

This is an exciting time for AAN members as the field of neurology joins many of our counterparts and increases our advocacy efforts within the halls of Congress.

—Stephen M. Sergay, MB BCh, FAAN



Introducing BrainPAC

At last spring's Annual Meeting in Boston, AAN members voted to establish the American Academy of Neurology Professional Association (AANPA). One of the advantages of the AANPA is that it has the ability to establish a political action committee (PAC) to increase the visibility and success of our advocacy efforts for neurology in Washington, DC, by providing financial support to neurology-friendly candidates for federal office. I want to share with you some of the recent developments on this initiative.

In June, the AAN Board of directors sitting as the AANPA Board of Directors voted to establish "BrainPAC," the AANPA's new political action committee.

BrainPAC's Executive Committee is chaired by Bruce Sigsbee, MD, MS, FAAN. The committee has six voting members: Anthony G. Alessi, MD; Anna D. Hohler, MD; AAN Past President Sandra F. Olson, MD, FAAN; William G. Preston, MD, FAAN; Thomas R. Vidic, MD, FAAN; and William S. Gilmer, MD. Ex-officio, non-voting members are David Charles, MD, FAAN, and Lily Jung, MD, FAAN, Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the Legislative Affairs Committee, and Catherine M. Rydell, CAE, AAN Executive Director and CEO. The first meeting of this PAC Executive Committee is planned for this month.

All AAN members are also members of the AANPA and retain current membership status in both organizations. Member dues for 2008 will be paid to the AANPA, which will transfer operational funds to the AAN. A small percentage of dues will support existing staff and overhead for the AANPA. Member dues will not increase for 2008 as a result of establishing the AANPA or BrainPAC. No member dues will be used as political contributions, and there is no requirement to contribute to BrainPAC.

US Federal Election law has very strict rules regarding how PACs solicit and distribute contributions and communicate to members. More information on BrainPAC activities will be available on a new dedicated website and you will be informed when that site goes online.

This is an exciting time for AAN members as the field of neurology joins many of our counterparts and increases our advocacy efforts within the halls of Congress. You will learn more about BrainPAC in the near future, but please be assured that the technical transition will be seamless and that you will see no change in services or member benefits. But we hope that, down the road, the changes that you and your patients do see will result in a better, more responsive US health care system.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen M. Sergay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

Stephen M. Sergay, MB BCh, FAAN
President, AAN