

Realtor groups mislead members about Garner

Written by News Desk

Tuesday, 20 May 2014 19:08 - Last Updated Friday, 23 May 2014 13:12



Harris Garner (pictured) is denying claims made by the Alabama Realtors Political Action Committee that he has accepted political contributions from the Alabama Education Association.

By BRIAN HODGE

A recent statement by the Alabama Realtors Political Action Committee (ARPAC) does not appear to be on a firm foundation. An e-mail sent on May 9, 2014 on behalf of ARPAC from Brad Owen- Executive Vice President of Montgomery Area Association of Realtors (MAAR) appears to be misleading MAAR members about Harris Garner, candidate for Senate District 30. The e-mail claims that the AEA contributed "large" sums of money to PACs that have contributed "large" sums to Garner. The Garner campaign denies the claim.

"It is of particular note that AEA has made large contributions to PACs that have contributed large sums of money to Harris Garner," the e-mail stated. Owen's statement appears to be without merit. The statement was part of an endorsement for Clyde Chambliss, Garner's primary opponent in the Republican Party Primary for District 30.

A check of the Secretary of State website that tracks campaign activity reveals that, as of May 19, 2014, nine PACs have contributed a total of \$15,000 to Garner's campaign. None of the PACs received contributions from the AEA. Chambliss by contrast has received contributions from 35 PACs totaling \$158,000 according to the State [website](#) .

Garner has financed much of his campaign through personal loans to the campaign. As of

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Monday, May 19, 2014 campaign finance information available on the Secretary of State's website indicates Garner has loaned his own campaign \$133,000.

The Millbrook Independent made numerous attempts to contact Owen as well as Jeremy Walker, Governmental Affairs Director - Alabama Association of Realtors. Walker was listed as an alternate contact in the e-mail. On Monday morning May 19, Walker told The Independent he would have to see the e-mail before he could comment on it. We forwarded a copy of the e-mail to Walker Monday morning and were unable to reach him again before press deadline. Owen did not return our calls requesting an interview.

ARPAC has given Chambliss \$15,000 in political contributions. Barry Mask, a former member of the Alabama House of Representatives is CEO of Alabama Association of Realtors and treasurer of ARPAC.

All state campaign finance reports, can be found online at the Secretary of State's website <http://www.sos.state.al.us>

. Click the "View Campaign Finance Reports" tab on the right hand side of the page under the image of the State Seal.

Below are listed the contributions received from political action committees to the campaigns of Harris Garner and Clyde Chambliss as of Monday, May 19, 2014.

Harris Garner's PAC contributions

- 1.) \$1,000.00 03/06/2014 ABC MERIT PAC

- 2.) \$2,500.00 10/28/2013 POLITICAL ANIMAL PAC

- 3.) \$500.00 12/03/2013 GOODWYN, MILLS & CAWOOD PAC

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4.) \$2,500.00 04/23/2014 TRUST REPRESENTING INVOLVED ALABAMA LAWYERS

5.) \$1,000.00 03/03/2014 STATE FARM AGENTS AND ASSOCIATES OF ALABAMA PAC

6.) \$2,000.00 01/08/2014 BIZPAC

7.) \$500.00 01/06/2014 ALABAMA MANUFACTURED HOUSING INSTITUTE

8.) \$1,000.00 05/05/2014 JEFFCO*

9.) \$4,000.00 05/05/2014 STAY*

* Garner campaign says these contributions were received but declined and returned

Total \$10,000

Clyde Chambliss'PAC contributions

1.) \$500.00 12/18/2013 T-TOWN PAC II

2.) \$500.00 03/26/2014 DUCK PAC

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- 3.) \$500.00 03/14/2014 GOOD PAC

- 4.) \$1,000.00 04/01/2014 AT&T ALABAMA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

- 5.) \$2,000.00 04/24/2014 G PAC

- 6.) \$5,000.00 04/30/2014 ALABAMA MEDICAL PAC

- 7.) \$500.00 05/06/2014 ALABAMA BEEF POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

- 8.) \$5,000.00 04/10/2014 ALABAMA BUILDERS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

- 9.) \$2,000.00 04/17/2014 JOBS PAC

- 10.) \$10,000.00 04/11/2014 ALABAMA REALTORS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

- 11.) \$1,000.00 12/16/2013 SOUTHERN STRATEGY GROUP PAC

- 12.) \$2,500.00 12/13/2013 ALABAMA BUILDERS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

- 13.) \$2,500.00 02/24/2014 LEGPAC

- 14.) \$5,000.00 02/24/2014 ALABAMA REALTORS POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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15.) \$1,000.00 03/28/2014 FRANKLIN PAC

16.) \$10,000.00 04/14/2014 ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS - PAC

17.) 10,000.00 05/13/2014 THE INNOVATION PAC

18.) \$2,500.00 02/24/2014 MAXPAC

19.) \$2,500.00 02/24/2014 NEWPAC

20.) \$2,500.00 04/30/2014 ROADPAC

21.) \$10,000.00 03/29/2014 BANKPAC

22.) \$2,500.00 05/06/2014 NEWPAC

23.) \$2,500.00 05/06/2014 SAVEPAC

24.) \$2,500.00 05/07/2014 BIZPAC

25.) \$5,000.00 05/15/2014 CANPAC

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26.) \$5,000.00 04/10/2014 AUTO-PAC

27.) \$5,000.00 04/10/2014 RETAILERS OF ALABAMA

28.) \$2,500.00 04/23/2014 TRUST REPRESENTING INVOLVED ALABAMA LAWYERS

29.) \$2,500.00 02/10/2014 ALABAMA ACTION COMMITTEE FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

30.) \$1,000.00 05/13/2014 ARCHIPAC

31.) \$15,000.00 05/08/2014 FARM PAC - THE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE OF THE ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION

32.) \$10,000.00 05/06/2014 PROGRESSPAC

33.) \$25,000.00 04/08/2014 PROGRESSPAC

34.) \$1,000.00 03/20/2014 PROGRESSPAC

35.) \$1,000.00 03/17/2014 STATE FARM AGENTS AND ASSOCIATES OF ALABAMA PAC

36.) \$1,000.00 04/14/2014 ALABAMA COMMISSIONERS UNITED POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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Total \$158,000