

Association of Commuter Rail Employees Political Action Committee



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Since our inception three years ago, ACRE has been successfully operating in the legislative arena by making friends, campaigning for candidates, promoting our organization and even navigating the recent Assault Bill (A11756) through the New York State Legislature in Albany. We have done all this without the benefit of funds that are traditionally made available by a Political Action Committee (PAC). However, with the renewed legislative attacks on our union by the International organizations we left, ACRE's Executive Board believes the time has come to establish our own PAC fund. The establishment of our own PAC fund simply recognizes the reality that these funds have become an important aspect of American Politics since organized labor invented them in 1943 as a loophole around federal campaign finance laws.

What is a Political Action Committee?

- ◆ PAC Funds or "Separate Segregated Funds" as they are called by the Federal Election Commission, are independent organizations that raise money to promote the interests of their members.
- ◆ They distribute funds to candidates seeking elected office who share common goals and ideals with the members of the PAC.
- ◆ They also support the passage or defeat of legislative and regulatory issues that impact the members of the PAC.

How does a PAC Fund Work?

- ◆ PACs work by receiving voluntary contributions from people belonging to organizations; chiefly corporations, ideological groups, trade associations, and labor unions.
- ◆ Because PACs cannot get their money from the sponsoring group's treasury, they must rely on voluntary contributions from their members.
- ◆ This arrangement bypasses federal laws that prohibit direct contributions from companies or unions, however, all PAC records are filed with and checked by the Federal Election Commission in Washington.

Why should I join the Association of Commuter Rail Employees Political Action Committee?

- ◆ The simple answer is to have your voice heard. By voluntarily contributing you are joining your brothers and sisters who share your concerns and interests.
- ◆ The combined contributions made by ACREPAC will greatly enhance your ability to provide meaningful support to candidates in Albany, Hartford and Washington.

What is my required contribution?

- ◆ There is no required contribution. We suggest you make a monthly voluntary donation of \$5 or \$10 but this is only a suggestion. You may voluntarily contribute any amount, however, the Executive Board does not believe any one individual should contribute more than \$15 per month (under the law individuals may contribute as much as \$5,000 per year)

- ◆ Contributions to ACREPAC are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

We hope every ACRE member will recognize the benefits our PAC fund can provide and will chose to participate. Remember, your contribution will allow ACREPAC to support candidates who share our concerns and will represent the interests of our members on all legislative issues related to railroads in general and our commuter railroad in specific.

Fraternally yours,
James Fahey, Director
Anthony J. Bottalico, General Chairman LD 1
Michael F. Doyle, General Chairman LD 9
Thomas Ryder, General Chairman LD 166
Joseph Savio, General Chairman LD 37
Jack Gaines, Legislative Director
Mark L. Amorello, Secretary /Treasurer

How Do I Join

Join by simply completing this ACREPAC membership form and returning it to the union office or by mailing it to: **ACREPAC, 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 215, NY 10170**

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Craft _____ Employee # _____

I authorize a Monthly payroll deduction in the amount of:

\$2.00

\$5.00

\$10.00

Other

Signature _____

NEWS

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ACRE

“Moving the
people who
move
the world”

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A Publication for the Members of the Association of Commuter Rail Employees

ACRE-PAC

INSIDE

For some time, ACRE's Executive Board has been having discussions concerning the formation of a Political Action Committee (PAC). In May a decision was reached to move forward with the establishment of the PAC fund and a PAC committee was established. An initial mailing was sent out to all ACRE members explaining what a PAC fund is, how it operates, and the benefits such a fund can provide. We would like to thank everyone who responded and took the time to return their application with a donation to the fund.

ACRE's establishment of a PAC fund came after much discussion about the realities of American politics and our role as a public service transportation provider. Our employment with MTA/MetroNorth Railroad places us in a very unique position. Because we work in the public sector, our jobs more than any others in the railroad industry, involve politics in one form or another.

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Contract

Of utmost interest to all ACRE members is the status of our contract negotiations. Last year, many of our members took the time to fill out a questionnaire we had included in a previous newsletter. The results expressed an overwhelming sentiment to make improvements in our health and welfare benefits a number one priority, specifically our post age 65 coverage.

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West of Hudson

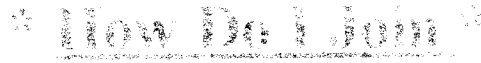
On April 1, 2003, MetroNorth entered into a long term lease/-purchase agreement with the Norfolk Southern Railroad wherein MetroNorth will assume responsibility for the maintenance of the rightofway on the Port Jervis Line. Continued on page 3.....



If you have not signed on to support the ACRE-PAC Fund we urge you to consider a contribution as soon as possible. Supporting the many candidates who help protect our interests has never been more important. A small contribution of just \$2.00 to \$5.00 a month is a small price to help protect our standard of living and working conditions on this railroad.

We also want to thank all of you who have already contributed and returned your application with such generous donations. Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to call the union office at 212-599-5856 and speak with your General Chairman or New York and Connecticut legislative representatives.

Below is an application form please return it to the union office: **ACRE-PAC Fund, 420 Lexington Avenue Suite 215, New York, NY 10170.**



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Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____ Craft _____ Employee# _____

I authorize a monthly payroll deduction in the amount of:

\$2 \$5 \$10 other _____

Signature _____

**Association of Commuter Rail Employees
420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 215
New York, N.Y. 10170**

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