The American Pharmacists Association Political Action Committee (APhA-PAC) provides a voice for pharmacists in the national political process. Because APhA-ASP believes strongly in the mission and importance of the PAC, we encourage all chapters to participate through the annual APhA-ASP “Back the PAC” Campaign.

II. What are the benefits of participating?

First, APhA-PAC is important to APhA-ASP members because the PAC’s sole purpose is to protect and promote our profession! As with anything else in politics, it is vital that we elect and keep lawmakers in office that recognize the value of pharmacists in the health care system. These champions will be key to the future of the profession and will help us continue to advance our goal of achieving provider status. As such, we are strongly encouraging APhA-ASP members to support APhA-PAC’s efforts for a better future.

Second, there is a prize (and maybe your pride) on the line. The top five chapters that raised the most money during the campaign will be publicly recognized at APhA Annual Meeting. We also encourage you to challenge other chapters in your state or region to see who can raise the most.

Third, this is a great opportunity to raise political awareness among your chapter, and to have fun doing it!
III. What are the rules of the Challenge?

- Follow all of the rules found in the document “PAC Fundraising Rules,” which can be found earlier in this section.
- The Back the PAC Campaign takes place between January 15th and March 20th of each year.
- Fill out the online “Chapter Submission Form” for each event you hold during the campaign. If your chapter decides to raise money at multiple events and activities, you will need to keep track of the funds collected each day for the event(s) and fill out separate submission forms for each event. Your total amount raised in the course of the Campaign will be tallied for the purpose of the competition.
- All monies should be collected and given to the SPAN Coordinator within 10 days of receipt and posted to APhA within 10 days of receipt.
- It is simplest if the SPAN Coordinator writes a personal check accounting for all of the contributions collected. Please make the check payable to APhA-PAC. The check should state the name of the event in the memo field in the bottom left corner of the check. (If you are sending checks from multiple individuals, please write the name of your school on the memo line.) Please do not send a check from your Chapter’s account, only use personal checks.

- The check for each event should be mailed to this address:

  APhA-PAC  
c/o Lauren DePutter  
2215 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20037-2985

- For more information or questions, please contact Lauren DePutter, Senior Manager, Grassroots Advocacy and PAC at ldeputter@aphanet.org or (202) 223-7181.

IV. What are some good fundraising ideas?

The best activities are those that raise political awareness, such as conducting a straw poll for the elections, hosting a political quiz game, hosting your member of Congress, a State of Union watch party (usually at the end of January), or State of the Union BINGO. See the document “APhA-PAC Fundraising Ideas” for detailed suggestions.

Another good idea is to throw a match challenge for your school. Find alumni of your school, faculty, preceptors, or deans who are willing to match the contributions of the student members of your chapter. Just be sure to only solicit current APhA members for APhA-PAC donations.

Most importantly, have fun with it!