



Your Chapter Leaders Meet With Congressional Representatives in DC

Martha Deahl, President, and Ken Gornall, Legislative Leader, of the NRLN Grassroots Arizona Chapter attended a three-day conference of NRLN leadership in Washington DC February 3rd through 5th. While there, they took advantage of the trip, making appointments to see 10 of our Congressmen and Senators or their staff members specializing in senior issues.

Martha and Ken spoke to each party about the fact that seniors over 65 with pre-existing conditions who want to change their Medigap Plans are likely to be required to take a physical and denied coverage under their new plan unlike those under 65. Most were not aware of the discriminatory effect of this issue and the lack of protection under the Affordable Care Act.



Joe Donbrowski, Martha Deahl, Ken Gornall and Trent Franks

Martha and Ken addressed specific bills that deal with the costs of prescription drugs:

- Allow Competitive bidding for Medicare Part D drugs (**S.117**) and the matching bill in the House (**H.R.1102**).
- Legally end “pay-for-delay” of generic drugs introduction to the market (**S.214**).

Currently, (**S.117 & S. 214**) remain bottled up in committees. The NRLN Grassroots Arizona Chapter Advocates will be meeting with our US Senators and Representatives during the year, when they will be in the state, to urge them to support getting them out of committee and then encourage them to pass these important bills.

- Another issue they advocated was the re-introduction of a bill that would allow for the importation and re-importation of safe, lower priced prescription drugs from countries approved by the FDA. The **Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act of 2011 (S.319)** was on the right track but died in committee.

Martha and Ken also raised another fact of life that is now getting some attention--that of the Medicare “Observation” technicality. That is if a Medicare eligible patient is in the hospital, coded by his/her doctor as “for observation” rather than as an “in patient” and then goes into a rehab facility, none of the rehab facility cost is covered by Medicare! They reminded everyone they spoke with that there are matching bills to resolve this—(**S.569 & H.R. 1179**).



Ken Gornall, Ed Pastor, Martha Deahl and Joe Dombrowski

Martha and Joe Dombrowski, President of the Lucent Retiree Organization (LRO), a member of NRLN, had success in going by Senator John McCain’s office and were able to meet with his Legislative Correspondent, Jennifer Scheaffer. Martha and Joe found her to be very knowledgeable and even aware of some of the retire issues. It was our first successful meeting with McCain’s office and lasted about 35 minutes. We now have a good contact on his staff.

(Over)

One common message from our elected representatives was that they liked receiving phone calls from us, their constituents, with our opinions and ideas on all issues. Following is a chart with their local numbers.

How to Reach Your U.S. Representative or Senators

We encourage you to contact your congressional representatives to express your views on the many issues that are or will potentially impact senior citizens. NRLN is working very hard to represent you, but it is amazing how impactful individual constituent's opinions can be, especially in numbers. Following is a chart of addresses and phone numbers of their local offices. You can start by calling about the bills addressing the "Observation" technicality mentioned above.

Senator John McCain (R-AZ) 2201 E. Camelback Rd., Ste 115 Phoenix, AZ 85016 Phone: 602-952-2410 407 W. Congress St., Ste 103 Tucson, AZ 85701 Phone: 520-670-6334	Representative Paul Gosar (R) (AZ CD-4) 122 N. Cortez St., Ste 104 Prescott, AZ 86301 Phone: 928-445-1683
Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ) 2200 E. Camelback Rd., Ste 120 Phoenix, AZ 85016 Phone: 602-840-1891 6840 N. Oracle Rd., Ste 150 Tucson, AZ 85704 Phone: 520-575-8633	Representative Matt Salmon (R) (AZ CD-5) 207 N. Gilbert Rd., Ste 209 Gilbert, AZ 85234 Phone: 480-699-8239
Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (D) (AZ CD-1) 405 N. Beaver St., Ste 6 Flagstaff, AZ 86001 Phone: 928-213-9977	Representative David Schweikert (R) (AZ CD-6) 10603 N. Hayden Rd., Ste 108 Scottsdale, AZ 85260 Phone: 480-946-2411
Representative Ron Barber (D) (AZ CD-2) 3945 E. Fort Lowell Rd., Ste 211 Tucson, AZ 85712 Phone: 520-881-3588	Representative Ed Pastor (D) (AZ CD-7) 411 N. Central Ave., Ste 150 Phoenix, AZ 85004 Phone: 602-256-0551
Representative Raul Grijalva (D) (AZ CD-3) 13065 W. McDowell Rd., Ste C-123 Avondale, AZ 85392 Phone: 623-536-3388	Representative Trent Franks (R) (AZ CD-8) 7121 W. Bell Rd., Ste 200 Glendale, AZ 85308 Phone: 623-776-7911
	Representative Kyrsten Sinema (D) (AZ CD-9) 2944 N. 44th St., Ste 150 Phoenix, AZ 85018 Phone: 602-956-2285

Thank You to Extra Generous Advocates

A special note of appreciation to those of you who have sent in extra donations above the requested amount of \$25.00. The NRLN watches its expenses closely, but by the nature of its work, those costs at times can rise. For example, preparing a white paper for presentation to Congressional Representatives costs upwards of \$25,000 each.

YOUR NRLN ARIZONA CHAPTER LEADERS

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Susan Olson – AZ09 602-995-3197 seolson47@gmail.com	Todd Erickson – AZ05 480-600-1414 Todd9500@msn.com	Jennifer Gornall – AZ04 480-689-5571 kenandjengornall@msn.com	Rick Giffin – AZ02/AZ03 520-294-5829 eg4586@gmail.com

Note: There are all kinds of information about NRLN on the official website www.nrln.org.