



Arizona Focus



Volume 4 Issue 1

Spring 2016

NRLN AZ Grassroots Conference Call

The NRLN AZ Chapter is going to try something new and different and we would really appreciate your participation.

The NRLN AZ Grassroots Organization is holding a conference call on Wednesday, **April 6th, 2016 at 7:00 PM, AZ Time**, to discuss current NRLN events and the latest NRLN Grassroots plans for 2016. As you know, 2016 is an election year and we need to make those individuals who plan to run for election aware of your needs. This will be a very informal discussion about what you can do to make them aware, and what to ask them to do. Some of the topics for discussion will be:

- Potential negative consequences to retirees when pension plans are merged.**
- Need for the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) to change the Annual Funding Notices (AFN) that are sent out each year listing the current funding of your pension plans.**
- NRLN commended the 51 U.S. Representatives who signed a letter urging the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to utilize "existing statutory authority to respond to the soaring cost of pharmaceuticals."**
- What the new Speaker of the House has stated about Medicare and Social Security and what actions the NRLN is taking to protect these earned benefits.**
- Open discussion is welcomed.**

Bill Kadereit, President, of the NRLN will be on the call. This is a special guest as you will be able to hear directly from him about issues he has encountered. Your AZ Congressional District Leaders will also be available.

All NRLN AZ Grassroots Advocates from all NRLN Associations and Chapters are invited to join the call. A conference bridge has been established. There is no cost to you to join the call. Ask your friends, neighbors to join the call as your guests. You do not have to be a member of the NRLN AZ Chapter to be on the call. To join the call this is what you need to do:

-Dial 1-800-503-2899

**-When asked to enter our access code, enter 6876157#
(be sure to enter the # sign).**

Please take time to join us,

NRLN AZ Chapter Congressional District Leaders,

Don Jensen, Rick Giffin, Joe Dombrowski, Roger Sanger, Susan Olson, Ken and Jennifer Gornall
Martha Deahl, President, NRLN AZ Chapter and NRLN Regional VP - Desert Southwest Region (AZ/NM/NV)

(Over)

Change in who will receive a mail copy of the NRLN FOCUS/AZ FOCUS

Currently the NRLN AZ Chapter FOCUS is inserted in the NRLN FOCUS and is mailed to all AZ Chapter members three times a year. Due to the cost to provide these newsletters the NRLN Chapters have been asked to reduce the number of copies that are being mailed. Therefore, effective with the NRLN 2016 Summer Edition the NRLN FOCUS newsletter with the AZ Chapter insert will only be mailed to those AZ Chapter members that **do not** have an email address. An email will be sent to the AZ Chapter members that have an email address to notify them when the NRLN FOCUS is available at www.nrln.org. A special link to the AZ Chapter FOCUS will also be provided.

FACEBOOK

As more and more of us are using FACEBOOK to reach family, friends and others, I recently learned of a FACEBOOK page "US WEST/QWEST retirees and wannabes" that has retirees from many states. All the AZ Chapter members have been asked to join this group. It is a closed group which means after you send request to join as a friend, someone from the group has to accept you as a friend. I joined and have enjoyed posting and seeing the post of others. It is a very active group. Anyone can join..... Give it a try.

A few reminders

Please respond to all NRLN Action Alerts. This is how we make our Congressional Leaders alerted to important Legislative Bills or issues.

Links to important news articles are published daily on www.nrln.org.

NRLN AZ Report Cards can be found on <http://www.congressweb.com/nrln/legislators?stateId=AZ>.

Martha Deahl NRLN AZ Chapter President is Resigning

Due to some personal issues, I am sad to inform you that I need to step down as the President of the NRLN AZ Chapter. The Chapter was formed to continue to protect your earned benefits after the AUSWR-AZ (TRA-AZ) disbanded in June of 2012. Because of the need to continue to interact both locally and in Washington, DC with congressional leaders, we need a volunteer to assume my responsibilities. I have met many fantastic, hard-working retirees that volunteer many hours of their personal time to protect your benefits. I have built many strong relationships with most of the AZ Congressional Representatives and Senators and their staff in Arizona and DC. I will assist the new AZ Chapter President. Contact me, Martha Deahl, at marthadeahl@gmail.com or call me at 602-672-6262 if you are interested in serving your chapter. **Please, someone volunteer. The work needs to continue.**

If you have received two NRLN FOCUS, be sure to open both

The reason you may be receiving a duplicate copy of the NRLN spring 2016 FOCUS newsletter is that each spring the NRLN mails the FOCUS and an appeal letter to individuals who have made a contribution to the NRLN during the past three years. It would be time consuming for the NRLN's mailing service to identify in the appeal mailing the chapter members who should also receive the chapter newsletter insert. Rather than significantly delay the mailing of the annual appeal and the mailing of the NRLN FOCUS with the chapter insert some chapter members are receiving duplicate copies of the FOCUS." Your understanding is appreciated.