



WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

MAC WARNER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

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Office of West Virginia
Secretary Of State

NOTICE OF RULE MODIFICATION OF A PROPOSED RULE

AGENCY: Election Commission

RULE TYPE: Legislative

TITLE-SERIES: 146-01

RULE NAME: Corporate and Membership Organization
Political Activity

CITE AUTHORITY: §3-8-8

The above proposed Legislative rules, following review by the Legislative Rule Making Review Committee, is hereby modified as a result of review and comment by the Legislative Rule Making Review Committee. The attached modifications are filed with the Secretary of State.

BY CHOOSING 'YES', I ATTEST THAT THE PREVIOUS STATEMENT IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Yes

Donald Kersey -- By my signature, I certify that I am the person authorized to file legislative rules, in accordance with West Virginia Code §29A-3-11 and §39A-3-2.

TITLE 146
LEGISLATIVE RULE
ELECTION COMMISSION

SERIES 1
CORPORATE AND MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION POLITICAL ACTIVITY

§146-1-1. General.

1.1. Scope. -- These rules establish general ~~rules on~~ requirements for corporate and membership organization political activity.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §3-8-8.

1.3. Filing Date. -- ~~April 10, 2008.~~

1.4. Effective Date. -- ~~April 10, 2008.~~

1.5. Sunset Provision. -- This rule shall terminate and have no further force or effect upon the expiration of five years from its effective date.

§146-1-2. Definitions.

2.1. "Candidate's committee" or "candidate committee" means a political committee established with the approval of or in cooperation with a candidate or a prospective candidate to explore the possibilities of seeking a particular office or to support or aid his or her nomination or election to an office in an election cycle. If a candidate directs or influences the activities of more than one active committee in a current campaign, those committees shall be considered one committee for the purpose of contribution limits.

2.2. ~~"Contribution" or "Expenditure" means any direct or indirect payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money, or any services, or anything of value to any candidate, political party or committee, organization, or any other person in connection with any election to any of the offices referred to herein. The terms contribution and expenditure shall not include:~~

~~2.2.a. Communications by a corporation to its stockholders and executive or administrative personnel and their families on any subject;~~

~~2.2.b. Registration and get out the vote campaigns by a corporation aimed at its stockholders and executive or administrative personnel, and their families;~~

~~2.2.c. The establishment, administration, and solicitation of contributions to a separate segregated fund to be utilized for political purposes by a corporation;~~

~~2.2.d. The payment for legal or accounting services rendered to or on behalf of any political committee of a political party other than services attributable to activities which directly further the election of a designated candidate or candidates for office if the corporation paying for the services is the regular employer of the individual rendering the services. This exclusion shall not be applicable if additional employees are hired for the purpose of rendering services or if additional employees are hired in order to make regular employees available;~~

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~~2.2.e. The payment for legal or accounting services rendered to or on behalf of a political committee solely for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this rule, if the corporation paying for the services is the regular employer of the individual rendering the services, but amounts paid or incurred for these services shall be reported in accordance with W. Va. Code §3-8-5a. This exclusion shall not be applicable if additional employees are hired for the purpose of rendering services or if additional employees are hired in order to make regular employees available;~~

~~2.2.f. Any activity which is specifically permitted by this rule.~~

2.2. "Contribution" means a gift, subscription, loan, assessment, payment for services, dues, advance, donation, pledge, contract, agreement, forbearance, promise of money, or other tangible thing of value, whether conditional or legally enforceable, or a transfer of money or other tangible thing of value to a person, made for the purpose of influencing the nomination, election, or defeat of a candidate.

2.2.1. A coordinated expenditure, as defined in W. Va. Code §3-8-9a, is a contribution.

2.2.2. An offer or tender of a contribution is not a contribution if expressly and unconditionally rejected or returned.

2.2.3. A contribution does not include volunteer personal services provided without compensation.

2.2.4. An in-kind contribution of materials or supplies is to be considered at fair market value for reporting requirements and contribution limitations.

2.3. "Corporate political action committee" means ~~an organization~~ a political action committee that is a separate segregated fund of a corporation that comes into existence by specific written authorization of the Board of Directors, or equivalent governing body, of one (1) or more corporation(s) the purpose of which is to solicit funds for, and make expenditures and contributions on behalf of, political committees as defined herein.

2.4. "Corporation" means any ~~entity legally incorporated~~ separately incorporated entity, whether under the laws of West Virginia or any other state or any foreign country. The term corporation covers both for-profit and nonprofit corporations and includes nonstock corporations, incorporated membership organizations, incorporated cooperatives, incorporated trade associations, professional corporations, and, under certain circumstances, limited liability companies.

2.4.1. A political committee may incorporate and not be subject to the definition of a corporation within this rule series if the political committee incorporates for liability purposes only, and if the organization is properly registered as political committee with the appropriate election officer. Notwithstanding the corporate status of the political committee, the treasurer of an incorporated political committee remains personally responsible for carrying out their respective duties under this rule series.

2.5. "Election cycle" means the period beginning the day following the last general election in which the office appeared on the ballot and ending on the day of the general election in which the office next appears on the ballot.

~~2.5.~~ 2.6. "Election Officer" means the officer or official who receives the Statement of Organization of a political committee, and includes the Secretary of State, the county clerk, and the municipal clerk or recorder, as set forth in W. Va. Code §3-8-4.

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~~2.6.~~ 2.7. “Executive or administrative personnel” means individuals employed by a corporation who are paid on a salary rather than hourly basis and who have policymaking, managerial, professional, or supervisory responsibilities.

~~2.6.a.~~ 2.7.1. This definition includes:

~~2.6.a.1.~~ 2.7.1.a. The individuals who run the corporation’s business such as officers, other executives, and plant, division, and section managers; and

~~2.6.a.2.~~ 2.7.1.b. Individuals providing professional services to the corporation following the recognized professions, such as lawyers and engineers.

~~2.6.b.~~ 2.7.2. This definition does not include:

~~2.6.b.1.~~ 2.7.2.a. Professionals who are represented by a labor organization;

~~2.6.b.2.~~ 2.7.2.b. Salaried foremen and other salaried lower-level supervisors having direct supervision over hourly employees;

~~2.6.b.3.~~ 2.7.2.c. Former or retired personnel who are not stockholders; or

~~2.6.b.4.~~ 2.7.2.d. Individuals who may be paid by the corporation, such as consultants, but who are not employees, within the meaning of 26 CFR §31.3401(c)-1 of the corporation for the purpose of income withholding tax on employee wages under Internal Revenue Code of 1954, §3402.

~~2.6.e.~~ 2.7.3. Individuals on commission may be considered executive or administrative personnel if they have policymaking, managerial, professional, or supervisory responsibility and if the individuals are employees within the meaning of 26 CFR 31.3401(c)-1 of the corporation for the purpose of income withholding tax or employee wages under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, §3402.

~~2.6.d.~~ 2.7.4. The Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §201, et seq. and the regulations issued pursuant to that Act, 29 CFR 541 et seq., may serve as a guideline in determining whether individuals have policymaking, managerial, professional, or supervisory responsibilities.

~~2.7.~~ 2.8. “Families” “Family” or “family member” means spouses and unemancipated children.

2.9. “Membership organization” means a group that grants bona fide rights and privileges, such as the right to vote, to elect officers or directors, and the ability to hold office, to its members and which uses a majority of its membership dues for purposes other than political purposes. Requiring a contribution as a condition of membership does not, by itself, make an organization a membership organization.

2.10. “Membership organization political action committee” means a political action committee that is separate segregated fund established by the Board or governing body of a membership organization, the purpose of which is to solicit funds for, and make expenditures and contributions on behalf of, political committees.

~~2.8~~ 2.11. “Person” means any individual, partnership, committee, association, corporation, and any other organization or group of persons.

~~2.9.~~ 2.12. “Political action committee” means a committee organized by one or more persons ~~for the purpose of supporting or opposing~~, the primary purpose of which is to support or oppose the nomination or election of one or more candidates. The following are types of political action committees:

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~~2.9.a. 2.12.1. A corporate political action committee; as that term is defined by Section 2.3 of this Rule~~

~~2.9.b. 2.12.2. A separate segregated fund established by a membership organization A membership organization political action committee.~~

~~2.9.c. An unaffiliated political action committee.~~

~~2.10. 2.13. “Political committee” means any candidate committee, political action committee, or political party committee.~~

~~2.11. 2.14. “Political party committee” means a committee established by a political party or political party caucus for the purposes of engaging in the influencing of the election, nomination, or defeat of a candidate in any election.~~

~~2.12. “Political Purposes” means supporting or opposing the nomination, election or defeat of one or more candidates, supporting the administration or activities of an established political party or an organization which has declared itself a political party, supporting the administration or activities of a political committee, determining the advisability of becoming a candidate under the pre-candidacy financing provisions, and supporting the retirement of the debt of a candidate or political committee incurred for any of the purposes set forth in this subsection.~~

2.15. “Political purposes” means any of the following:

2.15.1. Expressly advocating or opposing the nomination, election, or defeat of one or more candidates or the passage or defeat of a ballot issue;

2.15.2. Supporting the administration or activities of a political committee;

2.15.3. Supporting the administration or activities of a political committee engaged in determining the advisability of a person becoming a candidate under the pre-candidacy financing provisions;

2.15.4. Supporting the retirement of the debt of a candidate or political committee incurred for any of the purposes set forth in this section; or

2.15.5. Making permissible contributions to political committees in accordance with the applicable limits of W. Va. Code §3-8-5c and this rule series.

~~2.13. 2.16. “Restricted Group” or “Restricted Class” means: stockholders and their families, and executive and administrative personnel of its subsidiaries, branches, divisions, and departments and their families, of a corporation or when applicable, the members of an incorporated association or organization or group of persons, and the stockholders and their families, and executive and administrative personnel and their families, of such members. means the following persons, in relation to a corporation; membership organization; or, when applicable, an incorporated association, organization or group of persons:~~

2.16.1. A stockholder;

2.16.2. A stockholder’s family;

2.16.3. Executive and administrative personnel of any subsidiaries, branches, divisions, and departments; and

2.16.4. A family member of executive and administrative personnel of any subsidiaries, branches, divisions, and departments.

2.17. "Separate segregated fund" means a fund created by a corporation or membership organization, pursuant to W. Va. Code §3-8-8, that collects contributions from the corporation's or membership's restricted group for political purposes.

~~2.17.~~ 2.18. "Stockholder" means a person who has a vested beneficial interest in stock, has the power to direct how that stock shall be voted (if it is voting stock), and has the right to receive dividends.

§146-1-3. General Prohibition.

3.1. Except as permitted below by this rule series, no officer of any corporation or membership organization, (as defined by Section 2 herein) or agent or person (as defined by Section 2 herein) on behalf of such corporation or membership organization, shall directly or indirectly make, ~~or~~ authorize to be made, or consent to a contribution to any political committee or a coordinated expenditure (as defined by subsection 2.2 herein) whatsoever in connection with election to any local or state office. ~~or in connection with any primary election or political convention or caucus held to select candidates for any local or state office~~

3.2. No candidate, political committee, or ~~any~~ other person shall knowingly accept or receive any payment prohibited by this section.

3.3. No corporation or membership organization shall facilitate the making of contributions as further described in this section:

~~3.3.a.~~ 3.3.1. Corporations and membership organizations (including officers, directors, or other representatives acting as agents of corporations or membership organizations) are prohibited from facilitating the making of contributions to candidates or political committees, other than to the political action committee that is a separate segregated funds fund of the corporations corporation or membership organization. Facilitation means using corporate or membership organization resources or facilities to engage in fundraising activities in connection with any candidate for election. A corporation or membership organization does not facilitate the making of a contribution to a candidate or political committee if it provides goods or services in the ordinary course of its business as a commercial vendor in accordance with W. Va. Code §3-8-9, at the usual and normal charge.

~~3.3.b.~~ 3.3.2. Examples of facilitating the making of contributions include, but are not limited to:

~~3.3.b.1.~~ 3.3.2.a. Fundraising activities by corporations and membership organizations (except commercial vendors) for political purposes:

~~3.3.b.1.A.~~ 3.3.2.a.1. Officials or employees of the corporation or membership organization ordering or directing subordinates or support staff (who therefore are not acting as volunteers) to plan, organize, or carry out ~~the project~~ a political fundraising activity as a part of their work responsibilities using corporate or membership organization resources, unless the corporation or membership organization receives advance payment for the fair market value of such services;

~~3.3.b.1.B.~~ 3.3.2.a.2. ~~Failure to reimburse a corporation or membership organization within a commercially reasonable time for~~ Permitting the use of corporate or membership organization facilities in connection with such political fundraising activities without requiring reimbursement for such use within a reasonable time;

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~~3.3.b.1.C.~~ 3.3.2.a.3. ~~Using~~ Permitting use of a corporate or membership organization list of customers, clients, vendors, or others who are not in the restricted group to solicit contributions or distribute invitations to ~~the a political fundraiser~~, unless the corporation or membership organization receives advance payment for the fair market value of the list;

~~3.3.b.1.D.~~ 3.3.2.a.4. ~~Using~~ Permitting use of meeting rooms for political purposes that are not customarily made available to clubs, civic or community organizations, or other groups; or

~~3.3.b.1.E.~~ 3.3.2.a.5. Providing catering or other food services operated or obtained by the corporation or membership organization for a political fundraiser or activity, unless the corporation or membership organization receives advance payment for the fair market value of the services;

~~3.3.b.2.~~ 3.3.2.b. Providing materials for the purpose of transmitting or delivering contributions, such as stamps or envelopes addressed to a candidate or political committee, other than the corporation's or membership organization's separate segregated fund, or other similar items which would assist in transmitting or delivering contributions, but not including providing the address of the candidate or political committee;

~~3.3.b.3.~~ 3.3.2.c. Soliciting contributions earmarked for a candidate that are to be collected and forwarded by the corporation's or membership organization's separate segregated fund, except to the extent such contributions also are treated as contributions to and by the separate segregated fund; or

~~3.3.b.4.~~ 3.3.2.d. Using coercion, such as the threat of a detrimental job action, the threat of any other financial reprisal, or the threat of force, to urge any individual to make a contribution or engage in fundraising activities on behalf of a candidate or political committee.

~~3.3.e.~~ 3.3.3. Facilitating the making of contributions does not include the following activities if conducted by a separate segregated fund:

~~3.3.e.1.~~ 3.3.3.a. Any activity specifically permitted under W. Va. Code ~~§3-8-9~~ §3-8-1-et seq., including soliciting contributions to a political committee, and making in-kind contributions to a political committee; and

~~3.3.e.2.~~ 3.3.3.b. Collecting and forwarding contributions earmarked to a candidate in accordance with subdivision 3.3.2.c. of this section.

~~3.3.d.~~ 3.3.4. Facilitating the making of contributions also does not include the following activities if conducted by a corporation or membership organization:

~~3.3.d.1.~~ 3.3.4.a. Enrolling members of a corporation's or membership organization's restricted group in a payroll deduction plan or check-off system which deducts contributions from dividend or payroll checks to make contributions to the corporation's or membership organization's separate segregated fund, checkoff system, or an employee participation plan, ~~and are~~ subject to the solicitation requirements of W. Va. Code §3-8-8;

~~3.3.d.2.~~ 3.3.4.b. Soliciting contributions to be sent directly to candidates if the solicitation is directed to the restricted group; and

~~3.3.d.3.~~ 3.3.4.c. Soliciting contributions earmarked for a candidate that are to be collected and forwarded by the corporation's or membership organization's separate segregated fund, to the extent such contributions also are treated as contributions to and by the separate segregated fund.

~~3.3.e.~~ 3.3.5. Facilitating the making of contributions also does not include the provision of incidental services by a corporation or membership organization to collect and forward contributions from its employee stockholders and executive and administrative personnel to the separate segregated fund of a trade association of which the corporation or membership organization is a member, including collection through a payroll deduction or check-off system.

~~3.3.f.~~ 3.3.6. Any use of corporate or membership organization property as described in ~~Section 4.3.a.~~ W. Va. C.S.R. §146-1-4.3 and §146-1-4.4 is conditioned on such corporation or membership organization also permitting any group of employees represented by a corporate political action committee or membership organization political action committee registered with either the Secretary of State of West Virginia or the Federal Election Commission, to use, without reimbursement, the real property of such corporation or membership organization solely to establish, administer, and solicit contributions to such corporate political action committee or membership organization political action committee. No such group of employees may use ~~any such~~ the real property in ~~such~~ a manner as to significantly disrupt the normal operations or activities of the corporation or membership organization.

~~3.3.f.1.~~ 3.3.6.a. A corporation or membership organization is prohibited from soliciting any contributions by use or threat of any physical force, job discrimination, financial reprisals, or as a condition of employment, or by paying any contributor for his or her contribution through a bonus, expense account, or other form of direct or indirect compensation.

~~3.3.f.2.~~ 3.3.6.b. Any person soliciting ~~for~~ a contribution to a ~~Corporate Political Action Committee~~ separate segregated fund of a corporation or membership organization must, at the time of the solicitation, inform the person or member being solicited of the political purposes of such ~~Corporate Political Action Committee~~ separate segregated fund of a corporation or membership organization.

~~3.3.f.3.~~ 3.3.6.c. Any person soliciting ~~for~~ a contribution to a ~~Corporate Political Action Committee~~ separate segregated fund of a corporation or membership organization must, at the time of the solicitation, inform the person or member being solicited of the right to refuse to ~~se~~ contribute without any reprisal.

~~3.3.f.4.~~ 3.3.6.d. A guideline for contributions may be suggested, and not enforced by any direct or indirect means: Provided, That the person soliciting, or the solicitation, informs the person being solicited:

~~3.3.f.4.A.~~ 3.3.6.d.1. That the guidelines are merely suggestions; and

~~3.3.f.4.B.~~ 3.3.6.d.2. That a person is free to contribute more or less than the guidelines suggest and that the corporation or membership organization will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount of their contribution or their decision not to contribute.

~~3.3.f.5.~~ 3.3.6.e. Any written solicitation for a contribution to a ~~Corporate Political Action Committee~~ separate segregated fund of a corporation or membership organization must contain statements which comply with the requirements of ~~paragraph (2) and (3) of this subdivision~~ subdivisions 3.3.6.a. and 3.3.6.b. of this section, and if a guideline is suggested, statements which comply with the requirements of ~~paragraph (4) of this subdivision~~ subdivision 3.3.6.d. of this section.

~~3.3.f.6.~~ 3.3.6.f. Subject to this rule ~~series~~, a corporation or membership organization may, in making solicitations aimed solely at its restricted group for contributions to its ~~Corporate~~ separate segregated fund, utilize a payroll deduction plan, checkoff system, or other plan which deducts contributions from dividend or payroll checks of its restricted group.

~~3.3.f.7. 3.3.6.g.~~ Accidental or inadvertent solicitation by a corporation or membership organization of persons ~~beyond those whom it is permitted to solicit~~ outside of its restricted group will not be deemed a violation: Provided, That the corporation or membership organization has used its best efforts to comply with the limitations regarding the persons it may solicit and that the method of solicitation is corrected ~~forthwith~~ immediately after the discovery of such erroneous solicitation.

§146-1-4. Exceptions.

~~4.1.~~ The provisions of ~~Section 3 of this rule~~ W. Va. C.S.R. §146-1-3 ~~shall not be deemed to do not~~ prohibit:

~~4.1.~~ 4.1.1. Expenditures made for public editorials or commentaries produced in the ordinary course of business by corporations whose primary purpose is journalism or public communications.

~~4.2.~~ 4.1.2. Direct communications by a corporation or membership organization to its restricted group on any subject by any means not intended to reach the general public. Such communications by a corporation or membership organization to its restricted group may be made by, but are not limited to, the following means:

~~4.2.a.~~ 4.1.2.a. The distribution of printed material by a corporation or membership organization to its restricted group: Provided, That

~~4.2.a.1.~~ 4.1.2.a.1. The material is disseminated at the expense of the corporation or membership organization; and

~~4.2.a.2.~~ 4.1.2.a.2. The material clearly states that it constitutes a communication of the views of the corporation or membership organization.

~~4.2.b.~~ 4.1.2.b. The allowing of a candidate or party representative to address the restricted group of the corporation or membership organization at any meeting, convention, or other regularly scheduled function of the corporation or membership organization which is primarily held for other purposes. The corporation or membership organization shall pay no compensation whatsoever to such candidates. The candidate or party representative may address members of the restricted group in their individual rather than corporate or membership organization capacities, and may at such time ask for individual contributions to his or her campaign or party political party committee, ask that such contributions to be sent to his or her campaign or party political party committee, or ask that contributions to a Corporate Political Action Committee separate segregated fund of a corporation or membership organization (as defined in Section 2 of this rule) of the corporation be designated be designated for his or her campaign or party political party committee.

~~4.2.c.~~ 4.1.2.c. The establishment and operation of phone banks by a corporation or membership organization to communicate with its restricted group urging them to register and/or vote for a particular candidate or candidates.

~~4.2.d.~~ 4.1.2.d. The conducting of nonpartisan registration and get-out-the-vote drives, ~~as by~~ such as providing transportation to the polls, by a corporation or membership organization aimed at its restricted group. If a registration drive is undertaken, assistance in registering or voting may not be withheld or refused on a partisan basis, and if transportation or other services are offered in connection with a registration or get-out-the-vote drive, such transportation or services may not be withheld or refused on a partisan basis.

~~4.3.~~ 4.2. Establishment and administration of a Corporate Political Action Committee separate segregated fund of a corporation or membership organization. –

~~4.2.1. A Corporate Political Action Committee~~ corporate or membership organization political action committee or persons acting on its behalf may, subject to the authorization of such corporation or membership organization, use the real or personal property, facilities, and equipment of any corporation that participated in the establishment or participates in the administration or solicits contributions on behalf of such ~~Corporate Political Action Committee~~ separate segregated fund of a corporation or membership organization.

~~4.2.2.~~ The cost of such use of property, real or personal, facilities or equipment need not be reimbursed to the corporation so long as such costs are incurred in setting up and running the ~~Corporate Political Action Committee~~ corporate or membership organization political action committee. Such costs that need not be reimbursed include the costs of office space, phones, utilities, and supplies.

~~4.4.~~ 4.3. Use of corporate facilities by other persons. –

~~4.4.a.~~ 4.3.1. A corporation or membership organization may, at its discretion, allow use of its real or personal property, facilities, or equipment beyond such uses as described in section 4.3 of this section, in connection with any political activity by any person. However, the cost of any such use of corporate or membership organization property (real or personal), facilities, or equipment ~~under this rule~~ must be reimbursed to the corporation or membership organization within a commercially reasonable time, at normal and usual commercial rental rates; except that:

~~4.4.b.~~ 4.3.1.a. Stockholders ~~(as defined in Section 2 of this rule)~~ of the corporation and any employees of the corporation or membership organization making use of corporate or membership organization real or personal property, facilities, and equipment under section 4.3 of this ~~Rule~~ section must reimburse all costs in excess of those that would arise from occasional, isolated, or incidental use. As to such occasional, isolated or incidental use, reimbursement will be required only to the extent that the overhead or operating costs of the corporation or membership organization are increased. As used here, “occasional, isolated, or incidental use” generally means:

~~4.4.b.1.~~ 4.3.1.a.1. When ~~use~~ used by corporate or membership organization employees during working hours, an amount of activity during any particular work period which does not prevent the employee from completing the normal amount of work which that employee usually carries out during such work period; ~~or~~

~~4.4.b.2.~~ 4.3.1.a.2. When used by corporate stockholders other than employees during the working period, such use does not interfere with the corporation in carrying out its normal activities; ~~and/or~~ or

~~4.4.b.3.~~ 4.3.1.a.3. Any such activity which does not exceed one ~~(1)~~ hour per week or four ~~(4)~~ hours per month, regardless of whether the activity is undertaken during or after normal working hours. ~~shall be considered an occasional, isolated or incidental use~~

§146-1-5. Powers And Duties Of Corporate and Membership Organization Political Action Committees.

5.1. All corporate and membership organization political action committees must file notice of their existence with the appropriate election officer, as ~~defined in~~ required by W. Va. Code §3-8-5b, prior to ~~receiving or soliciting contributions meeting the definition of a corporate or membership organization political action committee.~~ No such committee may be formed within twenty-eight (28) days of any election in which the committee will be active.

5.2. Solicitation and acceptance of contributions.--

~~5.2.a.~~ 5.2.1. A corporate or membership organization political action committee may solicit contributions and volunteer personal services solely from the restricted group(s) of the corporation(s) or membership organization(s) which established such ~~Corporate or membership organization Political Action Committee~~ the political action committees.

~~5.2.b.~~ 5.2.2. All solicitations by corporate or membership organization political action committees shall ~~conform in method and manner to~~ comply with the provisions of W. Va. Code §3-8-8.

~~5.2.c.~~ 5.2.3. A corporate or membership organization political action committee is specifically prohibited from receiving any direct or indirect payment, distribution, discount, loan, advance, deposit, gift of money, or any services or anything of value from any person ~~other than the corporation(s) which established such corporate or membership organization political action committee~~ or the restricted group(s) of such establishing corporation or membership organization.

~~5.2.d.~~ 5.2.4. No corporate or membership organization political action committee shall hold or sponsor any raffle, dance, banquet, or similar fund-raising event directed to persons other than the restricted group(s).

5.3. Contributions and ~~expenditure~~ expenditures by corporate or membership organization political action committees. –

~~5.3.a.~~ 5.3.1. ~~No A corporate or membership organization political action committee shall may not~~ directly or indirectly make any contribution in excess of the ~~value of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) in connection with any campaign for nomination or election to or on behalf of any local or state office or in connection with or on behalf of any committee or other organization or person engaged in furthering, advancing or advocating the nomination or election of any candidate for any such office~~ the limits set forth in W. Va. Code §3-8-5c. For purposes of applying ~~this one thousand dollar (\$1,000) contribution limitation~~ limitations, all corporate or membership organization political action committees established, maintained, or controlled by the same corporation(s) or membership organization(s), including their respective parents, subsidiaries, branches, divisions, departments, or local units, are ~~aggregated into~~ considered to be one (1) political action committee. ~~This one thousand dollar (\$1,000) limitation applies separately to contributions made in connection with the primary election for nomination of a candidate, and contributions made in connection with the election which determines the officeholder.~~

~~5.3.b.~~ Corporate Political Action Committees may make unlimited independent expenditures on public issues. Corporate Political Action Committees may make unlimited independent expenditures expressly advocating the election or defeat of any issue or a clearly identified candidate: Provided, That such expenditures are made without cooperation or consultation with, or at the suggestion of, any candidate or any authorized committee or agent of such candidate. If there is such cooperation or consultation or suggestion, an in-kind contribution results which then is subject to the contribution limits of Section 3.5.a. immediately above.

~~5.4.~~ Administration of Corporate Political Action Committees. Corporate Political Action Committees formed pursuant to these regulations may govern themselves, and control and expend funds, in any manner not in violation of law.

5.4. A corporate or membership organization political action committee may not accept contributions above the limits set forth in W. Va. Code §3-8-5c.

§146-1-6. Miscellaneous Provisions.

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6.1. Notwithstanding any provision of these regulations to the contrary, a corporation or membership organization which customarily makes its meeting rooms available to clubs, civic or community organizations, or other groups may make such facilities available to a political committee, if the meeting rooms are made available on a nonpartisan basis and on the same terms given to other groups using the meeting rooms.

6.2. All persons are prohibited from knowingly accepting or receiving any contribution, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, gift of money or services, or anything of value prohibited by these regulations.

6.3. Nothing in ~~these regulations~~ this rule series limits in any manner the reporting obligations of corporations or membership organizations or corporate or membership organization political action committees or any other person under W. Va. Code ~~§3-8-5~~ §3-8-1 et seq.

§146-1-7. Penalty Provision.

7.1. Any person violating this rule ~~series shall be~~ is guilty a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than ~~ten thousand~~ \$10,000 ~~dollars~~ pursuant to W. Va. Code §3-8-8.