



Report

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ASPA PAC Update

When you write a check, you expect something of value for it. So . . . what's the value of your ASPA PAC check? Generally speaking, it's that your PAC contribution helps elect and reelect Congressmen and women who are interested in sound pension legislation—and who want our input on those issues. In that way, relatively small donations from ASPA PAC support ASPA's Government Affairs work by building relationships with responsible members of Congress. That access leads to the quality and reasonableness of the laws that impact your work and the value of your work for your clients and their employees. Here are a few examples of the value your checks have produced:

- Treasury proposed getting rid of cross-testing several years ago. Because of the support of ASPA PAC, we had existing Congressional relationships that we could call on for a discussion of the issues and support for our position, and cross-testing was preserved.
- After a string of legislative setbacks starting with TEFRA, ASPA PAC helped us develop relationships with members of Congress who voted in favor of EGTRRA, with its higher limits and other incentives for the private retirement system.
- When EMERGILITE went out of business, the DOL proposed that all plans, regardless of size, be audited. ASPA PAC made it possible to work out a more reasonable compromise by developing Congressional oversight of the regulatory process.
- In 2003, ASPA opposed the President's proposal to eliminate the tax on dividends because we believed it would adversely affect small business retirement plan coverage. ASPA PAC made it possible for our voice to be heard and our voice added to a much better result.
- The President proposed new savings incentives last year. Because of ASPA PAC, our voice could be heard on how these proposals would impact the private retirement plan system. Thanks to this leverage, the 2004 version of the LSA/RSA/ERSA proposals retained cross-testing and other important tools for designing plans.

This is just a small taste of the kinds of value you get when you write a check to the ASPA PAC. We hope you like that taste and will continue to support ASPA PAC—so ASPA PAC can bring value to you.

*Bruce L. Ashton, APM, ASPA President
Fred Reish, APM, ASPA PAC Co-chair*

Year 2003 ASPA PAC Figures

Closing cash balance 12/31/03	\$174,058.16
Contributions from ASPA members	\$77,666.68
Disbursements to members of Congress	\$41,500.00
Expenses	\$1,877.45
Number of ASPA PAC contributors	293

Year 2002 ASPA PAC Figures

Closing cash balance 12/31/02	\$138,501.59
Contributions from ASPA members	\$51,796.00
Disbursements to members of Congress	\$19,500.00
Expenses	\$1,089.22
Number of ASPA PAC contributors	187

2003 Disbursements

In 2003, with the introduction of the LSA/RSA proposals, ASPA PAC contributed a record \$41,500 to 15 congressional campaigns and committees. Broken down, \$12,000 was contributed to Republicans and \$29,500 to Democrats; \$30,500 to House members and \$11,000 to Senators. Below is a summary of the recipients and how each one was a pivotal player in ASPA's efforts.

Rep. Andrews (D-NJ)—\$7,500: Rep. Andrews, who has been extremely supportive of ASPA, is the senior ranking Democrat for the Education and the Workforce Committee's Employer-Employee Relations Subcommittee. As a conferee on the 30-year Treasury bill replacement coverage, he has been enormously helpful in representing ASPA's views.

Rep. Brady (R-TX)—\$1,000: Rep. Brady serves on the House Committee on Ways & Means and was a strong EGTRRA supporter.



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Editorial Committee

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2003 DISBURSEMENTS (CONT.)

Rep. Cardin (D-MD)–\$3,500 and to LEGPAC for Rep. Cardin–\$2,500: Rep. Cardin, of “Portman-Cardin” pension reform fame, is another key member of Congress advocating for the private pension system. Cardin is a member of Ways & Means and often sponsors key pension legislation.

Reps. Hayworth (R-AZ), Johnson (R-CT), and Kleczka (D-WI)–\$1,000 each: Reps. Hayworth, Johnson and Kleczka are all key members of Ways & Means and were EGTRRA supporters.

Rep. Pomeroy (D-ND)–\$5,000: Rep. Pomeroy, also on Ways & Means, is one of the few House members with a strong interest and knowledge in pension matters.

America’s Majority Trust for Rep. Portman (R-OH)–\$5,000: Rep. Portman, another member of Ways & Means, often sponsors key pen-

sion legislation. When learning of his contribution from ASPA, Portman, a powerful leader in the Republican party, asked for the contribution to be made to his Leadership PAC, which enables him to redirect the support to others within his party on key issues of concern to him, such as retirement policy.

Rep. Putnam (R-FL)–\$3,000: Rep. Putnam has been tapped as an up-and-coming leader for the Republican party and, to the benefit of ASPA members, has taken an early interest in retirement issues and in promoting their cause before the Republican leadership.

Sen. Bingaman (D-NM)–\$1,000: A member of both Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committees, Sen. Bingaman was enor-

mously helpful during the dividend tax cut debate and emphasized the importance of making sure the tax cut did not negatively impact small business retirement plan coverage.

Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee on behalf of Sen. Breaux (D-LA)–\$4,000 and to Mainstream America PAC–\$1,000: ASPA PAC’s contribution to the DSCC was made on behalf of Sen. Breaux for his fight to retain cross-testing. He is also a longtime ASPA friend.

Sen. Gregg (R-NH)–\$1,000: Sen. Gregg is the chair of HELP and has spearheaded the effort to enact the 30-year Treasury replacement bill.

Sen. Lincoln (D-AR)–\$4,000: Sen. Lincoln, an up-and-coming member of the Finance Committee, was part of the coalition insisting that pension reform be included in EGTRRA.

2004 Enroll me as part of the ASPA PAC team!

Suggested Contribution Levels

Amount: \$ _____

- Presidents Club \$5,000 (to be paid within five years)
- Founders Club \$1,000 (to be paid within two years)
- Leaders Circle \$500 to \$999
- Members \$100 to \$499
- Associate \$ 50 to \$99

Contribution

- Personal check enclosed (payable to “ASPA PAC”)
- Personal credit card
- Visa Mastercard Amex

Signature: _____

Exp Date: _____

Account No.: _____

Pledge

- I pledge \$ _____ to be paid in (#) _____ payments within _____ year(s).

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Company: _____

Occupation: _____

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