The AVMAPAC mission is to maintain a Congress that makes sound science-based decisions, and to work to elect legislators dedicated to improving animal health, welfare, and public health, and to advancing the veterinary medical profession. Its goal is to advance the legislative agenda, interests, concerns, and priorities of the AVMA by contributing to the campaigns of candidates who support AVMA issues or who are willing to hear and consider AVMA positions on those issues in their decision-making process. To provide the necessary funds, the AVMAPAC solicits personal contributions from AVMA members and their immediate families, and AVMA member employees. In addition, the AVMAPAC is charged to educate the general membership of the AVMA and to promote and encourage an understanding of the political and legislative processes of the federal government.

Through the AVMAPAC, veterinarians have a voice on a national scale that reaches beyond their communities or states. The AVMAPAC works cooperatively with AVMA’s grassroots network to help identify veterinarians who have personal contact with their representatives and/or senators and utilize those contacts to help advance the AVMA legislative agenda.

AVMAPAC membership is often the first step in becoming politically active, and members who contribute to the PAC are more likely to vote in elections and get involved in political campaigns. AVMAPAC support has benefited the AVMA and the entire veterinary profession by gaining access to lawmakers and by establishing personal relationships between AVMA members/staff and legislators.

The AVMAPAC is managed by the AVMAPAC Policy Board, which operates independently pursuant to a Constitution approved by the AVMA Executive Board and the rules established by the Federal Election Commission. The AVMAPAC Policy Board consists of six members—three are appointed by the AVMA Executive Board, and the AVMA House Advisory Committee appoints three.

The PAC Policy Board encourages veterinarians to run for political office at all levels of government. It will consider providing support to veterinarians who declare to run for the US Congress and who are in good standing with their state and national associations.

Meetings—The AVMAPAC Policy Board met three times during the past year: at the AVMA Annual Convention in Seattle, and at the AVMA Conference Center in Washington, DC in October 2009 and March 2010. The AVMAPAC Policy Board also conducts business electronically and via teleconference. Dr. John de Jong served as Chair.

AVMAPAC Operational Budget—AVMAPAC expenses for 2009 were $112,754, which is 68% of the budgeted $165,500. The budget savings during 2009 was primarily due to judicious budgeting in a tight budget environment and the open PAC Manager position from January 2009 to September 2009.

AVMAPAC Fund Raising—The AVMAPAC can solicit funds only from its solicitable class, which is limited to the general membership of the AVMA and their immediate families, and qualified AVMA employees. During the 111th Congress First Session (2009), the AVMAPAC collected $257,628.70 total contributions from 1,963 individual contributors totaling 2% of AVMA eligible membership and 41% of the House of Delegates. While the AVMAPAC had a very successful 110th Congress (2007–2008); contributions decreased by 12% in 2009 and 1,345 contributors in 2008 did not contribute in 2009 (125 individuals who did not contribute to AVMAPAC in 2008 returned to AVMAPAC in 2009).

During the 111th Congress 2nd Session, from January 1 to April 31, 2010, the PAC raised approximately $95,000 from 415 individuals: a 5% increase from the same time period in 2009. Sixty-five % of 2010 contributors are new or returned donors. In addition, 5% of 2010 donors raised their contributions (total of $7,000 from 2009 to $18,800 in 2010) and only 4% decreased their contribution (total of $3,650 in 2009 to $1,975).

The AVMA PAC Policy Board has instituted a number of new programs to increase contributions and engage previous contributors of the AVMAPAC. The PAC Board implemented a new fundraising theme, campaign timeline, reminder system, and political involvement with attending fundraising events for AVMAPAC. The 2010 AVMAPAC fundraising theme is “AVMAPAC: Supporting non-partisan pets.” The initial AVMAPAC campaign will begin with the membership dues invoice, followed by postcard reminders (mailed and electronic), PAC Board peer-to-peer calls, and a newsletter. The PAC Board will be responsible for raising money from assigned committees, boards, and councils.

The PAC continued the State and School fundraising campaign—this is a competition where veterinary schools compete against other veterinary schools and states compete against other states. Donations to the PAC will be attributed to the donor’s home state and school of record. The contest runs from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. There is an aggregate winner (total contributions received) and a per capita winner (total contributions received/AVMA Members or alumni) for the school and the state with the highest total in each category. The four winners will each receive a $1,000 contribution to their scholarship fund. Scholarships and accolades will be given at the AVMA Annual Convention in Atlanta. As of April 30, 2010, the results are as follows: School contest, aggregate: #1 Iowa State; #2 University of Georgia; #3 Auburn University; #4 University of Missouri; #5 Texas A&M. Per capita: #1 University of Missouri; #2 University of Georgia; #3 Iowa State; #4 Auburn University; #5 Tex-
as A&M. State contest, aggregate: #1 California; #2 Illinois; #3 Florida; #4 Texas; #5 Nevada. Per capita: #1 Nevada; #2 West Virginia; #3 Illinois; #4 Delaware; #5 Hawaii.

AVMAPAC Contributions to Qualified Candidates—
The AVMAPAC is a nonpartisan PAC. The AVMAPAC Policy Board uses the following criteria for federal candidates to receive AVMAPAC contributions:
- Is the incumbent/candidate or his/her family member a veterinarian?
- Is the incumbent/candidate a pro-science and pro-veterinary medicine legislator?
- Does the incumbent/candidate represent a district/state with veterinary schools?
- Does the incumbent/candidate represent a district/state with a significant number of AVMA members, and does the incumbent/candidate have a strong relationship with AVMA members?
- Is the incumbent on key Congressional committees which consider legislation of importance to AVMA and are supportive of AVMA positions?

In addition, the AVMAPAC Board uses the following guidelines to analyze the above criteria:
- AVMAPAC supports Congressional members who are veterinarians or have a veterinarian in their family.
- AVMAPAC supports incumbents who serve in leadership positions or are on key Congressional committees that consider legislation of importance to AVMA and who are supportive of AVMA policies and positions.
- AVMAPAC supports incumbents who understand veterinary concerns and are supportive of AVMA positions.
- AVMAPAC’s priority is to members of Congress who serve in leadership or sit on committees of jurisdiction, including but not limited to, House and Senate Agriculture Committees; House Energy and Commerce Committee; Senate HELP committee; House Small Business Committee; and Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

AVMAPAC, as a general principle, will allocate funds along the following guidelines for an election cycle:

**US House of Representatives**
- $1,000—Incumbents who are on key committees
- $2,000—Candidates and incumbents who are in leadership
- $5,000—Candidates and incumbents with a proven record as key Congressional allies
- $10,000—Maximum contribution for an especially supportive candidate who is in a difficult election (includes $5,000 for the primary election and $5,000 for the general election)

**US Senate**
- $1,000—Incumbents who serve on key committees
- $2,500—Candidates and incumbents who are in leadership
- $5,000—Candidates and incumbents with a proven record as key Congressional allies
- $10,000—Maximum contribution for an especially supportive candidate who is in a difficult election (includes $5,000 for the primary election and $5,000 for the general election)

**Political Parties (up to a maximum of $15,000 per year)**
- $30,000—National Republican Senatorial Committee.
- $30,000—National Republican Congressional Committee.
- $30,000—Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.
- $30,000—Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

In the 111th Congress First Session (2009), the AVMAPAC supported 135 incumbents/candidates totaling $259,000 to incumbents, candidates, and National Party Committees. Fifty-six % of the contributions went to Democratic incumbents/candidates, 44% went to Republican incumbents/candidates. Fifty-four % of individuals receiving AVMAPAC contributions were Democratic incumbents/candidates: 74 Democrats (59 in the House and 15 in the Senate); 61 Republicans (43 in the House, 16 in the Senate, and 2 running for Republican Senate seats).

To date, during the 2nd Session of the 111th Congress (2010), the AVMAPAC Policy Board approved 69 contributions for incumbents/candidates and political parties (38 Democrat; 30 Republican) and authorized $209,000 ($134,500 Democrat; $125,500 Republican) for the 2010 Elections.

**2008–2010 PAC Policy Board Members**
- Area 1: Dr. John de Jong, Chair (HAC appointee);
- Dr. Richard Wilkes (Executive Board appointee)
- Area 2: Dr. Wally Kraft (HAC appointee);
- Dr. George Richards (Executive Board appointee)
- Area 3: Dr. Travis McDermott, Treasurer (Executive Board appointee);
- Dr. Howard Moore (HAC appointee)