Why ASTA Has a PAC

ASTA’S POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC) IS THE ONLY LEGAL MEANS BY WHICH THE ASSOCIATION CAN CHANNEL CONTRIBUTIONS TO FEDERAL CANDIDATES WHO UNDERSTAND THE TRAVEL AGENCY INDUSTRY’S LEGISLATIVE CONCERNS.

A strong PAC enables ASTA to develop relationships with policymakers in the White House and Congress. This provides the opportunity to educate our elected officials and to voice our concerns on issues affecting travel agents nationwide.

A PAC provides the ability to counterbalance the opposition’s influence on legislative matters. After all, politicians can hardly be faulted for voting in a way we don’t like if they haven’t heard our side of the story.

A strong PAC reflects ASTA’s commitment to be a major player in the governing process—and identifies the travel agency community as a recognizable force in seeking favorable policy outcomes for the industry and for the broader small business community.

By pooling resources, a PAC provides far greater impact for messages we want to send to Congress than would be possible with isolated, direct contributions from individual agents.

A PAC provides a unique and effective way for travel agents to become proactive in the political process that shapes our country.

*PACs are supported by personal, voluntary contributions.
The AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRAVEL ADVISORS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (ASTAPAC) is a special fund established under the federal election laws to allow ASTA to collect personal, voluntary contributions from travel agent members for the purpose of supporting political candidates and parties.

For over 40 years, ASTAPAC has succeeded in building political influence for ASTA and its members. Congress realizes that ASTA’s strength comes from the thousands of individual travel agents who contribute to its PAC program.

Change Equals Opportunity

As a new Congress is sworn in amid an extraordinary time in our nation’s history. As the country seeks to grow its way out of a recession, the new Administration is re-adjusting its priorities and Congressional Republicans are pledging to chart a new course. Who will emerge on top is anyone’s guess—but either way, travel agents have an opportunity to ensure that their needs are taken into account as Congress makes legislative decisions.

On the table in are proposals to cut taxes, reduce regulations on small businesses, changes to the independent contractor status and perhaps a rewrite the most important rules governing the nation’s air transportation system. Industries from across all sectors of the economy are lining up to tell their stories and are beginning, even now, to compete for the attention of the new Congress. It’s vitally important that Congress hear from our industry before decisions are made that can affect your business for better or for worse.

Your generous, voluntary contribution* to ASTAPAC will allow ASTA to make new relationships with lawmakers who—this year more than ever—may be new to Washington and unfamiliar with the travel agency industry and its important role in the economy.

*Contributions or gifts to ASTAPAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

First Step In Political Action

The mission of ASTAPAC is to help leverage the collective voice of the travel agent community regarding the political and legislative issues affecting the travel industry. Your voluntary commitment to ASTA’s Political Action Committee will help carry out the association’s legislative initiatives. The PAC serves to focus and to amplify the voices of travel agents from all across the country in order to deliver vital and timely messages to policymakers on Capitol Hill.

ASTA Government Affairs: Looking Out For Your Best Interests

ASTA’s in-house Government Affairs team diligently monitors activities in Congress, the White House and federal agencies as well as in all 50 state legislatures. Our dedicated department persistently speaks out on behalf of all member agencies, regardless of size or membership category.

SUCCESS ON THE POLITICAL FRONT ONLY HAPPENS WHEN MEMBERS LIKE YOU BECOME INVOLVED and committed to our grassroots activities. Your voice does make a difference—make it count with ASTA!

3 Easy Ways to Contribute

1) Online via credit card donation at ASTA.org/Donate
2) By return mail to: 675 N Washington St, Ste 490 Alexandria, VA 22314
3) By FAX to: 703.683.5570