

PAC REPORT

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Message from the Chairs

THIS IS BEEN A DEVASTATING hurricane season. Many people have been cruelly victimized by these storms including many ASPPA members; even our own President Elect Sarah Simoneaux who is from the New Orleans area. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone affected.

But there are other storms brewing out there—storms of a political nature that could be devastating to all ASPPA members and their clients. That is why we need your help and we need it today.

You are receiving this newsletter because you have contributed to ASPPA PAC. We could not have gotten this far without your support. Thank you. Now we need your help in a different way. We need you to help us recruit new members.

We have learned that personal contact is the very best way to get new members. Can you recruit at least one fellow ASPPA member to join ASPPA PAC before the end of the year? How do you do this? If you work with an ASPPA member who is not yet a PAC contributor, take it upon yourself to tell them why it is so important that ASPPA have a strong PAC. If you attend a conference, look for ASPPA members who have not yet contributed and tell them your PAC story.

Why is the PAC so crucial to our business? Just look at what's ahead...

The struggle ahead has a simple name—tax reform—but its implications are not simple. Many of the options to be debated—including proposals to eliminate the exclusion of retirement plan contributions from taxable income and to exempt all savings from tax without incentives for long-term retirement savings—if implemented, will have a devastating impact on the employer-sponsored retirement plan system.

But tax reform isn't all that is brewing out there. Pension reform is ongoing, including DB reform, in both the House and Senate. In the

House, the Education & Workforce Committee's approved Pension Protection Act seeks to replace the funding rules and eliminate the higher deficit-reduction contribution required. House members continue to wait for comprehensive retirement legislation from House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Thomas (R-CA). The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) and Finance committees have consolidated their bills into the Pension Security and Transparency Act. The merged bill provides for funding rules on single-employer plans, issues of disclosure, multiemployer plans and hybrid plans, such as cash balance plans.

Given all the ongoing issues, action is needed and ASPPA PAC has been active, working to anchor support with key congressional leaders. Through August 2005 alone we have strategically contributed over \$71,000 to 32 congressional leaders who can make a difference when it comes to these struggles.

PAC has also hosted a number of fundraisers (see page 3). This is important for two reasons. First, every PAC is limited by the amount it can give a single candidate. But we can increase those numbers for particularly important candidates with separate fundraisers. Secondly, it gives Brian, Teresa and ASPPA members another opportunity to have personal contact with these leaders.

We are sure you understand why we're so grateful for your membership. With it, we can support the members of Congress who support the important bills that affect us, who in turn spread the word to others. You can also understand why we are encouraging you to bring in new members and build our PAC base.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Karen A. Jordan, CPC, QPA, QKA, Co-chair
Fred Reish, APM, Co-chair*



ASPPA PAC[™]
OPENS THE DOOR

Senator Bingaman Reception

Susan J. Chambers, FSPA, CPC

IT'S THE FOURTH OF JULY and fireworks and only one day before the big event—our fundraiser for Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). There was a lot of work leading up to the event and it was exciting to realize the time was drawing near.

Jeff Bingaman is a key democratic Senator on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, a member of



Hosts James and Linda Parker introduce Senator Bingaman (D+NM).

the Finance Committee, and a leading voice for retirement savings reform. He introduced S 875, The Save More for

Retirement Act of 2005, to promote automatic enrollment and small business retirement plans.

I had no idea what was involved when Brian H. Graff, APM, ASPPA's Executive Director/CEO, asked me to host a fundraiser for Jeff Bingaman. I decided to collaborate with two of my colleagues in the Albuquerque benefits community, Linda and Jim Parker. Linda Parker is an owner of a local TPA firm. Jim Parker is an ERISA attorney and a member of the Board of Directors of the Small Business Council of America. Fortunately, the three of us were never lost because we had the help and guidance of Jolynne M. Flores, ASPPA's Government Affairs Manager.

The date for our event was set by the Senator's office. Since the Senate was in recess over the Fourth of July weekend, the fundraiser was scheduled for July 5. As soon as the date was established, the

Parkers and I met to start our planning. The Parkers offered to host the event at their Albuquerque home. Since the reception was scheduled at the end of a workday, we decided to have an open bar and serve *hors d'oeuvres*. The reception was held from six to eight in the evening. The donation was set at \$500 for each attendee. Next, we started work on the guest list. We wrote down the name of every person we knew who was involved in the local benefits community.

We sent our guest list with addresses to Jolynne at ASPPA. The ASPPA office printed and mailed the invitations. As soon as the invitations were mailed, the Parkers and I started the real work, personally calling each of the invitees. The personal telephone calls were critical to the success of our fundraiser. It was amazing at how many people accepted our invitation only after the phone call. Stephen L. Dobrow, CPC, QPA, QKA, a member of the ASPPA Board of Directors from California, and his wife, Donna, planned a vacation to Santa Fe, NM, in conjunction with our fundraiser. Stephen was our "official" photographer, and is responsible for the photographs accompanying this article.

Everyone appeared to have a great time at the reception. For several days after the event, I was actually thanked by several guests for extending the invitation.

Without a doubt, hosting a fundraiser is a lot of work. Would I do it again? You bet!

Brian H. Graff, Esp., APM, host Susan J. Chambers, FSPA, CPC, and George Chambers enjoying the reception.



Legislative News Alerts for \$250 and Over Contributors

IN SEPTEMBER, ASPPA Chief of Government Affairs, Teresa T. Bloom, APM, began sending e-mails with Capitol Hill legislative updates to all ASPPA PAC contributors who have sent in over \$250. The updates are scheduled to be sent quarterly, but in actuality, the pace of the activity on Capitol Hill will be the primary factor dictating when there is news to share.



ASPPA PAC Fund Raisers

IN MARCH 2005, ASPPA PAC hosted an extremely successful fundraiser in San Francisco for Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), ranking member of the Senate Finance committee. Under the leadership of Stephen L. Dobrow, CPC, QPA, QKA, and R. Bradford Huss, APM, \$20,000 was raised. Senator Baucus is one of our strongest advocates and we need him. He has been a consistent and strong supporter of employer-sponsored retirement plans (e.g., he was a leading proponent of the pension reform provisions that were ultimately included in EGTRRA). This year, he reintroduced, along with Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA), the National Employee Savings and Trust Equity Guarantee (NESTEG) Act (S 219), which received unanimous Finance Committee support in 2004 and has already received committee support in 2005. As the senior Democrat on the Senate Finance Committee, Baucus is playing a pivotal role in the Social Security and private pension reform debates.

As described on page 2, in July, we were behind the Albuquerque fundraiser for Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), a key member of both the Senate Finance and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committees. The effort was led by ASPPA PAC members Susan J. Chambers, MSPA, and Linda H. Parker; \$20,000 was raised.

For years, Sen. Bingaman has made it a priority to improve retirement security for the 50 million workers with no pension coverage. He recently introduced S 875, The Save More for Retirement Act of 2005, to promote automatic enrollment. He has also consistently promoted small business retirement plans. Bingaman has pledged to work toward the long-term viability of Social Security. He is also a co-sponsor of S 723, the SIMPLE Cafeteria Plan Act of 2005.

Also in July, you may have received an e-mail asking to support Congressman Earl Pomeroy (D-ND), a longtime champion for the employer-sponsored retirement plan system and key member of the House Committee on Ways & Means. Whenever pension-related issues come up in Congress, Pomeroy is at the forefront of the discussions. Recently after working closely with ASPPA, he introduced the Lifetime Pay Act of 2005, which would provide comparable tax incentives for the purchase of qualified, along with nonqualified, annuities. He is going to be a vital player in the upcoming retirement security debate in the Ways and Means Committee. With the loss of Rob Portman to trade and with Ben Cardin running for the Senate, Pomeroy is now one of the most knowledgeable pension lawmakers on Ways & Means.

Reception for Senator Baucus During Annual Conference

DURING ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ASPPA PAC will host a special reception for Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) on Tuesday evening, November 8. We are making a concerted effort to support Senator Baucus during the 109th Congress (2005-2006). If you will be attending Annual, we hope you will attend this special reception.

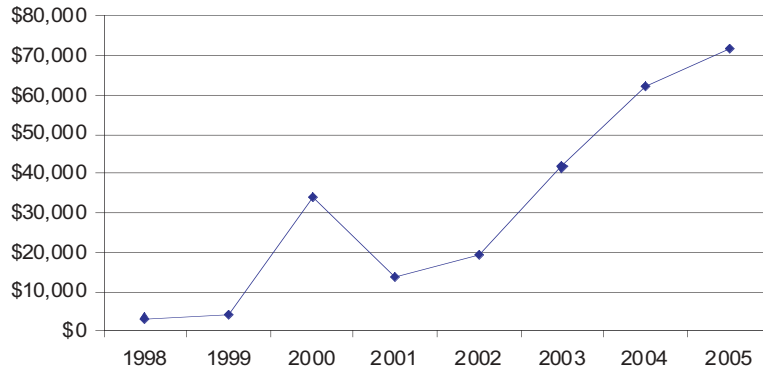
As ASPPA PAC members are most keenly aware, many of the issues expected to surface during the upcoming tax reform debate could be very damaging to the retirement plan system.

The proposals to eliminate the deduction of retirement plan contributions and to exempt all savings from tax would mean the end of employer-based retirement plans. Throughout this debate, a key member of Congress we need to champion for the retirement plans is the Senate Finance Committee's Ranking Democratic, Max Baucus. If you would like to attend the reception, please send \$250 by October 31, payable to Friends of Max Baucus, to Jolynne at the ASPPA office.



Contribution Efforts Continue to Skyrocket

THE APRIL 2005 PAC REPORT showed ASPPA PAC contributions to members of Congress increasing from 1998, the year of inception, to 2004. The current need to support key members of Congress is evident when you look at the increase in 2005. Through August, ASPPA PAC has already given more support than it had in all of 2004, its previous high year.



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Enroll me as part of the ASPPA PAC team!

Suggested Contribution Levels			
Presidents Club	\$5,000 (to be paid within five years)	Member	\$100 to \$499
Founders Club	\$1,000 (to be paid within two years)	Associate	\$50 to \$99
Leaders Club	\$500 to \$999		

Amount \$ _____

Contribution

Personal check (payable to ASPPA PAC) Visa MC Amex Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ Account No: _____

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

Name _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Company: _____ Occupation: _____

Mail to: ASPPA PAC | 4245 North Fairfax Drive, Suite 750 | Arlington, VA 22203

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