



WHO WE ARE THE NRLN MISSION and FOCUS

THE NRLN IS THE ONLY U.S. ORGANIZATION DEDICATED EXCLUSIVELY TO RESTORE AND ADVANCE BOTH INCOME AND HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR CURRENT & PROSPECTIVE RETIREES THROUGH LEGISLATIVE ACTION.



NRLN RESOURCES

- Our Core is 30 Formally Organized Retirees Associations.
- There are 400,000 Members in our Core Retiree Associations.
- Retirees From 125 U. S. Companies Have Contributed to the NRLN.
- We Serve 2,200,000 Retirees Who Retired From These 125 Companies.
- We Have a Professional Lobby and Strategic Presence on Capitol Hill.
- Our 52,000 Members Are Informed and Ready To Lobby Congress.
- Members Live In all 50 states & All Congressional Districts and we Have District Leaders in over 60% of the 435 Congressional Districts.
- Member Survey Responses are the Basis for A Well Developed Legislative Agenda and Supporting Whitepapers.
- Our Established Legislative, Pension and Regulatory Affairs Committees Maintain a Constant Vigil over Congress and Government Agencies.

NRLN STRENGTH COMES FROM MEMBER ACTION – No campaign donations, free lunches, dinners, booze or trips.



NRLN Member Website & Print Communications

- **Continuous website updates @ www.nrln.org.**
- **500 website hits / day – up 80% from 2007.**
- **3 NRLN “FOCUS” Newsletters – Spring, Summer & Fall.**
- **Mail “FOCUS” to members without email addresses.**
- **Email to members when “FOCUS” posted on website.**
- **Daily news articles on legislation & retirement issues.**
- **Ask questions & offer suggestions on the website.**
- **Member surveys (2007, 09 & 10) used to set priorities.**



How Does NRLN Lobby for Positive Change?

- **National Structure:**
 - 10 NRLN Regional Vice Presidents.
 - State Leaders in all 50 States.
 - Congressional District Leaders in 60% of the 435 Districts. Goal for 2011 is to have coverage in 80% of the Districts.
- **Members Our Most Important Asset**
 - Lobby Representatives & Senators at home.
 - Look for Action Alerts and personalize messages to Congress.
 - Check the www.nrln.org website for the latest information.
 - Come to September Fly-In in Washington, D.C. if at all possible.
- **Washington D.C. Team**
 - Executive Director, Marta Bascom, is a registered lobbyist.
 - Strategic Advisor, Michael Calabrese, is skilled & connected.
 - Alliances on common issues – AARP, AFL-CIO, National Center to Protect Medicare & Social Security, Pension Rights Center.



Protection and Enhancement of Retiree Income:

- PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY
- PENSION ASSET PROTECTION (PAP)
- PBGC REFORM
- BANKRUPTCY REFORM
- PROTECT RETIREES IN MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS
- CASH BALANCE PLANS
- TAXING HEALTH CARE BENEFITS
- DEDUCTIBILITY OF HEALTH CARE COSTS
- HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (HSA's)
- WITHDRAWALS TO PAY RETIREE HEALTH PREMIUMS
- TAXING SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME

Protection and Enhancement of Retiree Health Care:

- PROTECTION OF MEDICARE BENEFITS
- MAINTENANCE OF COST PROTECTION (MCP)
- REDUCE THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
- MEDICARE BUY-IN FOR AGES 55-64
- CATASTROPHIC COVERAGE IN MEDICARE
- ELIMINATE HEALTH CARE STATUTE INEQUITIES
- RETENTION OF EMPLOYER-PROVIDED HEALTH CARE
- COMPANY BENEFITS BUNDLING

2011 priorities have been set and will be reviewed in more detail later

Pacific Northwest
Judy Stenberg
 AUSWR - Boeing,
 TELCO, LRO

Midwest
Mary-Ann Neuman
 AUSWR – JDRO LRO,
 Raytheon, NAPRI
 Aetna

Great Lakes
Ray Sternot
 AASBCR - DEAR,
 LRO, JM, NAPRI,
 GM, Chrysler, Ford

New England
Paul Bayliss
 LRO, Aetna, Raytheon,
 IBM



Far West
Norma Willoughby
 TELCO - LRO,
 AUSWR, Raytheon
 DEAR, GM

Mountain
Kitty Kennedy
 AUSWR -, LRO
 Raytheon, TELCO

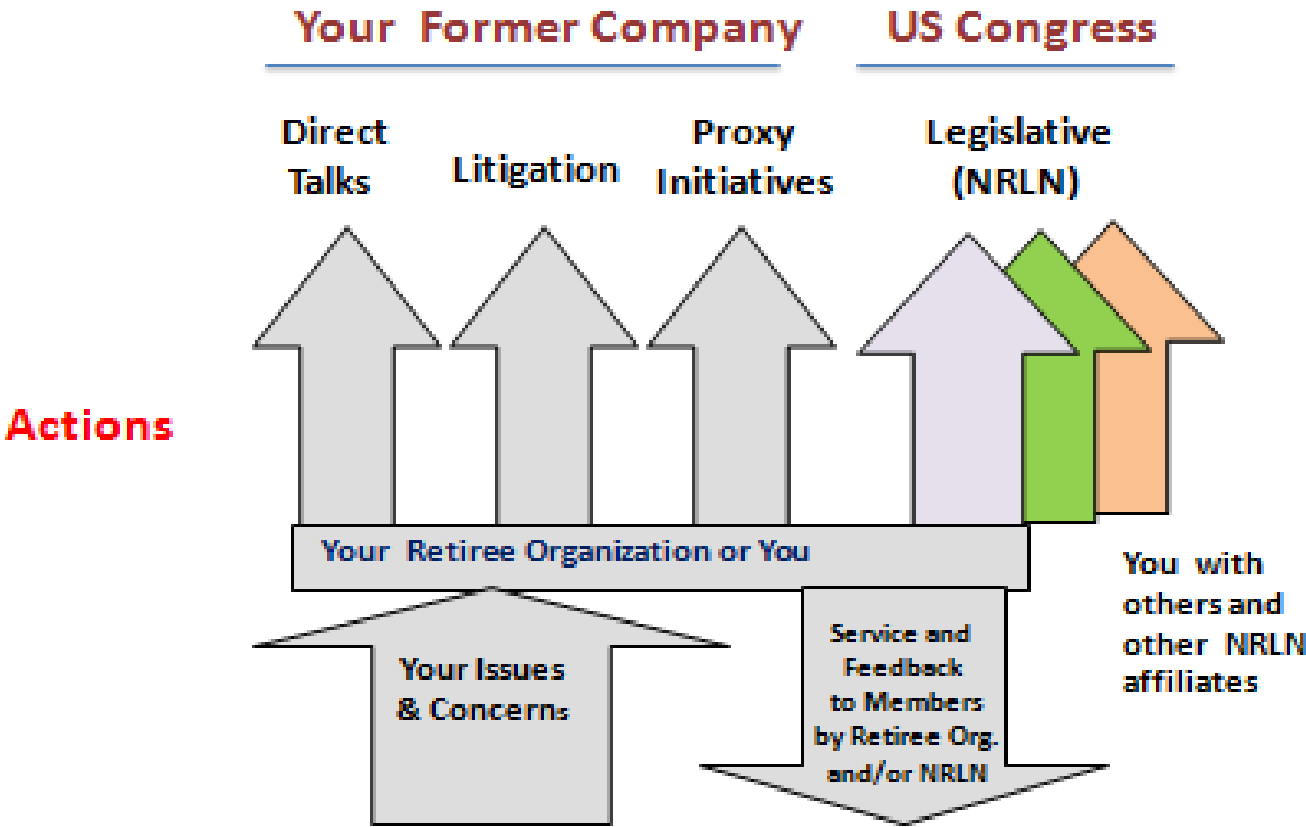
South West
Bob Martina
 LRO ,AT&T, DALRC
 AUSWR, Raytheon,
 GM

North East
Jane Banfield
 ACER - LRO
 NAPRI, Aetna,
 EKRA, Delphi

Mid Atlantic
Dick Ciocca
 NAPRI - LRO
 ACER, GM, Aetna

South East
Vacant/Martina
 DP3, LRO,
 DEAR, ACER,
 Aetna, Raytheon, GM,
 Chrysler,

Legislation, *one of four actions*





LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

- Lobbying for Maintenance of Cost Protection (MCP) & Pension Asset Protection - Testified before House Education & Workforce Committee.
- Halted Senate proposal to use “pension surplus assets” for current employees’ health care costs.
- Sent Proposals to Democratic and Republican Platform Committees. Sent questionnaires to political candidates.
- Lobbying For Medicare catastrophic coverage; For drug importation; For Medicare drugs competitive bidding; For more access to generic drugs.
- Lobbied Against agreements to keep generic drugs off the market; Against the EEOC Rule allowing employers to eliminate health care benefits for retirees when they become eligible for Medicare.



2011 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA – TOP PRIORITIES

- **Protect Social Security and Medicare** – Form coalitions with other national organizations to make programs financially sound without reducing current and future retiree benefits.
- **Pension Asset Protection (PAP)** - Stop companies from using pension assets for non-pension expenses (i.e. severance payments).
- **PBGC Reform Legislation** - Require equitable calculations of earned benefits payment as required by ERISA Law.
- **Bankruptcy Reform** - Place retirees' pensions and benefits on a list of obligations that companies cannot shed during bankruptcy.
- **Reduce the prescription costs through legislation that -**
 - 1) allows importation of safe FDA approved drugs – S. 319;
 - 2) enable Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices – S. 44;
 - 3) prevent drug companies from colluding to control pricing and subverting the free market – S. 27;
 - 4) staff/fund FDA to reduce generic drug approval backlogs.



2011 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA – TOP PRIORITIES

- **Maintenance of Cost Protection (MCP)**- Establish fixed monthly payment equal to the value of benefits prior to reduction /cancellation of retirement benefits for health care, prescription drugs, life insurance, long term care, etc.
- **Medicare Buy-In for ages 55-65** - Allow people 55-64 to buy into Medicare. Cost for buy in should not burden Medicare.
- **Catastrophic Coverage in Medicare** - Extend protection against catastrophic medical costs by setting a reasonable maximum limit on out-of-pocket costs.
- **Protect Retirees in Mergers & Acquisitions** - Clarify what a parent foreign owner's pension plan obligations are and that the foreign owner must abide by ERISA. All U.S. assets under control of a foreign owner must be able to be seized to satisfy ERISA funding obligations. Pension plan fiduciaries should be American citizens.



How You Can Help The NRLN

- Most Important – go to www.nrln.org and sign up to be a member - help lobby Washington for change.
- Visits with your Representative and Senators at home.
- Associations' dues payments = 35% of NRLN revenue.
- NRLN also solicits individuals = 65% of NRLN revenue.
- Volunteer to be a Congressional District leader, Go to <http://www.nrln.org/directory.html> to determine if your District has an opening. **IF WE DONT DO IT, WHO WILL?**

PLEASE SIGN UP & CONTRIBUTE WHATEVER YOU CAN AFFORD – SEE NRLN HANDOUT