



## **THE “DIRTY DOZEN” MYTHS ABOUT THE NATCA PAC**

**1) The PAC isn't necessary because my dues money can be used for campaign contributions.**

ANSWER – This is false. It is illegal to use union dues for campaign contributions. The NATCA PAC has been established as a separate fund that is to be used for contributions to campaigns.

**2) The NATCA PAC buys votes.**

ANSWER – This is false. “Buying votes,” also known as *quid pro quo*, is illegal. The NATCA PAC provides opportunities for NATCA legislative activists to build relationships with members of Congress and their staffs. Building these relationships allows our members to become trusted subject-matter-experts in the fields of air traffic control and aviation safety.

**3) I cannot afford to give to the NATCA PAC.**

You cannot afford NOT to give to the PAC. For about the price of a daily cup of coffee, your PAC contributions help our activists and Government Affairs staff build relationships that allow us to promote NATCA's issues and agenda. The PAC makes our voice heard on Capitol Hill.

**4) NATCA only gives money to Democrats.**

This is false. NATCA PAC is one of the most bipartisan union PACs in organized labor. We do not base our support on political ideology. Issues that affect air traffic control and aviation safety are important to members on both sides of the aisle. We support Members of Congress who support our issues regardless if they have a "D" or an "R" attached to their name. The goal of the PAC is to

create and sustain a “NATCA Majority.”

**5) Part of my NATCA dues automatically goes into the NATCA PAC.**

This is false. NONE of your membership dues go toward the NATCA PAC; federal law prohibits the use of membership dues for political activities. The NATCA PAC is supported solely by voluntary individual contributions from NATCA members. It is important to sign up and start contributing so that you can participate in the political process and have a greater voice on issues affecting you as a NATCA member

**6) PAC money is ‘dirty’ money in politics.**

This is false. PAC money is some of the most regulated money in politics. Every penny is accounted for and there are strict limits on contributions. NATCA’s PAC money allows our legislative activists to attend campaign events, which provides us the opportunity to build relationships with members of Congress and their staffs.

**7) There is so much money in politics that the NATCA PAC is insignificant.**

The NATCA PAC has, for years, permitted us to fight well above our weight class on Capital Hill. Every dollar of our PAC is spent wisely to ensure we are doing our very best for our membership. The level of commitment shown by our members exemplifies our passion and dedication to our profession. Despite our comparatively small size, we are known as a “Heavy Hitter” as a result of our PAC.

**8) The NATCA PAC hasn’t been able to prevent attacks on my pay and benefits therefore it is ineffective.**

This is not true. While nothing can prevent all attacks; the PAC is effective in helping us build relationships with members of Congress and their staffs. Those relationships allow us to get factual information to our elected officials **in real time**. These relationships help our representatives to make informed decisions based on real facts, from the real subject matter experts. As a result of these relationships, we are often times able to stop an attack before it is ever launched.

**9) I see my Facrep everyday at work and he/she has never talked to me about the NATCA PAC. It must not be that important.**

The NATCA PAC is VERY important. However, discussing the PAC at work or on duty time is a violation of the Hatch Act - the law that governs political activity for government employees. Violating the Hatch Act may result in termination. NATCA works very hard to inform its members about the PAC, but

because of the Hatch Act, unfortunately that education must take place off duty and outside the workplace!

**10) We have a great relationship with our employer and we all have a contract, therefore the PAC isn't needed.**

It is true that we do enjoy a good, collaborative relationship with the FAA today. But it wasn't that long ago that we were fighting with management to retain many of the rights and benefits that we enjoy today. We hope that we never again find ourselves in a caustic, adversarial relationship with the agency. If that day inevitably comes, we need to be prepared to fight for our rights, protect our members, and secure the future of our profession. We will not be able to do that if we do not keep building the relationships that allow us to educate our elected officials on the issues that concern our members and the National Airspace System. The NATCA PAC plays a vital role in building and maintaining those important relationships.

**11) NATCA PAC money is just mailed to candidates with no benefit to NATCA.**

This is not true. PAC money is delivered in person by our activists and Government Affairs staff. These meetings ensure we put a face on NATCA's issues and provide valuable time to foster relationships with members of Congress and their staffs. These relationships allow us to become trusted subject matter experts for our representatives, ensuring that NATCA's voice is heard.

**12) I don't contribute to the NATCA PAC because the PAC supports candidates who support issues I oppose.**

Decisions on the distribution of PAC funds are based solely on issues that affect the pay and benefits of NATCA members and the safety of the National Airspace System. We do not consider a candidate's positions on issues outside of that scope. As a result, we enjoy good relationships on both sides of the aisle effectively creating a **NATCA Majority**.