

# AMPAC Update

American Medical Association Political Action Committee  
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[www.ampaonline.org](http://www.ampaonline.org)

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## Regional Campaign Seminar in Oct.

On October 6, AMPAC will bring the latest installment of the Regional Campaign and Grassroots Seminar to Chicago for the AMA Alliance's annual Leadership Development Conference. The "Advocacy Crash Course" will focus on strategy and message development, grassroots lobbying, and fundraising.

The AMPAC Regional Campaign and Grassroots Seminars are designed to provide training in political campaigns and grassroots lobbying, so that physicians and friends of medicine can help advance medicine's agenda at all levels of government. AMPAC pays for faculty and materials, and a state medical society pays for meeting space and meals and invites attendees.

If you would like more information on co-hosting a Regional Seminar in 2010, please contact Jim Wilson [politicaleducation@ama-assn.org](mailto:politicaleducation@ama-assn.org). Thank you.

## 2010 AMPAC Federation Meeting

In order to consolidate meetings and costs, the AMPAC Board of Directors did not meet in the fall of 2009. Instead, the next AMPAC meeting will be the AMPAC Federation Meeting with state PAC Chairs and Directors. The meeting will be held on Friday, January 8, 2010 in conjunction with the State Legislative Strategy Conference in Rancho Mirage, CA. Please look for invitations in mid-October.

The meeting will begin at noon and will be followed by a reception and dinner. Previous meetings have featured panel discussions on membership and fundraising strategies. We welcome any suggestions you would have for discussion topics, and would like to stress the importance of physician participation at the meeting.

AMPAC will reimburse the cost of one hotel night for each state PAC chair and a state PAC staff member. For more information and/or to suggest a discussion topic or speaker, please contact Jim Wilson at [politicaleducation@ama-assn.org](mailto:politicaleducation@ama-assn.org).

## Early Contribution Policy

AMPAC contribution policy is driven by policies of the AMA House of Delegates and also involves working closely with our partners in the state medical societies. Given the profound impact of pending health system reform legislation on physicians and their patients, the AMPAC Board has implemented a limited contribution policy for early contributions in this election cycle. Congress will be judged largely on the outcome of this legislation and the AMPAC Board believes it is important to wait until the dust has settled and there is a clearer picture of where individual candidates stand on medicine's most important issues.

The ebb and flow of the legislative process is constantly changing and difficult to predict, especially in the first year of a Congress and more than thirteen months before the election. Contribution decisions thus have to be made very carefully. There are many members of Congress who are supportive of organized medicine and are in a position to influence the debate. These include leadership, key committee members, or vocal champions of medicine. So far, in the 2010 cycle AMPAC has contributed approximately \$150,000 to key members of Congress.

While AMPAC considers factors such as the relationship members of Congress have with the local physician community as well as their voting record, more than 25 percent of current Representatives and Senators have only been in Washington since 2007. These new members have had few bills to vote on to demonstrate their support for medicine, making it difficult to measure performance. It is important to note AMPAC understands the importance of building relationships, and over the last two cycles we have spent just under \$9 million, including nearly \$4 million in direct contributions to candidates. AMPAC will continue to carefully evaluate the policy process as the session proceeds, and we welcome input from our state medical society partners.

## Apply For 2010 Campaign Schools!

AMPAC Candidate Workshop  
February 19-21, 2010

AMPAC Campaign School  
April 21-25, 2010

Slots are still available for the 2010 AMPAC Campaign Schools!

The Candidate Workshop is ideal for physicians considering a run for public office. The Campaign School is an intensive, hands-on curriculum for training physicians as expert campaign volunteers and strong advocates for medicine. Each program offer hands-on training on fundraising and public speaking, and both will be held at the Ritz-Carlton in Pentagon City, VA.

Enrollment is open to AMA members, spouses, and Federation staff. AMPAC covers lodging, meals, tuition and course materials, a significant benefit to AMA members. If you would like applications sent to you, please contact Jim Wilson, Political Education Programs Manager, at [jim.wilson@ama-assn.org](mailto:jim.wilson@ama-assn.org) or (202) 789-7465.



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