



Volume 5 Issue 1

Spring 2017

Message from Martha Deahl, President, Arizona Chapter and NRLN Regional Grassroots VP for AZ/NM/NV



In Front of Jefferson Building - Library of Congress

As I described in the last AZ FOCUS (Fall 2016), scheduling personal meetings with AZ Congressional Leaders and their staff is very important because it brings your issues directly to the ones who can impact legislative decisions that affect your income security and healthcare benefits.

Returning from 19 meetings (AZ, NM, NV) in Washington, D.C. on March 17 with a bad case of bronchitis was not something I had in mind for my trip. I've lived in AZ since 1965 so seeing the new snow was beautiful-- the wind and cold not so much.

AZ Chapter leaders have been going to D.C. representing the National Retirees Legislative Network (NRLN) twice a year for five years. We have built relationships on The Hill seeing some of the same staff year after year. We have met with Chiefs of Staffs, Legislative Directors, Legislative Counsels, and Legislative Assistants.

This is the reason why we need your continued support by remaining with or joining the NRLN as an Individual Contributor when you receive an appeal letter. Share this newsletter with all your friends. All retirees/seniors no matter from which company they retired are welcome to join the NRLN. This is the only way we can keep going to Washington D.C. making sure our AZ Congressional Leaders hear our needs

The purpose of our individual visits to Capitol Hill was to advocate the issues listed recently in Bill Kadereit's President Forum email and to share with AZ Congressional leaders retirees concerns for the future and the changes that may take place affecting our ability to continue our various lifestyles. We retired with benefits we thought were guaranteed and now are fearful they may be taken away because of the action our former employers have taken (if not already) regarding medical insurance and pensions over recent years, and, today's threats to the future of Social Security and Medicare.

I shared the uncertainty that retirees feel with the various changes bantered back and forth between political parties. Retirees begin to wonder "who really cares". "Compromise" is a word never spoken. With that said, this year I was encouraged to see more focus on retirees and our concerns.

All 9 Representatives and both Senators' offices were visited. I presented them with an NRLN AZ Report Card which represents current pending legislative bills showing whether their representative or senator had co-sponsored a current bill the NRLN has supported. If they hadn't, I asked the hard question "Why haven't they"? I will address their answers when I send them follow-up emails providing a link to this newsletter and the NRLN FOCUS. I represent you as a member of the NRLN and I truly feel they were acutely listening this year especially with all the chaos that is currently taking place within our political environment.

(Over)

Meetings on Capitol Hill with AZ Congressional Staff Members

In addition to the photos below from my meetings on Capitol Hill, I also met with:

Rep. Raul Grijalva (AZ03) – Kelsey Mishkin, Legislative Director, who I normally visit, was on maternity so I met with Jose Miranda, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Legislative Fellow. **Rep. Reuben Gallego (AZ07)** – Alex Sabater, Legislative Director. This meeting was short because of a mix-up in the time of our meeting due to the “Stella” snowstorm. **Rep. Trent Franks (AZ08)** – Bobby Cornett, Legislative Director.



Rep. Tom O'Halleran (AZ01)



Sarah Towels, Legis. Dir. for AZ Sen. Jeff Flake



David Bennett, Sr. Legis. Aide, for AZ Sen. John McCain



Michael Brownlie, Legis. Dir., for Rep. Krysten Sinema (AZ09)



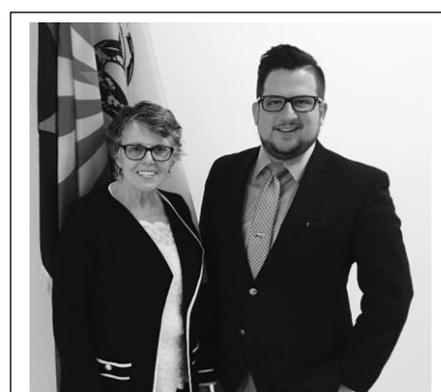
Rep. Andy Biggs (AZ05)



Pace McMullan, Legis. Dir. for Rep. Martha McSally (AZ02)



Deborah Weigel (left), Chief of Staff, and Kate Laborde (right), Legis. Dir., for Rep. David Schweikert (AZ06)



Treavor Pearson, Legis. Dir. for Rep. Paul Gosar (AZ04)