

Political Action Committee Update

December 10, 2024

- **Sherm Oliver**

- Chairman, ATA Committee

- **Ken Miller**

- AOC Director of Advocacy & Outreach



ASSOCIATION
OF OLD CROWS



Overview

- Read-Aheads: Draft PAC Bylaws and PAC FAQs
- Establishing a PAC – What to Expect
 - Creating the PAC and its affiliation to AOC.
 - Ensuring accountability and transparency
 - Funding PAC start-up costs and fundraising.
 - ****No membership dues used for political activity****
 - Prior approval of solicitation and voluntary contributions.
 - Timeline for PAC activities.

Ad Hoc Committee Update

- Invitees/Attendees
 - Madison Arcangeli
 - Tony Lisuzzo
 - Kilo Parks
 - Myles Murphey
 - Greg Patschke
 - Erik Bamford
 - Haruko Kawahigashi
 - Rick Lu
 - Adam Goodwin
 - Scott Oliver
 - Amanda Brockermeier
- Meetings & Webinars
 - February 28
 - PAC operating framework
 - Timeline/Action Plan
 - May 29
 - PAC Consultant & Bylaws
 - September 13
 - PAC Bylaws Draft & PAC Education Plan
 - October 22
 - Approve draft bylaws for Board review
 - October 18
 - PAC Education Webinar (Chapter Officers)
 - November 13
 - Approve documentation for Board review
 - November 18
 - PAC Education Webinar (AOC Membership)
 - December 5
 - Final review of documentation

Why Does AOC Need a PAC?

■ A PAC Delivers 3 Main Values

- Helps grow the AOC because it will make us more relevant in our market.
- Provides value to our Industry Partners because it provides a collective voice to Congress.
- Benefits individual AOC members because it provides them a voice to Congress. A successful PAC can deliver opportunities to engage Congress locally through our chapters in the US.

■ A PAC Strengthens AOC Advocacy

- Our mission is in higher demand and receiving greater attention
- Education and Awareness on Capitol Hill, by nature, can never stop. PACs provide direct access to the Member to provide continuity to outreach efforts..
- Perspective on our need for a PAC: Forza DC

Establishing the PAC

- Multi-year effort that started in 2019. In December, the Board voted unanimously to begin the process of creating the PAC.
 - Establishing an ad hoc Committee
 - Drafting Bylaws for the PAC
 - Recommending the inaugural PAC Board
 - Educating the AOC Membership
- AOC Board will vote on a package in December to formally approve the creation of the PAC after January 1, 2025.
- Legal creation of PAC in Q1 2025; begin prior approval process
- Begin fundraising in Q3 2025; begin disbursements in Q4 2025/Q1 2026.

PAC Bylaws

- Participation in PAC activities limited to US Citizens AND Green Card Holders
- All contributions to CROW PAC shall be voluntary and no solicitation or secured donation by force, discrimination, intimidation.
- Establishes and outlines the duties of the officers of the inaugural PAC Board
- Provides guidelines for governance, indemnification, and dissolution.

PAC Board of Directors

■ Officers

- James Gigrich – President
- Rick Lu – Vice President
- Treasurer – “Kilo” Parks
- Assistant Treasurer – Dirk Smith (CFS, Inc)

■ At-Large

- Greg Patschke

■ Non-Voting Members

- Shelley Frost – Executive Director
- Ken Miller – Director of Advocacy & Outreach
- Madison Arcangeli – Forza DC
- Katy Nazaretova – Forza DC

Accountability and Transparency

- The AOC Board will establish reporting guidelines that the PAC Board must follow to maintain its affiliation status.
- The PAC must disclose all contributions to the FEC. All PAC contribution data to the FEC is available to the public.
- The PAC has no plans to establish a PAC Administrative Fund due to lack of governance and reporting requirements.

Questions?

Motion for Approval

- To approve the formal establishment and implementation of the AOC Political Action Committee (CROW PAC) after January 1, 2025, in accordance with proposed bylaws and the slate of nominees for the inaugural CROW PAC Board of Directors.

Next Steps

- Initiate preliminary filings post January 1, 2025
- Schedule initial PAC Board meeting (TBD January)
- Voluntarily sign prior approval form
- Designate AOC BoD ex officio officer to the PAC Board.
- Initial PAC Report to AOC Board (March 2025)

Advocacy and Technical Advisory (ATA) Committee Update

December 10, 2024

- **Sherm Oliver**

- Chairman, ATA Committee

- **Ken Miller**

- AOC Director of Advocacy & Outreach



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Overview

- **Name change!**
 - Combining the Advocacy and Outreach Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee.
- **Role of the ATA Committee**
 - To provide subject matter expertise and guidance to the Committee Chair and the Director of Advocacy and Outreach for the purpose of advancing program deliverables and outcomes. The Committee also provides accountability to ensure that deliverables are optimized and achieve expected value for targeted stakeholders. The Committee will have a standing virtual meeting every two weeks for committee members available to participate. Periodic participation is expected. Other communications will be via group and individual email and teleconference.

Deliverables

- The ATA Committee will inform the following deliverables:
 - AOC Family of Podcasts
 - Regular FTCN
 - Subscription FTCN
 - FTCN Live (from AOC events)
 - FTCN CTO Series
 - History of Crows
 - FTCN Replay
 - Congressional Education Series
 - Issues Briefs
 - Webinars (as needed)
 - Advocacy Newsletter NEW! – Quarterly/bi-monthly TBD

Podcast

- We have over 178,000 downloads of FTCN since its inception.
- Released episode 125 of the regular FTCN on November 27
- Subscription service formally launched in July 2024
- New Chief Technology Officer (CTO) series and Exhibitor Showcase at AOC select conferences.
- Expanding contract with Voxtopica in 2025 for audience development services.



Legislative Priorities and Focus Areas

- **EMSO-related trends to monitor**

- EMSO Workforce Readiness – DoD simply does not have enough talent to meet the workforce requirements for EMS Superiority. Need for core curriculum education and STEM to attract talent.
- Strategic divestment in platforms and systems that are costly to modernize or face obsolescence and shift to electronics and other EMSO/C4I technologies
- There is a changing DoD mindset on EMS. DOD is beginning to see EMS more as a contiguous maneuver space.
- Investment in Space Control capabilities. There is growing awareness about the imperative of Space control, but apparent lack of alignment with funding (due in part to classified programs).
- Joint Service strategy for development and fielding of UAS systems and related capabilities. DOD and Congress support for Replicator Initiative is important, but apparent lack of coordination underneath.
- Investment in Next-Generation Micro-electronics in support of Ai, including development of neuromorphic chips and other game-changing technologies that have broad implications for SWAP considerations on systems, especially UAS.
- Implementation of Sec. 1683 (FY 24 NDAA) to consolidate and update EW provisions and oversight of EMSSS Implementation Plan.

Looking Ahead to 2025

- Focus on successful launch of ATA Committee
- Work seamlessly with CROW PAC on congressional outreach
- Develop new Advocacy Newsletter
- Grow FTCN family of podcasts
- Increase stakeholder outreach (industry and military)

Action Items for the BoD

- Participate in FTCN subscriber edition – join audience or submit questions/topics in advance.
- Advise/Recommend FTCN topics and potential guests
- Help circulation/distribution of Advocacy and Outreach initiatives.

PAC Basics

Is the AOC eligible to start a PAC? Does a PAC affect AOC tax status?

The AOC is registered as a 501(c)6 nonprofit association and is permitted to start a PAC. All 501(4) and 501(6) organizations are eligible. In fact, nearly half of the top PACs are affiliated with 501(6) associations. The fact that AOC also has a separate 501(c)3 educational foundation (AEF) has no bearing on its ability to start a PAC. However, bookkeeping and governance must be separate. Therefore, neither the AOC treasurer nor the AEF treasurer should be the treasurer of the PAC. The same applies to other executive leadership responsibilities.

PAC Basics

Who manages the PAC?

- A separate PAC Governance Committee (PAC Board) will be established and appointed to manage the PAC with strategic guidance provided by AOC.
- The AOC will be responsible for drafting bylaws, identifying and appointing individuals to the PAC Board, registering the PAC with the FEC, and assigning administrative duties to ensure compliance.
- The AOC Board does not have any governance responsibilities over the PAC; however, it will establish reporting requirements and other guidance to maintain its affiliation status.

PAC Basics

How much will the PAC cost?

- No AOC membership dues – individual or group – will be allocated to political activity.
- The fees paid for PAC consultants comes from overhead and not drawn from a pot of Membership dues. PAC consultant fees are NOT considered donations from ANY members & corporate sponsors. It is generalized operations expenses for set-up, maintenance, and overhead expenses for the PAC, not to be confused with actual donations which will come from US persons only.

PAC Basics

Who can contribute?

- Only active AOC individual members who are US Citizens may contribute to the PAC. Contributions are voluntary. AOC members must provide prior approval to receive solicitations. AOC members who are US Citizens make up the “restricted class” for PAC solicitations.
- Foreign national, including permanent residents of the US who are not US citizens are prohibited from contributing to PACs
- Corporations who are AOC Industry Partners are also not part of the “restricted class.”

PAC Basics

**Can federal employees and active-duty military personnel be allowed to contribute to a PAC?
Do PAC contribution violate the Hatch Act?**

Yes, federal employees and military personnel are permitted to contribute to a PAC with their own personal resources. Such contributions do NOT violate the Hatch Act.

The purpose of the Hatch Act is to “prevent pernicious political activity” in the workplace, which mainly aims at curbing overt or potentially disruptive political engagement, including coercion, bribery, and solicitation.

Federal employees are allowed to contribute to political action committees. It is your money and your voice. As long as political activity is done outside of the federal workplace, not on official time, and using personal accounts (email, phone, financial, etc), there are no prohibitions. The Hatch Act is not meant to keep federal employees from engaging in any political activity.