaging in volunteer activity. 11 CFR 100.7(b)(8).

## Holding a Fundraiser Outside Your Home

The rules are different for events hosted outside your home or community facility. As host, an individual can spend up to \$1,000 for invitations, food and beverage, and market value of the facility if it actually was rented to someone else for use. These costs must be reported as an in-kind contribution and count against the individual's

\$1,000 contribution limit. For convenience you might ask the campaign to pick up these costs. The campaign committee may pay for any costs associated with the event (using the facility, invitations, food and beverages).

## Meeting With Your Members of Congress

The PAC provides midwives an opportunity to meet with Members of Congress back in their state. You are represented in Congress by two Senators and one Representative. A PAC check in the hand of a constituent goes a long way when given to their campaign back in the state or congressional district. Not only can you attend fundraisers in the state but it also provides a better chance to see the Member of Congress instead of one of his aides.

### How to Schedule a Meeting

*You may either present a personal contribution to the campaign or request resources from Midwives PAC. A contribution request form can be found at the end of this manual.*

*Midwives PAC wants to empower more midwives to be as politically active as possible.*

1. Contact your Member of Congress's district office that is closest to you (your Senators and Representative may have several offices to meet constituent's needs). Try to contact the main office.
2. Ask for the political campaign's phone number
3. Contact the political director and ask to set up a meeting with the Member of Congress. Notify him/her that you have a PAC contribution that you would like to deliver to them at the meeting.
4. Mention the legislative issues that you would like to discuss with the Member of Congress
5. It is very important to schedule an appointment

with the Member of Congress as soon as possible after receiving the PAC contribution from Midwives PAC.

### Before the Meeting

1. Be Prompt and Patient. Member of Congress have very hectic schedules so be flexible if he/she is late.
2. Be Prepared. Bring to the meeting information and materials supporting your issues. It is helpful to share with the Member information and examples that demonstrate clearly the impact or benefits associated with a particular issue or piece of legislation you are discussing.

### During the Meeting

1. If you are meeting the Member of Congress at his state or district office, ***do not mention the PAC contribution or give him the PAC contribution*** while in the office. Work out beforehand with the campaign how the contribution will be delivered.
2. If hosting an event for the Member of Congress, collect all the contributions at or prior to the event and hand them to his/her staff at an appropriate time.

*Never give a Member of Congress a political contribution on federal property. It is illegal to do so.*

3. Members of Congress want to represent the best interests of their district or state. Wherever possible, demonstrate the connection between what you are requesting and the interests of the member's constituency. If possible, describe for the member how you can be of assistance to him/her.

### After the Meeting

Follow up the meeting with a thank you letter that outlines the different points covered during the meeting, and send along any additional information and materials that were requested.

## Contact Information

If you would like to contribute to Midwives PAC, please make your contributions payable to Midwives PAC and mail it to:

**Midwives PAC  
PACServices  
5708 Kirby Road  
Clinton, MD 20735**

If you have questions regarding PAC contributions, events, or meetings with Members of Congress, please feel free to contact:

Patrick Cooney  
ACNM Federal Lobbyist  
(202) 347-0034  
[patrick@federalgrp.com](mailto:patrick@federalgrp.com)

or

Joanna M. King, Esq.  
ACNM Director of Government Relations  
(240) 485-1843  
[jking@acnm.org](mailto:jking@acnm.org)

**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NURSE-MIDWIVES**

**POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

Contribution Recommendation Form

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CANDIDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PARTY: \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE \_\_\_\_\_ SENATE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ INCUMBENT (\_\_\_\_ # TERMS)      \_\_\_\_ CHALLENGER      \_\_\_\_ OPEN SEAT

**CANDIDATE BACKGROUND:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RECORD OF SUPPORT FOR NURSE MIDWIVES ISSUES:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**LIKELY OPPONENTS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_

REQUEST SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to:  
Midwives PAC  
8403 Colesville Rd., Suite 1550  
Silver Spring MD 20910  
Phone: 240-485-1800 • Fax: 240-485-1818  
Attn: Monica Greenfield

For Office Use Only:  
**Date Check Cut:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date Check Mailed:** \_\_\_\_\_