

## Speakers Bureau Presentation Narrative

### Slide 1: NRLN Mission and Focus

Read text from slide. Emphasize that NRLN is strictly devoted to serving retirees and future retirees.

### Slide 2: NRLN Resources

Read text from slide. Emphasize that NRLN represents a broad spectrum of retirees across America with wide range of political philosophies and ideas on retirement security needs.

NRLN has considerable resources to apply to retirement issues at the federal level including a Board with years of executive, management and labor experiences in business and industry; professional staff in Washington, DC; volunteer district and state leaders who understand the importance of advocacy, and 52,000 members who want a secure retirement.

### Slide 3: Member Website and Print Communications

Read text from slide. Emphasize that NRLN utilizes modern technologies to communicate with members and government officials through email, website, Facebook, electronic and print newsletter and news media relations. (If the presentation computer/projector has Internet connection, show the NRLN website; pre-connect and have the website ready to come up.)

### Slide 4: How Does the NRLN Lobby For Positive Change?

Read text from slide. Emphasize that NRLN is organized to have an extensive reach across the nation. Being an effective advocate for retirement security requires a team effort beginning with members who talk with their Senators and Representatives when the members of Congress are back home. Also, regularly emailing letters to them and calling their offices to communicate the need to pay attention to retirement security issues is essential. Members are supported by a Washington, DC professional lobbying staff who schedule meetings on Capitol Hill with members of Congress and their staffs to discuss the NRLN's legislative proposals and when necessary write language for bills.

### Slide 5: Protection and Enhancement of Retiree Income and Health Care

Do Not take the time to read all of the legislative initiatives on the slide. Explain that the slide is intended to reflect the wide range of issues addressed in the NRLN's 2011 Legislative Agenda. Note that all members have an opportunity to provide input into the annual Legislative Agenda process through the NRLN survey and retiree associations are solicited for their legislative priorities.

The NRLN Vice President – Legislative Affairs has a committee that works each year on the development of the Legislative Agenda that is submitted to the NRLN Board for review, editing and eventual adoption.

Later in this presentation there will be more details provided about the 2011 top priorities. (Explain that the full Legislative Agenda and whitepapers for major issues are on [www.nrln.org](http://www.nrln.org).)

### Slide 6: USA Map Showing Grassroots Network Regions

Do Not spend much time on this slide. Explain that the slide is intended to show how the NRLN Grassroots Network is organized into 10 Regions with a Vice President for each Region who works with the NRLN Vice President – Grassroots Network to recruit State and Congressional District leaders and constantly keep them updated on issues to communicate with their members of Congress. (Do Not take time to identify the 10 Regional Vice Presidents.)

## Slide 7: Legislation – One of Four Actions

This slide is intended to depict the NRLN membership's (retiree associations and/or individual members) interactions with their former companies and Congress. A number of the retiree associations now affiliated with the NRLN originally organized in an effort to establish a dialogue with their former employer. Some companies have been willing to have direct talks with the leaders of the retiree associations, while others have not.

When direct talks have not resulted in the protection of company-sponsored retiree benefits, some associations have filed lawsuits. While some lawsuits have been successful for retirees, most have not. Some associations have and continue to submit proxy proposals for shareowner votes as a way to gain leverage with companies. These have encountered mixed results.

Whether or not retiree associations have engaged in direct talks, litigation and/or proxy initiatives, all of the retiree associations affiliated with the NRLN recognize that, in order to gain better retirement security for their members, legislation must be enacted to protect pension plans, health care benefits, Social Security and Medicare.

The NRLN serves as the instrument for the retiree associations and individual members to advocate federal legislation for the protection of retiree income and health care. NRLN's board believes that if laws don't change, the behavior of corporate executives will not change. It is important to remember that shareholders demand that executives use the law to benefit the shareholder.

## Slide 8: Legislative Actions

Read text from the slide. This slide presents a few of the legislative actions during recent years. (**Note:** Maintenance of Cost Protection (MCP) is an NRLN proposal that would establish a fixed monthly payment to retirees equivalent to the value of the benefits an employer provided prior to the reduction or cancellation of retirement benefits.)

## Slide 9: 2011 Legislative Agenda – Top Priorities

Read text from the slide. (**Note 1:** ERISA stands for the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, the federal law that is intended to protect pension plans. **Note 2:** S. 319, S. 44 and S. 27 are three bills on prescription drugs the NRLN has been advocating that are pending in three separate Senate committees. The NRLN has a campaign going to gain passage of these bills. **Note 3:** Make special note of NRLN's fight to protect Social Security and Medicare!)

## Slide 10: 2011 Legislative Agenda – Top Priorities (Continued)

Read text from the slide. Point out that getting legislation passed by Congress is often a long process that requires persistent communications with members of Congress and the Executive Branch. Passage of laws to help retirees don't come easily and often requires lobbying year after year. Your local in-state and in-Congressional District support is vital. As deceased Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil once said, "All politics is local".

## Slide 11: How You Can Help The NRLN

Read text from the slide. (**Note 1:** Emphasize the importance of audience going to the NRLN website to sign up to receive Action Alerts and other retirement-related emails from the NRLN. Assure them that their name and contact information will be secure in the NRLN database and they will only receive NRLN messages—no spam emails. **Note 2:** Invite them to become Individual Member annual contributors to the NRLN. A contributions form is in the handout or contribute with your credit card on the NRLN website. **Note 3:** Thank the audience for attending and invite their questions.)