



Volume 1, Issue 3

Newsletter for the NRLN Arizona Chapter

Fall 2013

Message From Martha Deahl, NRLN Arizona Chapter, President

It has been a year since the inception of the NRLN Arizona Chapter! The Leadership Team (Ken Gornall, Legislative Director, Susan Olson, Communications Director, Roger Sanger, Membership Director) and the Arizona Congressional District Leaders (Jennifer Gornall AZ CD04, Don Jensen, AZ CD01, Rick Giffin, AZ CD02 & 03, Todd Erickson, AZ CD05) have worked very hard on your behalf.

The NRLN Arizona Chapter Leadership Team, previous TRA-AZ members and others from NRLN Retiree Associations have volunteered to be Congressional District Leaders for all of Arizona's nine Congressional Districts. In 2013, these volunteers along with other advocates contacted all nine Arizona Representatives by personal visits to local district offices and have established contacts with their Legislative Directors in Washington, D.C. Our visits have focused on Prescription Drug Reform, Social Security and Medicare. We have also begun talking to them about a current issue putting pensions at risk. Ken Gornall, NRLN Arizona Chapter-Legislative Director, personally attended the NRLN De-risking Conference in July held in Washington D.C. Please be sure to read Ken's write up referenced here at www.nrln.org/CHAPTERS/AZ/azchapter.html.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to send an email to your elected representatives when you receive an NRLN Action Alert. It is an easy way to make your voice heard. You can help defer the cost of maintaining your NRLN email system, website and Washington, D.C. lobby and legal support. These resources advance our legislative agenda to protect retirees' pensions, Social Security, Medicare, health care benefits, and to reduce prescription drug costs. Use the form on the backside to send in your contribution today. Thank you!

I plan to continue my role as your TRA-AZ Retiree Advocate for the balance of 2013 and into 2014. Some of you may have run into problems when CenturyLink changed Pre-91 retirees' drug company to OptumRx. I have been assured by CenturyLink Human Resources and UnitedHealthCare that the problem has been solved. If you have problems related to benefits that you have not been able to resolve by calling the CenturyLink Service Center (1-800-729-7526), then don't hesitate to call or email me. (See back side.)

Sincerely,

Martha Deahl, President, NRLN Arizona Chapter

Report From Congressional District 01

(Following is a report from Don Jensen, Arizona Congressional District Leader CD01, dated August 22nd.)

Today was the Town Hall in my community of SaddleBrooke, hosted by Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, AZ CD 01.

I met Carmen Gallus, Congresswoman Kirkpatrick's Chief of Staff. I asked Carmen if she would help get me a few moments alone with the Congresswoman so that I could share with her the NRLN package I had prepared. Carmen was exceptionally helpful and arranged for me to connect with Rep. Kirkpatrick prior to the start of the meeting. I found the Congresswoman to be a genuinely warm person who is very supportive of protecting the benefits that we retirees all earned after long careers. She was very receptive to the material. I then gave her an overview of NRLN and mentioned if she had any questions to call me or connect with Marta Bascom our NRLN Executive Director. She was happy that we had a person on Capitol Hill.

The Town Hall itself went well. Her staff asked people to fill out question cards in advance, but also toward the end accepted questions from the floor. The topic of the meeting was Social Security and Medicare. Kirkpatrick, made it very clear that she disagrees with the President ... she does not endorse changing the



Ann Kirkpatrick & Don Jensen

COLA to the Chained CPI. I think overall, all the folks who attended appreciated the candor and the information shared.

Report From Congressional District 05

Our first visit with Congressman Matt Salmon was made on March 24, 2013. Arizona Congressional District Leader CD05, Todd Erickson, and NRLN Arizona Chapter President, Martha Deahl both attended. Salmon's District Director of the Gilbert office joined them.

Since Martha worked at US West when Salmon did and knew of his father who also worked at US West, she took the lead in covering the NRLN's Legislative Agenda for 2013 in the area of Prescription Drug Reform such as the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act (H.R. 1102 and S.117) and the Preserve Access to Affordable Generics Act (S.214-no bill in the House yet). Martha and Todd urged Salmon to support both these efforts. A copy of the NRLN Legislative Agenda for 2013 was left with Congressman Salmon. Since that visit, Legislative Director, Ken Gornall has been doing some follow-up work with Salmon's office.

Spotlight on Pension Plan De-risking and Disclosures

This is an important issue and deserves full space. Please go to the www.nrln.org website. Click on NRLN CHAPTERS and you will see a pull down menu. Click on ARIZONA STATE CHAPTER. You will see the article with the same title as above.

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Please become a member of the National Retiree Legislative Network ARIZONA Chapter by filling out this membership form and mail it along with your \$25.00 contribution to NRLN, Inc. P.O. Box 18757, Washington, D.C.20036-8757. Or, make your contribution with your credit card on the NRLN website at www.nrln.org. Click on the "Join Us" tab on the home page and select Support the NRLN. We need your commitment to our goals.

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 _____

I am a member of _____ Retiree Association