



nhca
care pac

Participation Guide

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Section 1: Frequently Asked Questions

What is Care PAC?

Care PAC is the political action committee for the Nebraska Health Care Association. Under the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act (NRS §49-1401 – §49-14,141), Care PAC is a “separate segregated political fund” sponsored by NHCA for the purpose of accepting contributions and making expenditures in support of or in opposition to the election of state-level candidates.

Why is Care PAC so important?

Legislation and government regulation will always present challenges to our profession. Pressures on reimbursement and licensure force our industry to make changes in the way we operate every day. The good news is that we can take an active role in trying to shape our destiny in the policy development arena.

Getting the right policy makers into office—and helping to keep them there—is absolutely essential. Doing this obviously requires participation in the democratic election process. Care PAC enables us to use our collective voice in pooling resources and advocacy efforts to facilitate a stronger presence for long-term care providers in State Government.

Who can contribute to Care PAC?

Care PAC may accept contributions from NHCA members. This includes:

- employees of any member facility or organization (Non-proprietary and governmentally owned facilities cannot contribute to Care PAC but the employees of those types of facilities may)
- proprietary facilities
- business associate members and their employees

The NHCA itself may not contribute to the PAC; however, it may pay certain administrative expenses of the PAC. Individuals and organizations that are not members of the NHCA cannot contribute to Care PAC.

Are there restrictions on contributions to the PAC?

All contributions must be voluntary contributions.

Care PAC may accept the following types of contributions:

- Cash (currency)
- checks
- credit cards
- payroll deduction

A contribution of more than \$50 in the form of currency cannot be accepted. Likewise, anonymous contributions cannot be accepted. However, contributions of \$50 or less received either as the result of a fundraising event (such as a dinner or auction) or from the sale of political merchandise are not considered anonymous contributions.

Are there limitations on spending PAC money?

Care PAC may disburse funds to state-level candidates, only. Contributions are directed by the PAC Committee. The PAC itself is permitted by law to pay its own administrative expenses. However, Care PAC funds may not be used to pay employees or for lobbying efforts. Generally speaking, there is no limit on how much a PAC may contribute to a candidate.

What are the reporting requirements of Care PAC?

Periodic campaign statements are required to be filed by the NHCA staff with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Conversely, contributors to Care PAC are not required to file any information or forms with the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission.

Section 2: How to contribute to Care PAC

If you, as an **individual**, are an employee of a NNFA/NALA member facility, you can make a personal contribution to Care PAC. Personal checks can be made payable to Care PAC and mailed to the NHCA office and contributions using your credit card can be made online at the NHCA website. Another option is to set up a recurring credit card payment. Please contact the Vice President of Finance at NHCA to arrange this type of contribution.

There are currently seven levels of giving. They are:

- President's Circle
 - Platinum President's Circle (\$5,000 or more)
 - Gold President's Circle (\$2,500-\$4,999)
 - Silver President's Circle (\$1,000-\$2,499)
- Capitol Club (\$500-\$999)
- Advocate Club (\$200-\$499)
- Leadership Club (\$50-\$199)
- Contributor Club (\$10-\$49)

Choose the level of giving that is right for you. There are sometimes exclusive receptions and/or events for members of the top tiers. We hope that you can join us!

If your **proprietary facility** would like to make a contribution, it can certainly do so. One of the best ways to participate is by giving at least one dollar per

licensed bed in the facility. It's quick, easy and effective. Many facilities contribute in this way and, in fact, some contribute even more than one dollar per bed (\$2 per bed, \$5 per bed, etc.). This can be done by sending a corporate check to the NHCA office or through a corporate credit card on the NHCA website.

Unfortunately, Care PAC cannot receive contributions **from governmental and non-proprietary facilities**. However, the employees of these types of facilities may make a personal contribution to Care PAC and even band together to organize a fundraiser or similar activity (see below for a few ideas).

Section 3: Fundraising Activities for Facilities

The strength of Care PAC depends upon participation of NNFA and NALA members and their employees. Growing the PAC in terms of both dollars raised and the number of contributors is extremely important for the long-term viability of our association. Think about how large our political action fund could be if every administrator and employee of every member facility contributed! Obviously, we need to continue to spread the word about Care PAC and encourage people to get involved.

There are several ways a facility can encourage its employees to participate in Care PAC. The following are *examples* that are fairly easy to organize:

- NHCA staff will gladly visit your facility to give a short presentation on advocacy and the importance of participating in PAC. All that is needed is a date and time and we'll be there!
- Jeans Day: Pick a day on which employees may wear jeans if they contribute a certain amount (\$5 or some other amount).
- Football Toss: Charge an entry "fee," which serves as each participant's contribution. Each participant tries to throw a football through a hole on a poster board. The contestant who makes the most shots wins a prize.
- Putt-putt competition: This can be done like the football toss described above. The golfer who sinks the most putts wins.
- Donut Day: An administrator brings in donuts, and instead of an entry fee, an employee contributes a set amount
- Get creative! The sky is the limit!

VERY IMPORTANT, please note:

- Regardless of how you raise funds for Care PAC, you must always keep a list of the names of the participants and how much each

person contributed. The list must accompany the contribution when sent to NHCA.

- Using gambling and games of chance as a way to raise funds for a political action committee is strictly prohibited by law.
- All "prizes" for any activity such as the ones described above are considered "in-kind contributions" to Care PAC. The price paid for the prize (or donuts, in the case of Donut Day) should be treated just like a regular contribution.
- If you have any questions regarding the legality of a potential fundraiser or activity, please contact the NHCA.

Section 4: Resources

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