

# **Report to the ACEP Council**

## **The National Emergency Medicine Political Action Committee (NEMPAC)**

**and**

## **The ACEP 911 Legislative Network**

**Denver, CO  
October 2019**



# NEMPAC

A small, forward thinking group of ACEP members founded NEMPAC back in 1980 to help ACEP promote our legislative goals and express the concerns of emergency medicine to Members of Congress. Back then, the founders determined they would need to raise \$10,000 to make a difference on the issue of independent contractor status for emergency physicians. Today, due to the increased costs of running for office and the many issues that ACEP can influence in Congress, our goal is to raise more than \$1 million annually.

Just like our Board today, NEMPAC's founders were from all parts of the country and were "party" blind when it came to selecting candidates worthy of NEMPAC support. And just like today, NEMPAC is the only national PAC solely dedicated to representing our bi-partisan interests in the nation's capital.

Over the years, NEMPAC has opened doors, educated new and veteran lawmakers, and helped emergency medicine identify friends and champions in the U.S. Congress. This access created opportunities to express our well-reasoned viewpoints on the issues of the day for nearly 40 years. Issues like out-of-network billing, physician payment reform, medical liability reform, solutions to the opioid and mental health crisis, gun violence and injury prevention, protecting the prudent layperson standard, and funding for EM research and graduate medical education, to name a few.

Today, by combining and carefully allocating donations from thousands of individual emergency physicians, NEMPAC has grown to be one of most recognized and credible health care PACs in the nation and is THE VOICE of emergency medicine in the political process.

The Council Challenge has been in place for more than 25 years. Councilors now contribute more than \$300,000 annually to NEMPAC, which is more than one-quarter of our total raised annually.

Currently, NEMPAC is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest physician specialty PAC and the 5<sup>th</sup> largest health care professional PAC in the nation.

## **2018 Election Cycle Highlights**

NEMPAC raised \$2,145,070 over the 2018 two-year election cycle. We had 5,514 donors with a 20% participant rate of eligible donors. The average donation to NEMPAC is \$263.

In the 1988 elections, NEMPAC contributed just under \$100,000 to 13 Senate and 73 Congressional candidates. 30 years later, NEMPAC contributed more than \$2.2 million to 27 Senate candidates, 150 House candidates, and other national party committees. Our giving was split 58% Republican/42% Democratic.

NEMPAC raised \$605,000 as of September 26 toward our goal of \$2 million for the 2020 election cycle.

The number of "Give-A-Shift" (\$1,200 and above) donors continues to grow exponentially. In 2004, 70 ACEP members contributed at the "Give-a-Shift" level. As of September 25, 591 ACEP members are donating at the "Give-a-Shift" level.

In 2009, we instituted the ***“Five Year Give-a-Shift”*** level which recognized 71 ACEP members. Today, we have 125 ACEP members at this level.

In 2014, we began to recognize ***“10 Year Give-a-Shift”*** donors. Currently, there are 77 ACEP members at this level.

In 2019, for the first time, we will recognize 30 ACEP members who donate at the ***“15 Year Give-a-Shift”*** level.

21 ACEP members donate at the \$2500 “Platinum” level.

Two ACEP members donate at the \$5,000 “Chairman’s Club” level.

### **NEMPAC Guidelines for contributions to candidates in the 2020 Election Cycle**

At the beginning of each two-year election cycle, the NEMPAC Board of Trustees develops a NEMPAC Contribution Guidelines/Strategic Plan and Budget. The 2020 Cycle Plan and Budget was approved by the NEMPAC Board of Trustees on May 5, 2019. This document is available by request to the NEMPAC Board of Trustees.

Federal candidates are evaluated using multiple criteria including but not limited to votes and co-sponsorship of ACEP priority legislation. 2020 criteria follow past NEMPAC practice of focusing on a candidate’s support and co-sponsorship of ACEP’s key legislative and regulatory initiatives, committee assignments, leadership position, relationship to state chapter and/or local ACEP members, and difficulty of the re-election race as the basis for evaluating possible NEMPAC contributions. Incumbents and new candidates seeking NEMPAC support that meet criteria in several categories are eligible for more support. In addition, a list of NEMPAC Champions was identified by the NEMPAC Board and staff. The champions receive maximum financial support and additional resources that NEMPAC is able to provide.

Although a candidate may be budgeted a certain contribution amount, the candidate will not necessarily receive the full amount for which he or she is budgeted. A significant change in the legislative/political climate may dictate that we reach as many candidates as possible (rather than a targeted focus on candidates on a committee). Ongoing assessments by the NEMPAC Board of Trustees determine which overall approach is most compatible with ACEP’s legislative and regulatory agenda.

An internal spreadsheet is maintained by NEMPAC staff which tracks criteria for every seated member of Congress and includes recommended budget amounts for each member. This document is reviewed and modified throughout the election cycle to reflect movement on legislative considered by congress, campaign activity and election ratings and ACEP staff and member interactions with legislators. The internal document includes voting/sponsorship records of key ACEP legislation for that Congress and votes and sponsorships of key legislation in prior Congressional sessions if applicable. The decision to track specific votes and co-sponsorships is based on the legislative priorities established by the ACEP Federal Government Affairs committee at the beginning of each Congress. Although ACEP may track multiple issues and bills in any given congressional session, only those that are determined by the ACEP FGA Committee and ACEP Board of Directors to be key issues for emergency medicine that are moving through the congressional process either by accumulating co-sponsors, consideration by congressional committees, or inclusion in House or Senate floor votes, for example, are tracked.

### ***NEMPAC Honor Roll***

The Board of Trustees of the National Emergency Medicine Political Action Committee (NEMPAC) would like to thank the following ACEP members for their generous support.

\*List is as of September 25, 2019 and will be updated post ACEP19.

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### **Outstanding EM Group Contributors**

The ACEP Board of Directors and the NEMPAC Board of Trustees recognizes the following EM physician groups for their efforts to encourage their ACEP member physicians to contribute to NEMPAC to unify and strengthen the voice of emergency medicine in the political process.

Cascade Emergency Physicians  
Eastside Emergency Physicians  
Emergency Physicians of Central Florida  
EPIC  
Henry Ford  
Northeast Emergency Medicine Specialists (NEMS)  
Northside Emergency Associates (NEA)  
TeamHealth  
UMASS Memorial University Health Associates  
(WV) University of Virginia  
US Acute Care Solutions (USACS)  
Vituity  
Wake Emergency Physicians Washington University

# The 911 Legislative Network

Along with NEMPAC, the 911 Legislative Network plays a significant role in promoting ACEP's legislative agenda to Congress. When ACEP recognized that it was competing for federal legislators' time and attention in an environment burgeoning with important legislative issues, ACEP's Federal Government Affairs Committee and the Board of Directors voted to create a technically sophisticated grassroots network. Launched in April 1998, the 911 Legislative Network encourages ACEP members to cultivate relationships with their federal legislators for long term, ongoing lobbying and educational efforts. The goal is to have emergency physicians across the country available as resources and healthcare issue experts for federal legislators. As "citizen lobbyists," 911 Network members carry ACEP's concerns directly to policy makers and staff to explain how legislation or regulation affects medical care provided in an emergency department. ACEP provides the tools and the training to help 911 Legislative Network members effectively communicate with their legislators. More than 4,000 ACEP members currently participate in the 911 Network.

## **Hosting an ED Visit or Participating in a District Meeting with Your Legislator**

An important component of the 911 Network is coordinating meetings back home between ACEP members and their federal legislators. These meetings help to educate legislators on emergency medicine issues and the challenges faced in providing emergency care today. Over the past year, we met all of the 90 new members of the House of Representatives either in meetings during LAC, fundraising events coordinated by NEMPAC or ED Visits and District Meetings with ACEP members. 55 meetings were held back home with ACEP 911 Members. Over the recent six-week congressional recess, ACEP members met back home with 42 legislators and/or their district staff to discuss surprise billing.

The program is ongoing and we urge you to contact the ACEP Washington DC office if you would like to host a visit for your federal legislator.

## ***911 Network Member of the Year***

Each year, a "911 Network Member of the Year" is selected from among the most active advocates in the Network based on an accrued point system which includes attending events, hosting ED visits, responding to action alerts and recruiting new members to the Network. **The 2019 winner was Dr. Don Stader from Colorado.**

**As leaders of ACEP, it is important that members of the Council participate in the 911 Legislative Network.** Councillors are well informed about the issues facing emergency medicine and ACEP's efforts to promote the specialty. This makes members of the Council the perfect spokes persons to carry ACEP's message to their legislators. **ACEP's goal is to achieve 100% Councillor participation in the ACEP 911 Network.**

**NEMPAC and the 911 Legislative Network help promote the specialty of emergency medicine. We thank the Councillors for their past support and encourage all members of the Council to contribute to NEMPAC and sign up for the 911 Legislative Network. Your participation will help ensure the future of our specialty and our patients.**