

AMPAC Perspectives

AMPAC is proud to be in its 60th Anniversary year and still going strong. The Southeast Delegation now has 5 members on the Board. Looking back, AMPAC is proud of our pioneering efforts as the first non-union US Political Action Committee, we are proud of our innovations including independent expenditures, and we are proud of our continuing yearly National Advocacy Conference, although now mostly run by the skillful AMA staff.

But the Corona Virus pandemic has been tough for us all. Donations are down about 15 % across the board and down about 40% in the AMA House, although improving since the Special June AMA meeting. We had a very good turnout for our Virtual luncheon in June, managed by our expert AMPAC staff, with noted speaker and writer Ron Brownstein (CNN and The Atlantic). The pandemic has kept patients and doctors away from each other, obviously disrupting our practices. In addition, the pandemic and its virtual world has frayed tempers and injected meanness and hyper partisanship into our national politics. All these phenomenon effect donations to AMPAC. Trying to be non-partisan and balanced between the two major US Political Parties is tough in such an environment, but such is our charter and our mission; AMPAC works to serve doctors, our patients and the medical profession, not the political parties, particularly since the relative power of the parties wax and wane.

So.... we need you now, more than ever. The body politic does not sleep. We need to continue relationships with national politicians of both major political parties sensitive to our medical issues and open to relationships with us and our AMA Advocacy team. We need you to continue and to help rebuild AMPAC. We want you regardless of your political party. We donate as a non-partisan PAC. However, for better or for worse, we have slowed down donations for six months after the Capital disturbances of January 6 (see ampaconlin.org for the formal statement). As I did in June at the AMPAC Virtual Luncheon, I want to again thank the Leadership (25 VIPs) of AMA for their determination to promote 100% AMPAC membership in their Caucuses/Delegations responding to and signing onto the AMPAC fund raising letter sent out by Drs Dalton and Poole of the Southeastern Delegation. I also want to thank the Board of AMA for their move in May 2021 to almost full AMPAC membership (20/21) and most of that Capital Club, in part motivated by Dr Poole's letter.

Our campaign schools have been stellar, even during the pandemic. Applications are up. Over 1500 physicians and spouses have now participated.

We made one independent expenditure in Virginia this last election cycle, unsuccessful. But our overall election "success" rate was 92% for the election cycle just ended in November 2020.

So, thanks for your continued support and best wishes for the November Meeting. Please respond to our calls and emails. Call me directly as you wish, 843 679 9335.

Stephen A Imbeau, MD

Chair, AMPAC