



SUMMER 2014

Chapter Leaders Promote NM Retiree Issues

New Mexico's newly formed NRLN chapter met with legislators to let them know of our retirees' concerns.

In February, chapter leadership team member Neal Woolman and Marlene Tricoli, co-president of the chapter, met with Alex Eubanks, Field Representative for Senator Martin Heinrich. The purpose of the visit was to make him aware of NRLN and the New Mexico chapter.

Tricoli says, "We advocated for affordable prescription drugs for seniors through competitive bidding and for the FDA to reduce the time for approval of generic drugs. Protecting Social Security as it is today for the next generations was another item we discussed."

Co-presidents Cassie Kelley and Marlene Tricoli also met in May with Mariana Padilla, District Director for Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham.

Tricoli says, "Top of the agenda was H.R. 3531, which would create access to rehabilitation for every senior. We would like the Congresswoman to work to get it out of committee and passed by the House." The bill will reduce barriers to health care services



Pictured at center is Mariana Padilla, District Director for Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham, with NM NRLN co-presidents Marlene Tricoli, left, and Cassie Kelley, right.

for seniors by eliminating the three-day in-patient hospital requirement for Medicare patients who are in need of skilled nursing facility services.

Other issues discussed were Medigap Policies, prescription drug costs and protecting Social Security for many more generations of Americans. Find out about NRLN's position and background on these at www.nrln.org

Note to Self:



Check issues at www.nrln.org



Call my Members of Congress

H. Con. Res.96 Seeks to Privatize Medicare, Retirees Advised

A town hall meeting of various retiree organizations was held in Albuquerque in April with NM Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM-01), who voted against House Con. Resolution 96.

Introduced by Rep. Paul Ryan (WI), the resolution is an effort to privatize Medicare through a voucher proposal in the 2015 fiscal year federal budget. It passed in the House and has been sent to the U.S. Senate. Lujan Grisham pointed out that this is the fourth year Ryan has led the Republicans' efforts to move Medicare to voucher program.

The New Mexico Congresswoman says, contrary to what Ryan and the Republicans claim, his proposal does not balance the budget and would make Medicare the most expensive medical plan – which would make it easy to dissolve later. How? The Ryan plan keeps seniors on Medicare who have it now and increases premiums over 50%. New Medicare-eligible people would go on a voucher system or choose private health care insurance.

By separating younger from older Medicare recipients, the insurance pool of older recipients – more likely to be ill – it becomes more expensive, Lujan Grisham pointed out. Republican supporters hide behind words like “freedom to choose,” but the plan is to eliminate these programs and turn them into vouchers run by private insurance businesses. In New Mexico alone, Lujan Grisham says, there are 330,000 who depend on Medicare and Medicare Advantage programs.

“It’s not good for seniors, not good for



*NM Congresswoman
Michelle Lujan Grisham*

disabled or women, who generally survive their husbands,” Lujan Grisham said.

Cassie Kelley, co-president of the New Mexico chapter of NRLN says, “Some might think the House Budget with the Medicare voucher proposals will never pass the U.S. Senate, but, we cannot assume that Medicare will survive these attacks. We need to speak out against the Ryan budget proposal on Medicare voucher as many retirees did at the Lujan Grisham town hall meeting.”

Kelley suggests that, when New Mexico members of Congress hold a town hall meeting in your area, attend and voice your views on how important it is to preserve Medicare and Social Security and not privatize the programs. Also, visit your New Mexico Representative’s and Senators’ offices and call them. Contact information is available at:
<http://www.congressweb.com/nrln/legislators?stateId=NM>