



New Mexico Retirees' Issues Advocated During NRLN Fall Fly-in

Please take time to read all of the articles in the 2015 NRLN Fall FOCUS which details the purpose of our visits to Washington, D.C. In addition to being the NRLN AZ Chapter President, I volunteered to be the Vice-President of the NRLN Vice President - Desert Southwest Region which includes AZ, NM, and NV. This enables me to assist Cassie Kelley, and Marlene Tricoli, Co-Presidents of the NRLN New Mexico Chapter, in preparing the NRLN NM Chapter FOCUS newsletter. The NRLN NM Chapter is in desperate need of a volunteer to be their Communications Director. Next month, I believe you will see articles of interest from your NM Chapter leaders.



Graham Mason listens to Martha Deahl's presentation

Because of your contributions to the NRLN, I had an opportunity to attend the NRLN's Washington, D.C. Fly-in, October 19 – 21, 2015. I met with Graham Mason, Legislative Director, for Representative Ben Ray Lujan, NM 03. One of Representative Lujan's Congressional Committee assignments is the House Subcommittee on Health. This subcommittee's assignment is very important because several pending bills the NRLN has identified to be important have been referred to his committee. (H.R. 2228, H.R. 2623, H.R. 3061, and H.R. 3261).

I specifically asked Graham to bring H.R. 2228 which would allow for the importation of prescription drugs from Canada, to Representative Lujan's attention. Hopefully, our meeting will result in H.R. 2228 moving out of the House Subcommittee on Health. I will touch base with Graham in a couple of weeks to see what action Representative Lujan has taken.

NM Chapter Needs Volunteers and Financial Support

The NM Chapter needs volunteers to join in NRLN NM Chapter's efforts to protect your earned benefits. It is impossible for just a few to do so much. Please call Cassie Kelley (505-298-8666), or Marlene Tricoli (505-821-7109) if you are interested in volunteering.

The NM Chapter also needs your financial support to continue making our visits to Washington, D.C. Local visits are important but going to D.C. you have a chance to meet the staff that has the ability to share legislative information directly with the Congressional member.

It was decided when the NRLN NM Chapter was first formed that all NM Chapter members would also receive a mailed copy of the NRLN FOCUS plus a dedicated NM Chapter FOCUS inserted. Because many of the NRLN Chapters members were former AUSWR members, sending a hard copy of the NRLN FOCUS plus NM Chapter's FOCUS insert would demonstrate to former AUSWR members the importance of becoming an NRLN Individual Contributor. The NM Chapter receives a portion of your contribution which is used towards expenses incurred by NM Congressional District leaders. The expense allows Congressional District leaders and Chapter Leaders to attend NRLN Fly-ins and visit local Congressional offices, hold chapter meetings, and miscellaneous expenses (contributions are never made to members of

Congress or candidates). The NRLN NM FOCUS is also available to those that have an email address on www.nrln.org under the link "Chapters" and scrolling down to NM Chapter. Currently, there are many former members of AUSWR who do not have an email addresses or even access to a computer.

Because the expense of mailing the NM FOCUS keeps increasing, it may become necessary to only send to those AZ Chapter members that have become NRLN Individual Contributors. Your Chapter volunteers, Cassie Kelley, Marlene Tricoli, Jack Ferguson, and Neal Woolman, believed the work to protect your benefits were not done when TRA-NM dissolved. We had hopes that many former AUSWR members would join the NRLN as Individual Contributors which would benefit the NM NRLN Chapter. They have dedicated many volunteer hours to prove so. The NRLN NM Chapter would like to continue to send volunteers to Washington, D.C. but we will only be able to do so if you support the NRLN.

Now is the time if you are a former member of AUSWR and have not become an NRLN Individual Contributor to send in the form below with your check. The NRLN NM Chapter would like to continue to have a mailed copy sent to all NRLN NM Chapter members. You should notice that in the top line of the application form has the name of our chapter. This means that the chapter is given credit for your contributions. Please help support the NRLN NM Chapter.

If you change your home address or email address, please notify us email: contact@nrln.org, or mail: **NRLN, 601 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., South Building–Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20004-2601.**

Conference call (no cost to you) everyone is invited to attend the call. Please invite any retirees, family, military or potential retirees.

Date: January 11, 2016

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Call in number: 1 800 503-2899

Access code: When asked for the access code, key in 7225928# (**be sure to press the # key after entering the access code**).

The NM Chapter leaders will be reporting on current status of important bills and Action Alerts, NRLN Report Cards, more in-depth information about Annual Funding Notices, and suspension of lump sum offerings for retirees in pay status.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays. Isn't it wonderful to be retired!!



NRLN Vice President - Desert Southwest Region, AZ/NM/NV

National Retiree Legislative Network – New Mexico Chapter Advocate Application 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: _____ **Email Address (if available):** _____

I get my retirement benefits from _____ **(name of company)**

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**