



**Martha Deahl**

## Arizona Retirees' Issues Advocated During NRLN Fall Fly-in

Please take time to read all of the articles in the 2015 NRLN Fall FOCUS which details the purpose of our visits to Washington, D.C. In addition to being the NRLN AZ Chapter President, I volunteered to be the Vice-President of the NRLN Desert Southwest Grassroots Region which includes AZ, NM, and NV.

Because of your contributions to the NRLN, I had an opportunity to attend the NRLN 2015 October Fly-in. I made appointments with Senator McCain and Senator Flake's staffs, plus the staffs of Representatives Martha McSally-AZ 02, Reuben Gallego-AZ 07, Raul Grijalva-AZ 03, Krysten Sinema-AZ 09, Trent Franks-AZ 08, and Matt Salmon-AZ 05. Over the past 5 years, I have had the pleasure of personally meeting most of the Congressional Leaders either in Washington, D.C. or here in AZ.



**Martha with Matt Lee staff member to Rep. Ruben Gallego**

The NRLN prepares folders that outline the pertinent issues to be discussed during our visits: The folders contained the following documents:

- Dear Member of Congress Letter (Bill Kadereit had addressed a letter to explain the reason for our visit.
- Defined Benefit Pension Plan Mergers
  - Protecting Vested Pension Benefits from Plan Asset Transfers*  
*(NRLN White Paper addresses the NRLN concerns regarding Mergers and underfunding of existing pension funds and the NRLN Proposed Changes to ERISA)*
- Restore Pension Security
  - Pass Keep Our Pension Promises Act*  
*(NRLN White Paper addresses how Congress pulled the Rug out from under retirees in Multiemployer Pension Plans) Congress needs to pass S 1631 and HR 2844.)*
- Proposed Pension Plan Funding Disclosure Changes  
*(NRLN White Paper addresses the problems arising for the complexity of the Annual Funding Notices companies are required to publish yearly.) The NRLN made specific recommendations as to how to improve AFNs.*
- The Case for Importation of Prescription Drugs from Canada  
*The facts about prescription drug increases. NRLN advocated passage of S 122 and HR2228.*
- NRLN AZ Report Cards  
 State Report Card list all the pending legislation (bills) that the NRLN has recognized as important to all retirees. It lists the bill number and the associated companion bill. The report card shows whether the Senator or Representative has co-sponsored the bill.



**Martha (seated, right) with Rep. Raul Grijalva (AZ-03) and staffer Kelsey Miskin**

The documents in the folders were a great tool to use during my personal visits. The feedback I received was very supportive. I have follow-up actions with each member. I asked specific questions as to "why" a Senator or Representative has not co-sponsored a bill and many times they were not aware of how a bill may impact retirees.

## Arizona Chapter Needs Volunteers and Financial Support

The AZ Chapter needs volunteers to join in our efforts to protect your earned benefits. It is impossible for just a few to do so much. Please call me if you are interested in volunteering **602-672-6262**. We really need the help.

The Chapter also needs your financial support to continue making our visits to Washington, D.C. Local visits are important but going to D.C. you have a chance to meet the staff that has the ability to share legislative information directly with the Congressional member.

If you change your address, let us know...phone: **602-672-6262**, email: **contact@nrln.org**, or mail: **NRLN, 601 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., South Building-Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20004-2601**

It was decided when the NRLN AZ Chapter was first formed that all AZ Chapter members would also receive a mailed copy of the NRLN FOCUS plus a dedicated AZ Chapter FOCUS inserted. Because many of the NRLN Chapters members were former AUSWR members, sending a hard copy of the NRLN FOCUS plus AZ Chapter's FOCUS insert would demonstrate to former AUSWR members the importance of becoming an NRLN Individual Contributor. The AZ Chapter receives a portion of your contribution which is used towards expenses incurred by AZ Congressional District leaders. The expense allows Congressional District leader and Chapter Leaders to attend NRLN Fly-ins and visit local Congressional offices, hold chapter meetings, and miscellaneous expenses. The NRLN AZ FOCUS is also available to those that have an email address on [www.nrln.org](http://www.nrln.org) under the link "Chapters" and scrolling down to AZ Chapter. Most importantly there are many former members of AUSWR who do not have an email addresses or even access to a computer.

Because the expense of mailing the AZ FOCUS keeps increasing, it may become necessary to only send to those AZ Chapter members that have become NRLN Individual Contributors. Your Chapter volunteers, Susan Olson former TRA-AZ President, Roger Sanger, former AUSWR Treasurer, Ken and Jennifer Gornall, Rick Griffin, and I believed the work to protect your benefits was not done when TRA-AZ dissolved. We had hopes that many former AUSWR members would join the NRLN as Individual Contributors which would benefit the AZ NRLN Chapter. We have dedicated many volunteer hours to prove so. The NRLN AZ Chapter would like to continue to send volunteers to Washington, D.C. but we will only be able to do so if you support the NRLN.

Now is the time if you are a former member of AUSWR and have not become an NRLN Individual Contributor to send in the following form. The NRLN AZ Chapter would like to continue to have a mailed copy sent to all NRLN AZ Chapter members. You should notice that in the top line of the application form has the name of our chapter. This means that the chapter is given credit for your contributions. Please help support the NRLN AZ Chapter.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays. Isn't it wonderful to be retired!!

*Martha Seahl*

President, NRLN Arizona Chapter and NRLN Vice President – Desert Southwest Region

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### *National Retiree Legislative Network – Arizona Chapter Advocate Application Form*

The NRLN is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Contributions are not tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_ under 55; \_\_\_ 55-64; \_\_\_ 65 or over

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

I get my retirement benefits from \_\_\_\_\_ (name of company)

Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash please) for \$25, \$50, \$75 or more (any amount will be appreciated) payable to **NRLN, Inc., P.O. Box 18757, Washington, D.C. 20036-8757**