How many decisions can you identify which have the same impact on your professional life that are not made by elected or appointed officials? Wait to see how many answers you get – probably not many.

Every decision that affects a school employee’s life is a political decision – funding, hiring standards and criteria, retirement age and benefits, health benefits, tenure rules (and whether your job category is eligible for tenure), etc.

We need to influence those decisions. We do this by exerting our influence:
- Our information – lobbying our elected and appointed officials to explain the impact of their decisions.
- Our votes – 200,000 of them, plus our friends and family
- Our help – helping our elected officials win! Look at our recent victories – 4 seats flipped in the legislature! Two ways:
  - Hard work – boots on the ground
  - Direct contributions to candidates from our PAC fund.

Let’s take a brief quiz on PAC:
- Does NJEA use dues to contribute directly to political candidates? (NO)
- Can we force members to give to PAC? (NO)
- Are PAC contributions tax deductible? (NO)
- Who decides which candidates get the NJEA PAC endorsement? (MEMBERS)
- Does NJEA consider party affiliation when making endorsements? (NO)
- What is the value of an NJEA PAC endorsement? (MONEY, CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS, PUBLICITY, VOTES FROM NJEA MEMBERS)
- Can NJEA PAC use its money to support federal candidates? County or local candidates? (FEDERAL – NO; COUNTY AND LOCAL – YES)
- What’s the best way to contribute to PAC? (AUTOMATIC PAYROLL DEDUCTION)

Now that you know more about PAC, are you contributing? If you are, when was the last time you increased your contribution?
- For $1 a month, which is $.50 a paycheck, you can help support your profession, your schools, and your students. Isn't 50 cents a paycheck worth it to you?

Hand out "Facts about PAC" with APD forms. Make sure you either collect the forms right then and there, or go back to collect them face-to-face from members. Remember that PAC contributions are voluntary, not mandatory.

If members do not want to put their full social security number on the form, they can put the last four digits or the membership number from their NJEA membership card.

Make sure you thank members for taking the time to participate.