



Arizona Focus



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Spring Was Busy With Congressional Visits

It is important to take our message to our elected officials and/or their staff on a face-to-face basis. Ken Gornall, Arizona Chapter Legislative Director and Jennifer Gornall, Arizona Chapter Grassroots Leader met with a member of Matt Salmon's staff (CD 5). Susan Olson, Legislative Director CD 9, met with a staff member of Kirsten Sinema. Martha Deahl, President NRLN Arizona Chapter, met with staff members for both Sen. Jeff Flake and Sen. John McCain, and Rep. David Schweikert (CD 6) In each case, discussions included specific bills that the NRLN supports. It is nice to know that in each case we were well received.



Martha Goes to Washington

Martha Deahl, President NRLN AZ Chapter and NRLN Vice President-Desert Southwest Region traveled to Washington DC representing Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada at the NRLN Board of Directors' meeting July 20-21. While there, in addition to the meeting, she had appointments with six Congress staff persons. Specifically, she, Bill Kadereit, NRLN President, Marta Bascom, NRLN Executive Vice-President, and Ed Beltram, NRLN Vice-President of Communications met with Senator Jeff Flake's Domestic Policy Advisor, Sarah Towles (see photo below). The NRLN AZ Report Card was shared with Sarah. Martha specifically asked why Senator Flake hasn't co-sponsored pending bills S.122, S.31 and

S.131. All three of these bills deal with the ability for retirees to reduce their cost of prescription drugs. One other major concern the NRLN leaders raised was the passing of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement. Leaked information on secret TPP meetings revealed that Medicare would be made vulnerable and future attempts by Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices would be jeopardized. Other topics were about protecting retirees' pensions, the need for clearer annual funding notices that companies send out once a year regarding the status of their pension funds. Sarah listened to all the concerns and agreed to let Martha know about the pending senate bills that impact the cost of prescription drugs.



Treasury/IRS Bans Lump Sum Buyout Offers

To quote Bill Kadereit from his July 13th NRLN President's Forum, "On July 9, the Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service announced that it will amend the ERISA regulations to no longer allow sponsors of defined benefit pension plans to offer lump sum payments to replace pension annuity payments

to pension plan participants who are...already receiving a monthly pension check". All other lump sum scenarios will still be allowed. "Pension plan sponsors that have already received Treasury/IRS approval to offer a voluntary lump sum pension buyout—such as Alcatel-Lucent's recent announcement—are allowed to go forward."

National Retiree Legislative Network - Arizona Chapter Membership 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: _____ **E-MAIL ADDRESS (IF AVAILABLE):** _____

I get my pension check from _____ **(name of company) Years Retired** _____

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**

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