

## PAC Report to GLAO

March 2018

The PAC continues to have success in our fundraising and our lobbying efforts. We have consistently supported candidates on both sides of the aisle who are friendly to issues that are important to us. We can boast that in every election, we support the winner in more than 90% of the races.

Last year we dropped the contract with Republic Strategies. They are a D.C. firm that specializes in fund raising and outreach to members of organizations. However, we have increased our PAC fundraising since we dropped the contract (and saved \$160,000), largely through the efforts of Sean Murphy who is the assistant legal counsel for the AAO. The Match program, whereby the Trustees have offered to match contributions of members up to a \$5,000 limit, has been tremendously successful and in large part why contribution levels have increased.

We continue to lobby for the Raise Act which would increase the allowable FSA contribution back to \$5,000. We currently are lobbying hard for student aide debt relief. A bill was introduced last fall and in committee at this time which would allow our young orthodontists, who have tremendous debt, to refinance that debt at a rate that is pegged to the 10 year Treasury note. They currently pay between 6% and 8%.

This is my final report, as I will be leaving the PAC Board at the AAO Meeting in May. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and hope that moving forward we all remember how important our legislative efforts are in allowing us to treat our patients with minimal government interference.

Rick Pfeffer