

K Street Files

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Roll Call Staff

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Lobbyists With a Cause. In a time of bribery scandals and intrigue on K Street, lobbyists and Hill denizens alike are looking for a PR break. Just in time, the American League of Lobbyists is sponsoring its third annual Capitol PurSUIT clothing drive Wednesday in the foyer of the

Rayburn House Office Building.

So get those outdated Armanis and Guccis ready.

"The whole point is to show that lobbyists are out there doing the right things," said the event's founder, Dave Wenhold, a partner with Miller Wenhold Capitol Strategies and an officer of ALL.

Last year, Wenhold and his colleague Laura Dennis received a President's Call to Service Award for organizing it. Wenhold said the two are the only lobbyists to win that award. "It's one of my greatest honors," he said. Not bad for an idea he said came to him "in the shower."

In anticipation of the main drive, several firms around town have already begun collecting the goods, including Van Scoyoc Associates, the Federalist Group, Patton Boggs, Timmons and Co. and Williams and Jensen. A lobbyist at Golin/Harris proudly reported collecting 204 suits by last week.

Wenhold's goal this year is to collect 9,000 suits. For every suit donated, Men's Wearhouse will donate a new dress shirt, he said. Those clothes will go to national and local charities such as Suited for Change, Bread for the City and the Women's Alliance.

Various Capitol Hill groups, including the Congressional Golfers Association, are also taking part. "It shows that the Hill community, the association community and the lobbying community are doing things for the community," Wenhold said.