

Goal in Sight



James Thrall, MD, FACR
Chair of RADPAC

After the November 2006 elections, the RADPAC Board looked at the highest performing political action committees (PACs) in the physician community and saw that the biggest PACs at that time (Anesthesiologists - \$2,034,981 and Orthopaedic Surgeons - \$1,997,934) hovered around the \$2 million mark. It was this data and the continued growth of RADPAC that led to the RADPAC Board's decision to set \$2 million as the goal for this 2007-2008 election cycle.

Coming off another successful ACR Annual Meeting where RADPAC raised more than \$129,000 from 410 contributors, I am very pleased to say that the goal of reaching \$2 million raised for this election-cycle is in sight! Currently, we have raised \$1,157,000 hard money and \$1,375,000 hard and soft money combined for this election-cycle.

The presence and impact of RADPAC is undeniable – and evident – in so many ways. Clearly the most obvious way RADPAC makes an impact is by making contributions to federal candidates for election to Congress. RADPAC so far this election-cycle has contributed more than \$1.2 million to federal candidates and party committees. These contributions are made by RADPAC when attending fundraising events in Washington, D.C. [Attendance at the fundraising events provides RADPAC with face-to-face access to Members of Congress and their staff.](#) So far this election-cycle RADPAC has already attended more than 600 fundraising events. To put this in perspective, Congress last year and so far this year has had a combined 228 legislative days in session. This means that RADPAC averages nearly 3 fundraising events per day that Congress is in session. Attending so many fundraising events helps RADPAC's visibility on Capitol Hill and allows RADPAC to educate Members of Congress on legislative issues important to the radiology profession.

One would expect most of RADPAC's activities to be focused inside the beltway as described above but RADPAC's outreach extends far beyond the Washington, D.C. area. This year alone, RADPAC has hosted eight radiology-specific fundraising events for Members of Congress in their state. These local fundraising events provide radiologists

access to their Members of Congress that they normally would not get and allows for a focused discussion on imaging specific issues.

Another, more nuanced way RADPAC has had an impact is with coordinating site visits where Members of Congress visit a radiology practice to learn firsthand how radiologists do their job. Over the last two years, RADPAC has coordinated more than 60 of these facility visits. These site visits give radiologists a forum to show Members of Congress the technology involved in providing imaging services as well as the volume of patients radiologists serve in the local community.

Not only are the local radiology-specific fundraising events and site visits important in educating the Member of Congress but they are equally important in getting us engaged in RADPAC's advocacy efforts and ultimately in having a say in legislative policies that will dictate the future of the radiology profession. **With more than 600 direct points of access from attending fundraising events plus another 60 site visits -** RADPAC clearly represents our collective voice in the political process on Capitol Hill.

It is up to each of us individually to be participants, not observers, that this collective voice is heard loud and clear.

I continue to look forward to working with you as we face the challenges that lie ahead for our profession. If you have any questions, please contact Ted Burnes, director of RADPAC, at 888-295-8843 or via e-mail at tburnes@acr.org, or you may contact Heather Kaiser via e-mail at heatherk@acr.org.