

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PAC CONTRIBUTIONS

- **What exactly is PAC?** *PAC stands for Political Action Committee. SEIU District 1199 formed a PAC so that it could legally collect and spend money to support SEIU endorsed candidates, ballot initiatives and referendums.*
- **Why do we need so much money for politics?** *Politicians have a great deal of influence over our working and daily lives. They decide on funding priorities for government such as Medicaid and all public services. They regularly pass legislation that affects our ability to organize and grow the union as well as the ability for all working families to have adequate pay, benefits, health care and education for our children. Campaigns are very expensive. In order for worker friendly candidates to be competitive with their opponents they often have to raise hundreds of thousands, even millions of dollars. The opponents of workers have no problem raising those millions from the same bosses we have to negotiate with at the bargaining table.*
- **How are my few dollars going to make a difference?** *It makes a difference because there are thousands of workers who also give a few dollars to our PAC. It adds up to a lot of dollars. It is the only way to compete with our opponents who often have many rich individual contributors who can give the maximum \$10,000 contribution. A PAC is a way for lots of small contributors to pool their money to have more of any impact.*
- **How do candidates get endorsed?** *They are endorsed by a vote of the District 1199 Executive Board.*
- **Do we only endorse Democrats?** *No! We endorse both Democrats and Republicans. A politician's willingness to support issues that are important to workers like health care and organizing rights, rather than party affiliation, determines whether they get an SEIU endorsement, not their party affiliation.*
- **Why don't we just use dues money?** *There are legal restrictions on the use of dues money for political candidates. New legal restrictions that take effect in March 2005 will make it even more difficult to use dues money. We can and do use dues money to support or oppose ballot initiatives and referendums that affect our members. At SEIU District 1199 we also have a policy of not using dues money for political work without consent of the Executive Board.*
- **Are PAC donations voluntary?** *They are strictly voluntary.*
- **How can I find out who we made donations to?** *We file a PAC report with the Secretary of State's office as legally required that list all contributions and expenditures by the PAC. It is available on line. We also list all endorsed candidates and contributions in the board book for executive board meetings.*
- **If I have more questions?** *E-mail your question to Gloria Fauss at faussseiu@aol.com. If you do not have e-mail, ask your administrative organizer to e-mail her.*