



**FIRST COAST
MANUFACTURERS
ASSOCIATION**

1/26/2010

FCMA's Committee of Continuous Existence

In 1998 FCMA formed the First Coast Manufacturers Candidate Support Committee. Its purpose is to provide financial support to local and state candidates for political office. This committee is known as a Committee of Continuous Existence (CCE) and is permitted under Florida law to allow companies, organizations, or individuals to band together for a common governmental concern. Because of the substantial favorable impact on manufacturing that this committee can have on the political process, the Board urges FCMA members to join the Committee.

Membership is restricted to FCMA members and associate members only. Annual dues are a minimum of \$100 per member. Outlined below is the basic information regarding the FCMA Candidate Support Committee:

1. ***What is a Committee of Continuous Existence?*** In its simplest form, it is the same as a Political Action Committee (PAC) except that it is limited to local and state concerns.
2. ***What is the purpose of FCMA's Candidate Support Committee?*** It is created to protect and advance the interests of manufacturing by providing financial support to FCMA-endorsed candidates for state and local elected office. It may not contribute to Federal elections, such as Congressional or Presidential candidates.
3. ***Why did FCMA create a CCE?*** The Board believes that FCMA needs to be more involved in local and state candidate campaigns. FCMA's Board consulted state and local legal and political advisors in establishing the FCMA Candidate Support Committee. Based on the advice received from those advisors, FCMA believes that one of the best methods to assist candidates who support manufacturers is to assist them in defraying the high cost of running for office. It is very beneficial to contribute money to campaigns.
4. ***Who may join?*** Any manufacturing or associate member of FCMA may join by paying the annual membership dues to the Committee. The dues are \$100 per year per member.
5. ***How much may the Committee give to a political candidate?*** Up to \$500 per candidate per election cycle. For example, the Committee may vote to give \$500 to a candidate in the Primary Election and then another \$500 in the General Election. Florida State law does not allow any single entity to give more than \$500 per election cycle to any candidate.
6. ***If my company joins the Committee, may it also give to candidates?*** Yes. The Committee is a separate entity and joining it does not restrict the company's corporate contribution, nor does it restrict any company's employee's contribution.

7. ***May my company give more than the \$100 membership dues?*** Yes. The Committee must always have 25% of its total income, excluding interest, derived from dues. It may accept additional funds from members as long as the dues income is at least 25% of the total amount raised. (For example, if 100 FCMA members join the committee, contributing \$10,000 in dues, the maximum total amount the Committee can receive is \$50,000—this includes \$10,000 of dues and \$30,000 of additional contributions.) For information regarding restrictions that may apply, please contact the FCMA office.
8. ***Who decides to which candidates a contribution is made?*** The majority of the Committee present at a duly notified meeting must approve the contribution.
9. ***What are other key facts about the Committee?***
 - a. It is not affiliated with any political party
 - b. Each member of the Committee may have a designated representative called a Director
 - c. The officers are:
 - (1) Chairman: An FCMA Tri Chairman
 - (2) Vice Chairman: Chairman of FCMA's Government Relations Committee
 - (3) Secretary-Treasurer: President of FCMA who shall not have a vote
10. ***Does the Committee have to file financial reports of the Committee's activities?*** Yes. There is a periodic reporting required by the state. The Committee funds are maintained in a separate account.

We appreciate your joining the First Coast Manufacturers Association Candidate Support Committee and look forward to FCMA having even greater influence in Northeast Florida and Tallahassee.

Please contact the FCMA office if you have any questions.