

AVMAPAC



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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
89 JUN -8 AM 11:40

June 5, 1989

Mr Danny L McDonald
Chairman
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20463

Dear Mr. McDonald:

On behalf of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and the American Veterinary Medical Association Political Action Committee (AVMAPAC), I would like to request an advisory opinion of the Federal Election Commission.

Currently, one of the methods of contribution to AVMAPAC from AVMA members is through the annual dues notice. The PAC contribution and the dues may be included in one noncorporate check to AVMA. Those who pay their dues with corporate practice checks are asked to make their PAC contribution with a separate personal check.

AVMA is now considering allowing association members to pay their dues with a major bank credit card. We request an advisory opinion on how credit card payments would affect contributions to the political action committee. Can AVMA accept PAC contributions by credit cards? Must we require separate payment by personal check for the PAC contribution? We do not want to discourage political involvement by the veterinary medical profession, and therefore, wish to keep the method of contribution as effortless as possible. We also wish to respond to the needs of members who wish to be able to use major credit cards to pay their dues and for other association services.

AVMA and AVMAPAC anxiously await your decision. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Amy L. Pomplin'.

Amy L Pomplin
Governmental Relations Division

AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

1023 Fifteenth Street, NW • Suite 300 • Washington, DC 20005-2602 Phone (202) 659-2040

AVMAPAC may accept donations only from AVMA members who are U.S. residents. Donations to AVMAPAC are entirely voluntary and an AVMA member may donate



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D C 20463

June 16, 1989

Amy L. Pomplin
Governmental Relations Division
American Veterinary Medical Association
1023 15th Street, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005-2602

Dear Ms. Pomplin:

This refers to your letter dated June 5, 1989, concerning application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), and Commission regulations to combined dues and contribution payments by members of the American Veterinary Medical Association ("AVMA") using major bank credit cards.

Specifically, you state that one of the methods of contribution to the American Veterinary Association Political Action Committee ("AVMAPAC") by AVMA members is through the annual dues notice. The dues payment and the contribution to AVMAPAC may be included in one noncorporate check. Members who pay dues by corporate practice check are asked to use a separate personal check for the contribution.

AVMA is now considering allowing members to pay their dues with a major bank credit card. You ask about the effect of bank credit card payments on contributions to AVMAPAC. Specifically, you ask whether AVMA may accept contributions by use of the bank credit cards or, instead, must require separate personal checks for contributions to AVMAPAC.

The Act authorizes the Commission to issue an advisory opinion in response to a "complete written request" from any person with respect to a specific transaction or activity by the requesting person. 2 U.S.C. §437f(a). Commission regulations explain that such a request "shall include a complete description of all facts relevant to the specific transaction or activity with respect to which the request is made." 11 CFR 112.1(c).

In view of the cited requirements, you will need to include information as to several relevant factors in any request made by AVMA and AVMAPAC. You will need to state whether the credit card contributions would be made from the accounts of professional

Letter to Amy L. Pomplin
Page 2

corporations, as well as individuals. You will need to state the details of AVMA's proposed method of collecting the contributions to AVMAPAC, including how the contributor will designate part of the payment to AVMAPAC, how AVMA will transmit contributions to AVMAPAC, and the time framework for such transmittal. See 11 CFR 102.6(c)(3), 102.6(c)(4), and 102.8(b), and 2 U.S.C. §432(b)(2). You will also need to state what charges will be assessed against AVMA by the card issuers with respect to the use of the cards by the contributing members. If any special arrangements have been made with card issuers, you will need to state such arrangements, including the identities of such card issuers.

For your information and review, I am enclosing copies of Advisory Opinions 1984-45 and 1978-68.

Upon receiving your responses to the above questions and the requested documents, this office and the Commission will give further consideration to your inquiry as an advisory opinion request.

If you have any questions concerning the advisory opinion process, the enclosed opinions, or this letter, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

Lawrence M. Noble
General Counsel

by:


N. Bradley Litchfield
Associate General Counsel

Enclosures

AVMAPAC

E-G-C 5-2-81
90 MAR 14 11 9:01



ACR 1200-4

March 12, 1990

Mr Lawrence M Noble
General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
Washington, DC 20463

90 MAR 14 11 3:01

Dear Mr Noble

In June of 1989, I wrote the FEC regarding a proposal by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to collect annual dues by credit card and the impact that this decision would have on the simultaneous collection of contributions to the AVMA Political Action Committee (AVMAPAC) You sent me a letter requesting more information After further investigation, I am providing the answers

1 Will the credit card contributions be made from the accounts of professional corporations as well as individuals?

The majority of the contributions will be made from individuals, however, due to the nature of the veterinary profession, there is the possibility that cards will be issued to corporations

2 What is the proposed method of collecting the contributions for AVMAPAC?

The contributions will be collected with the annual dues The amount of the contribution to AVMAPAC, the type of contribution, whether personal or corporate, will be indicated on the dues notice All contributions made from personal accounts are transferred to and deposited in an AVMA holding account with the headquarters Once a week, a check drawn on that account is sent to the Washington, DC office for the amount of non-corporate money contributed to AVMAPAC, which is then deposited into an AVMAPAC account If there is a question as to whether the contribution is made from a personal or corporate account, the current system of determining the status will be used three letters requesting verification followed by a phone call, if there is no response from the letters All corporate money is deposited into a corporate AVMAPAC account and is used for administrative purposes

3 What charges will be assessed against AVMA by the card issuers with respect to the use of the cards by the contributing members?

None

I hope this answers your questions regarding AVMA's request If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

Sincerely,

Amy L Pomplin
Program Specialist
AVMAPAC

AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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AVMAPAC may accept donations only from AVMA members who are U.S. residents. Donations to AVMAPAC are entirely voluntary and an AVMA member may donate as much or as little as desired. Donations to AVMAPAC are not tax deductible.