We’ll take you there.

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 voluntary contributions from travel advisor members for the purpose of supporting political candidates and parties. ASTAPAC has been raising the Society’s political profile since 1979. Put simply, our advocacy successes are thanks to the travel advisors and agencies who contribute to our PAC program.
Dear Valued ASTA Members:

As co-chairs of the Government & Political Affairs Committee, we are proud to report that 2018 once again marked a milestone fundraising year for ASTAPAC.

Congratulations! Last year, ASTAPAC raised $286,635. Even more heartening, 2018’s fundraising totals represent an increase of 98% over our fundraising totals from just five years ago. Sixteen of ASTA’s local chapters exceeded their fundraising goals. It was also fantastic to see fifteen chapters raise more PAC funds in 2018 than in 2017.

This success is not by chance. Our members clearly recognize that ASTAPAC is a critical tool in the Association’s advocacy arsenal. It allows our members to pool resources, engage in the political process and influence public policy. Thanks to strong support from ASTA chapters and members across the country, we are in a better position than ever before.

As the 116th Congress begins, the relationships cultivated on Capitol Hill by ASTA headquarters, ASTA chapters and members using ASTAPAC resources will be invaluable. ASTA is being invited to “sit at the table” on a broad range of issues which will affect each and every one of our businesses. Our key issues for 2019 include harmonization of independent contractor laws and our fight to remove travel advisors from the Department of Labor’s regulatory “Blacklist.” At the same time, we will maintain our vigilance at the state level as the travel industry continues to be targeted for additional tax revenue.

In Washington, DC, PAC size matters! Contributions to ASTAPAC are essential as we advocate for our members, our businesses and our clients. ASTA has almost 10,000 active members – we have the numbers to be heard on the Hill. And with more contributors, we can do better – for our members, our clients and our profession.

For 2019, the Government & Political Affairs Committee, which oversees both ASTAPAC and ASTA’s government affairs agenda, is focused on the education and recruitment of ASTA members for our political advocacy efforts. In particular, we hope to increase our number of individual PAC donors by 25% in 2019.

We look forward to building on our success and encourage you to make 2019 the year you take your involvement beyond writing a check or donating online. Please respond to ASTA grassroots alerts for e-mails and phone calls to members of Congress and state legislators; volunteer to testify before state legislative committees or to represent ASTA at fundraisers for Members of Congress in your district. Most importantly, encourage your fellow ASTA members to make an investment in advocacy through ASTAPAC.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who donated in 2018. Your contributions inspire us to advocate tirelessly for the travel agency industry and the travel consumer at all levels of government.

With warm regards,

JENNIFER WILSON-BUTTIGIEG  
Co-Chair, Government & Political Affairs Committee  
Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc.  
New York, NY

CHRIS SEDDELMeyer  
Co-Chair, Government & Political Affairs Committee  
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Lima, OH
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Thanks to strong support from our members and member companies, the PAC reached new heights in 2018.
2018 ASTAPAC Charitable Match Program

Since 2010, ASTA’s Corporate Advisory Council (CAC) has funded the ASTAPAC Charitable Matching Program, which provides chapters who reach PAC fundraising and participation goals with matching funds to the charity of their choice. The goal of the program is twofold: to stimulate PAC fundraising and support ASTA’s advocacy work while allowing our chapters to give back to their local communities. Below are the chapters who qualified for matching funds based on 2018 fundraising.

PREREQUISITE – To qualify for charitable matching funds, a chapter must have an overall chapter participation rate of at least 7.5 percent, and have raised a minimum total of at least 50% of their fundraising goal. Unless a chapter meets this first test, it will not qualify for charitable matching funds.

Fundraising:
$1,500 in matching funds for the first five chapters to hit their fundraising goal;
- Midwest
- Hawaii
- Long Island
- Southern California

$750 in matching funds for the next five chapters to hit their fundraising goal;
- San Diego
- Arizona
- Greater Portland
- Ohio

Participation:
$1,250 in matching funds for the five chapters with the best participation rates;
- Midwest
- Hawaii
- New Jersey
- Long Island
- San Diego

$500 in matching funds for the next five chapters with the best participation rates;
- South Carolina
- New York City
- Arizona
- Upper Midwest
- Pacific Northwest (Virtual)

Improvement:
$500 in matching funds for the five most-improved chapter measured by percentage increase in total fundraising from 2017 to 2018;
- South Carolina (2600%)
- Long Island (628%)
- Great Lakes (438%)
- San Diego (370%)

$250 in matching funds for five the most-improved chapter measured by total overall funds raised in from 2017 to 2018;
- Long Island (+$9,230)
- San Diego (+$7,220)
- New York City (+$4,810)
- South Carolina (+$2,600)

Involvement:
$250 in matching funds to each chapter meeting the prerequisite (see prerequisite);
- Midwest
- Hawaii
- New Jersey
- Long Island
- San Diego
- South Carolina
- New York City
- Arizona
- Upper Midwest
- Pacific Northwest (Virtual)
How Does ASTAPAC Decide Which Candidates to Support?

Deciding which candidates to support in a given year is a process involving the Chair and members of the Government & Political Affairs Committee and ASTA’s Advocacy staff, which analyzes and interprets Congressional voting records and is able to pinpoint who is who in the area of travel and tourism policy and who best understands and supports the travel agency industry.

Among the criteria used by the Government & Political Affairs Committee to determine which candidates to support are the following factors:

1) Is the candidate sympathetic to the goals of travel advisors? Has the candidate supported specific proposals or policies advanced by the industry?

2) If an incumbent, does the candidate hold a key position of responsibility (i.e. chair or member of important committee or subcommittee; member of majority or minority leadership)?

3) If a nonincumbent, will the candidate pursue assignment to a key committee or subcommittee, or likely to be in a position to assist the profession?

ASTAPAC makes financial contributions to candidates for Federal office, regardless of party affiliation. We do not support candidates in state and local elections.

It is worth noting that a campaign contribution through ASTAPAC is not a means of buying votes. It is a “no strings attached” way of ensuring that responsible and dedicated legislators who understand and support the travel agency industry remain in or are elected to office.

To ensure the money is well protected and properly spent, many detailed reports are required by the Federal Election Commission from both ASTAPAC and the candidates it supports. Both must account for the sources of their funds and the purposes for which these funds are spent.

For a complete list of 2018 ASTAPAC Contributions, please contact Genevieve Strand at gstrand@asta.org.
2018 Donors

Chairman’s Circle

By law, ASTAPAC can accept corporate contributions and personal contributions in excess of $5,000 for the purposes of defraying the PAC’s operational costs.

Chairman’s Circle members have elected to take their investment in our advocacy work to the next level by funding these important activities.

- $25,000+
  - Matthew Upchurch

- $15,000+
  - None

- $10,000+
  - Ensemble Travel Group
  - Signature Travel Network
  - Virtuoso
2018 Donors continued

Diamond ($5,000+)
ASTA Midwest Chapter
ASTA Corporate Advisory Council
BCD Travel
Commonwealth Business Travel Group
Enterprise PAC
Jackie Friedman
Roger Hale
John Haskins
Denise Jackson
Toni Lanotte-Day
Sabre PAC
Travel Leaders Group
TravelStore
Rick Zimmerman

Emerald ($2,500 - $4,999)
Jim Bailey
Gloria Bohan
Josh Bush
Donna Daniels
Michael Dixon
Cathie Lentz Fryer
Troy Haas
Bill Haire
Margaret Haskins
Sunil Mahtani
Lauren Matthews
Steve Orens
Odyssey Travel
Vicki Powell
Rovia LLC
Travel and Transport, Inc.
Jennifer Wilson-Buttigieg
Marilyn Zelaya

Ruby ($1,000 - $2,499)
Eric Altschul
ASTA Arizona Chapter
ASTA DFW Chapter
ASTA New York City Chapter
ASTA Souther California Chapter
Philip Banks
Joseph Bates
Roger Block
Laurie Bohn-Issaure
Lisa Buckner
Craig Carter
Marc Castro
Ann Chamberlin
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David Juedes
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Amanda Klimak
Ernesto Lavanderio
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Rick Mazza
Heather McIntyre
Mark Meader
Eben Peck
Patty Perry
Lynda Philippi
Alex Sharpe
Susan Spain
Lee Thomas
David Lovick
Deb Mangas
Beth O’Donnell
Anita Pagliasso
Olga Ramudo
Deanna Rickert
Laura Rodriguez
Karen Schragle
Mary Louise Seifert
Susan Sinclair
James Smith
Genevieve Strand
Charles Sturm
Stephen Thomas-Schulere
Jennifer Walker

Platinum ($500 - $999)
Rick Ardis
ASTA New Jersey Chapter
Fred Bursch
Bill Coyle
Jose Da Rosa
Andrea Da Rosa
Mike Davidson
Jay Ellenby
Betsy Geiser
Dave Hershberger
Joanne Hunt
Geoffrey Landis
Jenn Lee
Walter Lee
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Anne-Marie Moebes
Colleen O’Connell
Mary Peters
Mike Premo
Rocky Racco
Libbie Rice
Doug Risser
Jorge Sanchez
Chris Seddelmeyer
TAMS Data LLC
Gold ($250 - $499)
ASTA Central & North Florida Chapter
ASTA Greater Atlanta Chapter
ASTA Orange County Chapter
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John Cruse
Christopher Dane
Michelle Fee
Sandi Ferreira
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Toni Lanotte-Day
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Gary Da Rosa
Leila Dada
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Susan Durbin
Jay Ellenby
Cindy Erickson
Jillian Everhart
Lynn Farrell
Janine Ferko
Dick Fislar
Mary Fislar
Mary Pat Flanagan
Carole Formento
Jennifer Fox
Marilyn Fredericks
Sharon Fritz
Pat Fulton
Linda Furland
Jo Marie Galaga
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Joanne Gardner
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Diane Gelaude
Daniel Genum
Joanne Giampa
Judith Gibbs
Melanie Gladden
Wendy Goodenow
Rajib Goyal
Brian Green
Donna Greenwald
Jesse Guerra
Ron Gulaskey
Nita Haas
Marie Hager
Robert Hale
Lisa Hale
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Ardeen Harris
Rob Harris
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Lisa Hoppe
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Rita Tosto
Ines Turus
Ralph Vasami
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Duane Wallace
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Jim Ward
Angela Ward
Phra Webster
Shirley Webster
Daniel Webster
Mike Weingart
Donna Welke
Linda Wendler
John Werner
Maureen Wilkinson
Avril Winke
Elizabeth Wolak
Norman Zarate
Caryn Zavislik
Lorrie Zinda

Bronze ($1 - $99)

Pamela Abraham
Gina Abucejo
Charlotte Ackerley
Cheryl Agodini
Ann Albano
Enrique Amaro Jr
Andrew Arrington
Blythe Asagi
Stephan Atlee
Elise Aust
Rodney Avery
Douglas Bader
Lynn Bailey
Eva Bailon
Aramis Baloyan
Robin Bandong
Simone Bassous-Smith
Karen Berry
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Staci Blunt
Gerda Boehlert
Windy Bondch
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Tseti Gezachew
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Jessica Hayes
Ann Hayward
Sheri Heartsill
Brandon Henry
Rachel Hershberger
Gail Hiddleston
Dawn Higgins-Stern
Gloria Hobbins
Norris Hobbins
Heidi Hoehn
Phillip Holland
Tama Holfe
Julie Howell
Lois Howes
Dan Ilves
Pamela Irwin
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Karen Jennings
Elizabeth Jer weights

2018 Donors continued
2018 Donors continued

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Tom Murray
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Mo Noubani
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Gabor Zsamboky

ASTAPAC Annual Report 2018
One Voice for Travel Advisors

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