



PAC WITH A PUNCH

NCPA's political action committee gives community pharmacy a fighting chance in the capital

by Stephen L. Giroux, PD



Community pharmacy will never be able to outspend our well-funded political opponents in Washington, D.C. But we have something far more (or at least equally) powerful: our grassroots presence in every congressional district.

When we combine our ability to have relationships at the district level with our members of Congress and their staffs with a robust political action committee (PAC), community pharmacy becomes a powerful, personal force that our opponents can't match. "All politics is local," was one of the legendary House Speaker "Tip" O'Neill's favorite sayings, and if nothing else, community pharmacy is local.

"I have enjoyed getting to know many community pharmacists through the National Community Pharmacists Association PAC," says Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.), fourth ranking GOP member of the House of Representatives. "Being involved in the NCPA PAC is a great way for you to communicate important issues with candidates—helping us understand the struggles and opportunities you face, so we can work toward solutions."

Funded by your personal contributions, the NCPA PAC allows us to "punch above our weight" on Capitol Hill, and to use our relationships there to exert influence federal policies. Remember, it's not just Medicare and

Medicaid where federal laws and regulations affect our businesses. It's the Food and Drug Administration (drug approvals), Drug Enforcement Administration (controlled substances), Department of Defense (TRICARE), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (340B), and the Environmental Protection Agency (hazardous waste). Your support of the NCPA PAC enables us to meet with and educate members of Congress to raise the profile of community pharmacy's increasing value to health care and policies that impact it.

Over the last several years through the leadership of NCPA PAC (formerly NARD PAC), chairmen like Holly Henry, John Carson, and the late Sal D'Angelo (who founded the PAC and coined its enduring motto, "Get into politics or get out of pharmacy."), we have taken your PAC to a new level. It is one of the top 50 health care asso-



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National Community Pharmacists Association PAC

Get into politics or get out of pharmacy

The NCPA PAC is fighting for our profession in Washington, D.C., by demonstrating the vital role pharmacists play in health care

NCPA PAC disbursed
\$922,500

in direct contribution
to federal candidates
in the 2014 election



1 Pharmacist
in Congress,
Rep. Earl
“Buddy”
Carter, RPh,
100% increase
from 113th
Congress

Over 40
Pharmacy visits
with members of
Congress in 2015

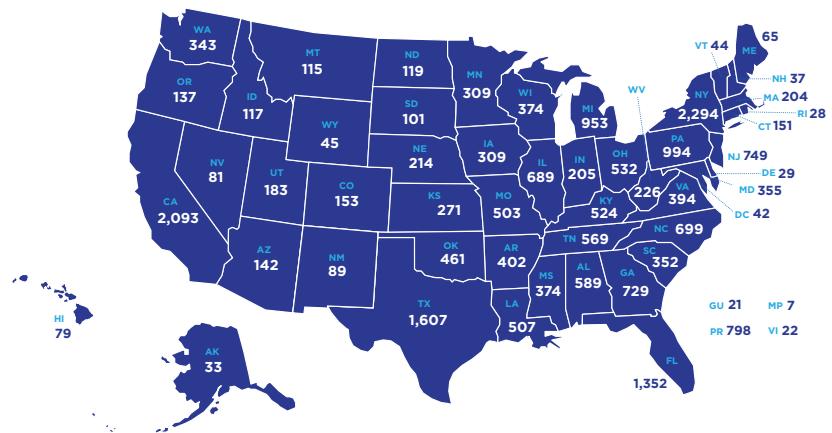
48 Pharmacists
serving in state
legislatures

Top 5 States

that **NCPA Members** Contributed
the Most In 2015

1. **NY**
2. **TX**
3. **PA**
4. **OK**
5. **VA**

INDEPENDENT PHARMACY FOOTPRINT



LEGISLATIVE TOP PRIORITIES:

- Generic Drug Pricing (MAC) Transparency
- Any Willing Pharmacy
- Provider Status



has the largest
pharmacy industry
trade association PAC

If every
NCPA member
gave \$1 a day
to the PAC
**WE'D RAISE
\$4.5M
A YEAR**

If you have any questions or want to learn more
about the NCPA PAC, please contact Kendal Miller
at kendal.miller@ncpanet.org or 703.838.2695

ciation PACs in Washington. Respectable, but we can't rest.

Raising money is a thankless, but necessary task that helps the political efforts of our tremendously talented advocacy team at NCPA. We hope to have as many of our members as possible engage in the political process and contribute on a regular basis to our PAC. We consider your contribution as an investment in our profession, our business, and our future. If all of our members do their part and contribute, the load is not nearly as heavy as it is currently on a relatively small percentage of our membership who do give regularly.

Our ask is that you give a dollar a day—\$365 a year. Ideally, you can be a PAC Champion by giving \$100 a month on your personal credit card (by law, PAC contributions must be from an NCPA member's personal funds). I always say that it is almost painless to have \$100 a month hit your credit card statement.

Or perhaps you are able to become a PAC MVP by contributing the maximum allowed of \$5,000 a year or \$416 monthly, which I'm proud to say that most of the NCPA leadership team (officers and board of directors) have done.

Additionally, we would welcome you to engage in any way you can to help us raise money and increase influence. Just like any political campaign, you can encourage your colleagues by email, text, phone calls, and snail mail letters to help in this effort. You could host a fundraiser for your member of Congress—if he or she is a champion of community pharmacy. You could ask any of your lawmakers to visit your pharmacy. That doesn't cost you a dime.

Our PAC staff at NCPA can help you with any of the above techniques or any idea that you may want to try.

How Do I Contribute?

- Go to the Advocacy Center, NCPA PAC section, and log in for an online contribution form.
- You can also download a copy of the contribution form PDF there.
- By check, payable to NCPA PAC: Mail to 100 Daingerfield Rd., Alexandria, VA 22314
- By phone: Call NCPA with your credit card information at 800-544-7447.
- By fax: Send your information to 703-683-3619. Include your name, mailing address, job title (occupation), and business name (employer).
- You also have the convenient option of automatic monthly contributions on your credit card.

NCPA PAC Firsts

- First national pharmacy PAC.
- First pharmacy PAC to be included in the Top 50 trade association PACs.
- First pharmacy PAC to raise \$225,000 in a two-year cycle.
- First pharmacy PAC to hold a major event at a national party political convention.
- First national pharmacy PAC to hold a fundraising event featuring members of the House and Senate.



Steve Giroux, PAC chairman and former NCPA president, is a tireless advocate for pharmacist involvement in politics.

Contact Kendal Miller at 703-838-2695 and kendal.miller@ncpanet.org.

Our opponents far outspend us. But we can do better, and when combined with our grassroots power, we can be far more effective. Thank you for your help. Let's try to make 2016 a

year of victories and prosperity and health for independent community pharmacy. ■

Stephen L. Giroux, PD, is NCPA PAC chairman; owner of Middleport Family Health Center, Middleport, N.Y.; and served as NCPA president 2007-08.

Photography: Mike DeFilippo