



NRLN Focus

NRLN
NATIONAL RETIREE
LEGISLATIVE NETWORK

Volume 8, Issue 1

Spring 2011

NRLN Members Advocate Retiree Issues to Lawmakers

In the midst of the startup of the 112th Congress, a cadre of retirees from across the nation visited their U.S. Senators and Representatives and their staff members in Washington, DC on Jan. 19, 2011. The visits to more than 50 lawmakers' offices on Capitol Hill were part of the Annual Leadership Conference for the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN) Jan. 17 - 19, 2011 attended by 45 leaders and members representing a dozen retiree associations from 20 states.

NRLN retiree association leaders and NRLN Grassroots Network members advocated the NRLN's top 2011 legislative initiatives and told lawmakers they must protect Social Security and Medicare. Legislative priorities communicated include:

- Pension asset protection to prevent companies from using pension fund dollars for non-pension expenses.
- Corporate bankruptcy law reforms to gain fairer treatment of retirees in bankruptcy court proceedings.
- Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation rule changes to benefit retirees whose pension plans are taken over by the PBGC, plus the protection of pensions in mergers and acquisitions.
- Initiatives to generate savings on prescription drugs.
- Advocate the NRLN's Maintenance of Cost Protection (MCP) proposal that would establish a fixed monthly payment to retirees equivalent to the value an employer provided prior to the reduction or cancellation of retirement benefits.
- Immediately address the access and affordability of health care coverage for retirees ages 55 to 64 by allowing them to buy into Medicare at a cost that does not burden the Medicare system.
- Congress should extend protection against catastrophic medical costs to the Medicare population by setting a reasonable maximum limit on out-of-pocket costs.

The conference included retirees from Aetna, Alcatel-Lucent, AT&T/Ameritech/SBC, AT&T, Boeing, Chrysler, Delta Air Lines, Detroit Edison, Eastman Kodak, General Motors, Pacific Bell and Qwest Communications. Their states included Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin.

Board of Directors Business

The first afternoon of the conference was devoted to the NRLN's Board of Directors meeting which was open to all conferees. NRLN President Bill Kadereit gave a presentation on the NRLN's 2011 goals. He said there



NRLN President Bill Kadereit conducts Board meeting with conferees participating

will be a focus on presenting the NRLN's whitepapers on top initiatives to members of the most important committees and subcommittees with jurisdiction over retirement issues in the House and Senate. (NRLN whitepapers can be read on the NRLN website at http://www.nrln.org/_pvtflyin.html.)

Kadereit emphasized that support will be needed from NRLN Grassroots Network members to stress the importance of the NRLN's legislative proposals to Representatives and Senators. (Read Kadereit's Clarion Call column on this issue for more details.)

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1) ***NRLN Members Advocate Retiree Issues to Lawmakers***

Grow Grassroots Network

Growing the NRLN's Grassroots Network, Kadereit said, is a top goal for the year. Kadereit and Joe Dombrowski, NRLN Vice President – Memberships, described plans to recruit additional retiree associations to affiliate with the NRLN and gain additional individual sign-ups in the NRLN Grassroots Network database.

"We need our current Grassroots Network members to encourage their family members, friends and neighbors to become individual members of the NRLN," Kadereit said. "Ask them what company they retired from and whether they have a retiree club or association. Provide the NRLN this information along with who to contact so we can follow up to either recruit the retiree club or association or explore the formation of a retiree association to affiliate with the NRLN."

(Individuals can sign-up as NRLN Grassroots Network members through the "Email Sign-Up" link at the top of the NRLN website at www.nrln.org. Send information about recruiting a retiree association to nrlnmessage@msn.com or call the NRLN toll free to 1-866-360-7197.)

Kadereit said that the NRLN intends to do some test marketing with mailing lists in areas with high retiree populations to determine whether additional Grassroots Network members can be gained.

Regulatory Affairs Committee

Kadereit described to the group the work that is being done by the recently formed Regulatory Affairs Committee (RAC) chaired by Stan Hurst, a retired Chrysler corporate attorney. The purpose of the committee is to continuously monitor rules promulgated by federal administrative agencies charged with enforcing legislation and to file comments if rules will substantially impact retirees. The RAC will also monitor Congressional activity to spot possible issues in proposed bills before they surface.

Other Presentations to Board

NRLN Treasurer Bob Tompkins presented the 2010 Financials and 2011 Budget that was approved by the NRLN Board.

Ed Beltram, NRLN Vice President – Communications presented data that a total of 1.8 million messages were delivered to NRLN Grassroots Network members in 2010. He reported that Grassroots Network members sent 96,454 emails to members of Congress in 2010. Beltram also presented key results from the 2010 NRLN Future Directions Survey.

Bob Martina, NRLN Vice President – Grassroots Networks made presentations to the Board and on the second day of the conference about the need to identify additional Grassroots Network state and district leaders. He emphasized the need for Grassroots Network leaders

to meet with members of Congress and staffers in their home states and districts. Grassroots Network members who have been active with sending emails to their elected representatives and would like to serve in a leadership role should send an email to Martina at rfjm9870@aol.com.

Second Day of Conference

The second day, with all conferees in attendance, included NRLN business, a guest speaker from Capitol Hill and briefing sessions on the NRLN's 2011 Legislative Agenda.

In his opening remarks, Kadereit said, "There has been a retreat from the moral and ethical high ground needed to keep promises made to retirees, including baby boomers who are joining a segment of our economy labeled as "legacy costs." He noted, "America's retired engineers, accountants, personnel staff and the managers and occupational non-union as well as former union retirees must be able to see that Congress is creating public policy that restores high moral and ethical principles.

Kadereit presented a slide that showed excerpts from a Nov. 11, 2010 New York Times article about the book, "Winner Take-All Politics: How Washington made the Rich Richer and Turned Its Back on the Middle Class." The Times reported the authors said that "politics is largely about organized combat. It's a form of warfare. It's a contest between those who are organized, who can monitor what government is doing in a very complicated world and bring pressure effectively to bear on politicians. Voters in that kind of system are at a disadvantage when there aren't reliable, organized groups representing them that have clout and can effectively communicate to them what is going on."

Kadereit noted that it is the role of the NRLN to communicate to its members what Congress and federal agencies are doing that impacts retirement security and have the clout to motivate politicians to pass legislation to protect the interests of retirees.

NRLN Washington, DC Team

Marta Bascom, NRLN Executive Director, made a presentation on her views of the present climate on Capitol Hill following the Republicans gaining the majority in the House and winning additional seats in the Senate. She said both chambers are expected to focus on reducing the national debt and rebuilding the economy.

"The NRLN's legislative proposals on Pension Asset Protection, certain PBGC rule changes, bankruptcy reform, protecting retirees in mergers, acquisitions and spinoffs and reducing prescription drug costs through such means as prescription drug importation are revenue neutral," Bascom said. "We hope this will be a positive as we work to get bills or amendments introduced on these issues."

Bascom noted that the NRLN will be proactive to gain

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2) **NRLN Members Advocate Retiree Issues to Lawmakers**

traction on other retirement security issues if bills are introduced that present opportunities. "Of course, we will be vigilant against anything negative happening to Social Security and Medicare," she said.

Michael Calabrese, NRLN Legislation Adviser who is researching and writing an NRLN whitepaper on protecting American retirees' interests in mergers, acquisitions and spinoffs, discussed what the PBGC is doing to better protect retirees and future retirees when a company experiences major changes. He said that while the NRLN PBGC whitepaper proposes several major changes to ERISA and PBGC rules, improvements have been made. Calabrese cited the case when a company reduces 20 percent or more of its active employees, the PBGC forces the company to "fund up" in an escrow account enough to cover the pensions of the laid off employees.

According to Calabrese, the PBGC is intervening in corporate bankruptcy court proceedings in an effort to convince the court force companies to place more assets into distressed pension plans. He also noted that the PBGC through its "Early Warning Program" is monitoring about 1,000 pension plans that may be at risk.

Counsel to Senate HELP Committee



Michael P. Kreps, Pension Counsel to the Senate HELP Committee, has a dialogue with conferees

The guest speaker was Michael P. Kreps, who serves as the Pensions Counsel to the Senate Committee on Health, Education & Pensions

(HELP). He is highly knowledgeable on employee benefits law and advises HELP Committee Chairman Tom Harkin and other committee members on ERISA and retirement issues. Kreps is a key committee staff member for the Senate committee with regard to the NRLN's legislative initiatives for Pension Asset Protection and for reforming the PBGC's rules to gain fairer treatment of retirees when the PBGC takes over a pension plan.

Kreps said that both parties in this session of Congress will be placing strong emphasis on austerity and cutting the nation's budget deficit. "New spending is off the table," he said. He expressed his belief that there will be a push by Congress to change the governance of the PBGC to provide more oversight, including possibly adding a retiree to the governing board through a presidential appointment.

Breakout Sessions on Initiatives



Chris Dyrda leads a discussion with conferees on the NRLN's income protection initiatives

Two 90-minute "breakout sessions" were devoted to a dialogue with conferees about the NRLN's top legislative initiatives and how to

communicate them in meetings on Capitol Hill. The conferees were split into two groups. Chris Dyrda, an NRLN Director, moderated discussions with each group on the NRLN's income protection initiatives. Joe Dombrowski, NRLN Vice President – Memberships, moderated discussions with each group on the NRLN's healthcare initiatives. They also coordinated scheduled Capitol Hill appointments to facilitate maximum participation in the meetings.



Joe Dombrowski leads a discussion with conferees on the NRLN's health care initiatives

Onward to Capitol Hill

On the third day conferees met with lawmakers and their staffs to present the NRLN's legislative proposals. Meetings were with members of Congress and/or staffs who were elected from states/districts spread from the east coast to the west coast and from border to border.



Rep. Marsh Blackburn (TN-07) and Sean McLean, Legislative Assistant, (center) meet with Ralph Montileone, GM Retirees Association Board Member

Judy Stenberg, NRLN Vice President – Legislative Affairs, said, "The more than 50 meetings on Capitol Hill are valuable for both the information we provided and the acquaintances we make with either our elected



Rep. Gary Peters (MI-09) (in center) meets with National Chrysler Retirement Organization leaders (left to right) Brian Haw, Chris Dyrda, Mike Ciipponeri and John Glotzbach

representatives or their staff members. Our goal is follow-up in the future when we need their support for sponsoring a bill, casting a vote for an issue important to retirees or voting against legislation harmful to retirees."



(left to right) Judy Stenberg, President of Pension Equity Council in AUSWR, Joe Dombrowski, President of Lucent Retirees Organization, Bill Kaderait, NRLN President, meet with Bobby Cornett, Legislative Director to Rep. Trent Franks (AZ-02)



Wisconsin and Vermont Grassroots Leaders Carry NRLN's Messages to Capitol Hill

Service of three NRLN Grassroots Network leaders in their states resulted in their coming to Washington, DC for the NRLN's Annual Leadership Conference and meetings on Capitol Hill. Bob Wincek and Bill Simmons from Wisconsin and Russ Bowen from Vermont carried the NRLN's top legislative initiatives messages into the offices of influential Representatives and Senators.



Rep. Paul Ryan (MN-01) (right) meets with Wisconsin constituents Bill Simmons, GM Retirees Association member, (center) and Bob Wincek, AT&T Ameritech/SBC Retirees member

Wincek, an AT & T Ameritech/SBC Retirees member, and Simmons, a General Motors Retiree Association member, used their status as constituents of Wisconsin's 1st Congressional

District to gain a face-to-face meeting with Rep. Paul Ryan. Congressman Ryan is the new Chairman of the House Budget Committee and a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, a committee with jurisdiction over a number of the NRLN's legislative proposals.

Congressman Ryan delivered on Jan. 25th the official Republican response to President Obama's State of the Union address. He has sparked conversations about taking on entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

Wincek and Simmons also met with staff members for Wisconsin Senator Herb Kohl, Chairman of the Senate's Special Committee on Aging and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, where the NRLN is advocating corporate bankruptcy reforms for the fairer treatment of retirees.

Bowen, an Aetna Retirees Association member, had meetings with staff members for Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Vermont Senator Bernard Sanders, a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. Both committees are important for a number of the NRLN's top legislative initiatives. He also met with a staff member for Vermont's At-Large Representative Peter Welch.

"We invited Bob, Bill and Russ to be the NRLN's guests in Washington, DC because we needed a 'back home connection' to these influential members of Congress," said Bob Martina, NRLN Vice President - Grassroots Networks. "I knew they had been active in responding to NRLN Action Alerts and had an understanding of the NRLN's Legislative Agenda. After meeting them for the first time at our conference, I was impressed with their eagerness to be advocates on Capitol Hill for the NRLN's legislative priorities."

Simmons and Wincek said they were pleased to

have the opportunity to discuss directly with Congressman Ryan the benefits retirees have lost and the need to protect retirement promises. NRLN President Bill Kadereit and Executive Director Marta Bascom accompanied the two Wisconsin residents to the meetings with Congressman Ryan and Senator Kohl's staff members.

"We urged Congressman Ryan to stop companies from raiding pension funds for early retirement bonuses and prevent the further erosion of pension plans" Simmons said. "We pointed out that retirees need to be protected in corporate bankruptcy courts."

"We made Congressman Ryan aware of the devastating effect on retirees of the loss of pensions and benefits," Wincek said. "With less money to spend, retirees are not in a position to help the nation's economic recovery."

Wincek noted that the Congressman is committed to work on reducing the cost of prescription drugs.

In the meeting with staff members for Senator Kohl, Wincek and Simmons discussed in detail the NRLN's proposals for reforming PBGC rules and corporate bankruptcy reform laws plus the need for protecting pension plan assets and lowering the cost of prescription drugs. Will Buergey, President of the Delta Air Lines Pilots (DP-3) organization, joined the meeting and pointed out the harm that has been done to the retirement income of Delta pilots by the PBGC's rules for the calculation of benefits.

Bowmen covered the NRLN's top legislative initiatives with the staff members for Senators Leahy and Sanders and Rep. Welch.



Stopping in front of the U.S. Capitol Building are (left to right) Bill Simmons, Bob Wincek, Bill Kadereit and Marta Bascom.

"In my meeting with Congressman Welch's legislative assistant, I asked her 'if a former employer cut off your parent's pension and health care payments, how would their lives be affected?' This took the message closer to home. She took notes when I mentioned that many retirees who lose their pensions and health care have to seek Vermont state services which puts an additional burden on our state's health care systems. I think she could see that this would not be a good reflection on what the Congressional

delegation is doing to help constituents."

"Bob, Bill and Russ said they were pleased with the opportunity to communicate the NRLN's legislative initiatives to the Congressional offices and have volunteered to help the NRLN in any way they can in the future," Martina said. "We need more Grassroots Network leaders with their high level of commitment."



The NRLN Clarion Call ...

Make Politics Local on Retirement Security

By Bill Kadereit, NRLN President



Thomas Phillip "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., who served in the U.S. House of Representatives from Massachusetts for 34 years and was Speaker from 1977 until his retirement in 1987, coined the phrase "All politics is local." It captures the principle that a politician's success is directly tied to his or her ability to understand and act on constituents' concerns. The NRLN's Grassroots Network is based on this premise.

It is you—a member of the NRLN Grassroots Network—that the NRLN depends on for the local connections to support the leadership of the NRLN Board and the efforts of the NRLN volunteers and staff to advance legislation to protect retirement security.

When you respond to an NRLN Action Alert and send an email and/or make a phone call to your Representative and Senator, you are exercising your special status as a constituent. Some elected representatives are better than others at providing a specific response to messages from "folks back home." I recognize that some members of Congress may not respond to your message or may send a "canned" reply. However, we know that essentially all Congressional offices record in some manner their constituents' views on issues.

We want to encourage all of our Grassroots Network members to step up their communications with members of Congress and their staffs through face-to-face meetings in their state/district offices. Individuals who have attended the NRLN's Washington, D.C. January Leadership Conference and September Fly-In have found it relatively easy to get an appointment with a staff member, if not the lawmaker. A number of Grassroots Network members have found the same to be true at the local level.

I urge you to call the offices nearest you for your Representative and Senators and request a meeting with your elected representative. If an appointment can't be arranged with the lawmaker, do the next best thing and schedule a meeting with a staff member. The locations of state/district offices and phone numbers can be found on the NRLN website. Go to www.nrln.org and click on the "Contacts" link, then select from the drop down menu the "contact elected officials" option. Enter either the Representative's or Senator's last name or your zip code and click "Go." Then click on the full name that appears and select the "Contact"

tab. Or, the office of your elected representative may be listed in your phone book.

To prepare for your meetings, I'd suggest that you read and print a copy of the two-page NRLN 2011 Legislative Agenda – Top Initiatives Summary. Go to www.nrln.org and click on the "Legislative Agenda" link at the top of the NRLN home page and select "Top Initiatives" when the drop down menu opens. In this menu there is also the option to access the NRLN whitepapers. I urge you to at least read the Executive Summary of each of the seven whitepapers.

Take the two-page Top Initiatives Summary to your meeting and use it as your guide to inform your member of Congress or his staff about what is important to retirees and ask their support for legislation on these issues. Leave a copy of the Summary at the office.

While contacts with all members of Congress are important, it is critical that we communicate through emails, phone calls and face-to-face meetings with the members of the Committees and Subcommittees that have jurisdiction over retirement issues. We think that the leadership positions on these key committees are fairly well set for this session of Congress. However, the leaders of a number of subcommittees could still change or have not yet been determined. In the Senate, the chair is a Democrat and the Ranking Member is a Republican. In the House, the reverse is the case.

The key committees and subcommittees that mainly deal with retirement issues are:

Senate Committees, Subcommittees and Special Committee:

Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) – Chair, Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA); Ranking Member Senator Michael Enzi (R-WY).

Subcommittee on Retirement and Aging – Chair, Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD); Ranking Member, Senator Richard Burr (R-NC).

Committee on Finance – Chair, Senator Max Baucus (D-MT); Ranking Member, Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA).

Subcommittee on Health Care – Chair, Senator John D. Rockefeller, IV (D-WV); Ranking Member, Senator Orrin Hatch (D-UT).

Subcommittee on Social Security, Pensions and Family Policy – Chair, Not Yet Announced; Ranking Member, Not Yet Announced.



(Continued from page 5) **The NRLN Clarion Call ...**

Committee on the Judiciary – Chair, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT); Ranking Member, Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL)

Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts – Chair, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI); Ranking Member, Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL)

Special Committee on Aging – Chair, Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI); Ranking Member, Bob Corker (R-TN).

House Committees and Subcommittees:

Committee on Ways and Means – Chair, Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI-04); Ranking Member, Rep. Sander Levin (D-MI-12).

Subcommittee on Health – Chair, Rep. Wally Herger (R-CA-02); Ranking Member, Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA-13)

Subcommittee on Social Security – Chair, Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX-03); Ranking Member, Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA-31).

Committee on Education and the Workforce – Chair, Rep. John Kline (R-MN-02); Ranking Member, Rep. George Miller (D-CA-07).

Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions – Chair, Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN-01); Ranking Member, Rep. Robert Andrews (D-NJ-01).

Committee on Energy & Commerce – Chair, Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI-06); Ranking Member, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA-30).

Subcommittee on Health – Chair, Rep. Joe Pitt (R-PA-16); Ranking Member, Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ-06).

Committee on the Judiciary – Chair, Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX-21); Ranking Member, Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI-14).

Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law – Chair, Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC-06); Ranking Member, Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN-09).

All members of the committees and subcommittees can be found on www.senate.gov or www.house.gov. Whether or not your Representative or Senators are on a key committee or subcommittee, I hope you will participate in the NRLN's efforts to make your retirement more secure through making politics local. Every member of Congress, whether or not on a key Committee or Subcommittee, is lobbied to support our retiree agenda.

A View From Washington

By Marta Bascom, NRLN Executive Director



Testing The Strength Of Our Convictions

Congress and President Obama in his State of the Union address have drawn the parameters by which all legislation and regulatory activity would be measured, that is, laws and regulations should be budget-neutral so that nothing adds to the federal deficit. So here's the test our government must pass to prove to retirees that they are willing to address their needs in earnest: Will they place in effect laws and regulations that do not impact the federal budget but will have a true positive effect on the retirees' financial security?

This is the time for Congress and the Administration to show the strength of their convictions, and retirees must help them find this strength (or their convictions) if it has been misplaced somewhere.

The NRLN has several proposals which would not have an impact on the federal budget but have met with resistance from Congress in the past. For example, a requirement that pension assets must be funded at 120% or greater before companies can use assets for purposes such as severance packages and other corporate restructuring costs would not impact the federal budget. To be sure, the adoption of this provision would leave pension assets in a much stronger position to withstand downturns in the stock market and leave plan participants far less vulnerable than they currently are now. In many corridors on Capitol Hill this NRLN proposal has been met with positive support, but it has fallen short of being enacted into law due to fear of special interests.

It is not uncommon for it to take many sessions of Congress for most legislative endeavors to succeed. The House is governed by the majority party, and the Senate is engineered to be a very deliberate body so that laws can't be enacted too quickly (or often) and gives deference to the minority party. So it was established by our founding fathers. What our founders also instituted was a major role to be played by the people in petitioning their government. Thanks to modern technology, this role can be played easily by everyone all over the country. This is the strength of grassroots organizations, and this is where the strength of our convictions is tested.

Retirees have told the NRLN that they believe that

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6) **A View From Washington**

protecting pension assets is extremely important to their financial security, and rightly so. Your retirement planning was based on the trust you placed in pension plan administrators and regulators to keep your pension safe. That is your conviction. Now, let's put that conviction to the test.

The power of grassroots organizations is in exerting constant pressure on your elected officials to do the will of their constituents. Constant is the operative word here - making them know that you're always watching their action - or inaction - and want responses to your specific questions and requests.

NRLN members have been very smart about communicating with their members of Congress in the district, state and in Washington, D.C. Overcoming any discomfort over advocating for themselves, NRLN retirees have distinguished themselves in respectfully and professionally advocating for what they believe is right for retirees, understanding that if they don't make their voices heard, no one else will beat back the efforts of special interests to eat their lunch, dinner, and prescription medication.

The NRLN grassroots network has been phenomenal. Our opponents have made this observation and are stepping up their efforts. So, too, must retirees. The key here is constant communication and relationship-building with members of Congress and their staff. It takes a little bit of time but it works. Retirees make up an enormous voting block in this country. We need to put our elected officials to the test, but we need to test the strength of our convictions as well.

NRLN Board Member Elections

Two new members have been elected to the NRLN Board of Directors and a new Vice President – Legislative Affairs has been named, plus three individuals have been re-elected to the Board.



Joseph Dombrowski, President of the Lucent Retirees Association, is the new NRLN Vice President – Membership. He will work on recruiting more retiree associations and growing the number of NRLN Individual Members.

Dombrowski, an Arizona resident, began his 34-year career at Bell Laboratories in 1967 in Whippany, NJ. A number of his tours of duty with AT&T International and Lucent Technologies were in Iran, Egypt, Greece, Japan, Saudi Arabia and Ireland. He retired in 2001 from his last position in Ireland as the Chief Operating Officer of the Business Partners Division.

Dombrowski holds a BS Degree from Fairleigh Dickinson

University and has a Masters in Executive Management from St. John's University. He has also attended the Middle Eastern Studies Masters Degree program at Columbia University.



Stan Hurst, a National Chrysler Retirement Organization Leadership Team Member, was elected to the new position of NRLN Vice President – Regulatory Affairs. The NRLN Regulatory Affairs Committee's task is to keep a watchful eye on federal agencies', corporate associations, unions and other interested organizations' deliberations and comment on federal government filings that could affect retirees.

Hurst, who lives in Michigan, is a graduate of the Harvard Law School. During his career with Chrysler he served for 18 years in the Legal Department. He also held positions as Director of National Dealer Placement, Director of

(Continued on page 8)

National Retiree Legislative Network, Inc.

The NRLN is the only nationwide organization solely dedicated to representing the interests of retirees and future retirees. Our mission is to secure federal legislation to protect retirees' employer-sponsored pensions and benefits plus keep Social Security and Medicare strong.

President

Bill Kadereit – bkad@sbcglobal.net

Vice President - Secretary/Treasurer

Robert Tompkins – tompkinsr@comcast.net

Vice President - Legislative Affairs

Judy Stenberg – vp-nrln@q.com

Vice President - Regulatory Affairs

Stan Hurst – wshurst@comcast.net

Vice President - Grassroots Network

Bob Martina – rfjm9870@aol.com

Vice President - Membership

Joe Dombrowski – dombrowski@cableone.net

Board Members

Jane Banfield – janebanfield@aol.com

Will Buergey – buergeyw@alphacomm.net

John Christie – john_d_christie@hotmail.com

Joseph R. (Dick) Ciocca – jrdick@hotmail.com

Chris Dyrda – dyrda@mac.com

Chuck Gilbert – chuck@dlsusa.com

Ralph Maly – rmaly@cwa-union.org

Mary Ann Neuman – maneuman12@msn.com

Ray Sternot – rsternot@ameritech.net

NRLN Headquarters

601 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Suite 900, South Building

Washington, D.C. 20004-2601

Tel: 202-220-3172 or 1-866-360-7197

Website: <http://www.NRLN.org>

© Copyright 2001-2008 NRLN. All Rights Reserved



(Continued from page 7) **NRLN Board Member Elections**

Marketing Investment Development and Director of Franchise Legislation.



Judy Stenberg was named from within the Board as NRLN Vice President – Legislative Affairs, replacing Bob Foresta who retired from the Board. Stenberg, who lives in Washington state, is President of the Oregon/Washington Pension Equity Council affiliated with the Association of US WEST Retirees and is an AUSWR Board Member. PEC was founded in 1995 and Stenberg became President in 2004. She joined the AUSWR Board at that time.

Stenberg retired from U S WEST/Qwest after 30 years of service. At retirement she was an Information Technology Project Manager. She holds a BS Degree in Pre-law and has a Graduate Certificate from Willamette Law School in Alternative Dispute Resolution.



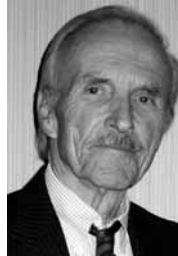
Bob Tompkins was re-elected to the Board as NRLN Vice President – Secretary/Treasurer. He is in his second term as President of the Detroit Edison Alliance of Retirees and also starting a second term as an NRLN officer.

A Michigan resident, he worked for Detroit Edison (DTE) for over 25 years in various leadership roles that included administration, purchasing, information services and support to engineering. Tompkins has also owned a tax preparation firm for the last 36 years.



Will Buergey, Chairman of the Delta Pilots Pension Preservation Organization (DP3) representing retired Delta Air Lines pilots, was re-elected to the Board. He is a retired Boeing 777 international captain and former chairman of the Air Line Pilots Association at Delta Air Lines and past chairman of the Sky Team Pilot Alliance.

Buergey lives in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and is involved in environmental issues, as the founder and past president of a non-profit corporation raising money to stop the spread of invasive plant species in the beautiful Northwoods (and lakes) of Michigan.



Chuck Gilbert, President of the TelCo Retirees Association composed of Pacific Bell/Nevada Bell retirees, was re-elected to the Board. During his 29-years of service to AT&T, AT&T Long Lines and Pacific Bell, his tours of duty included training, accounting, marketing and PacBell's General Representative to the California Public Utilities Commission.

Gilbert, who lives in southern California, has been an entrepreneur as President of Diversified Legal Services/CopyPro, Inc.; President of IHC Integrative Health Care, Inc.; owner of Assured Medical Staffing, Inc.; owner of The Abbey Home Décor; Partner in Gilbert Properties, and Partner in IPC, Inc. Investments.

Gilbert is an avid bicycle racer and in the 2006 RAAM Race Across America his 8-man team set a new time record for age group 65+ going from Oceanside, CA to Atlantic City, NJ in 7 days, 8 hours and 36 minutes.

How You Can Help The NRLN: If you have Internet access and do not receive NRLN emails, you should sign up at <http://capwiz.com/abtr/mlm/signup/> and ask your friends to sign up. When you receive an NRLN Action Alert, email the NRLN's letter to your members of Congress. Also, please make a financial contribution of \$25, \$50, \$75 or more. Any amount you can contribute will be appreciated. You may make your check or money order payable to **NRLN, Inc.** and mail it with the Contribution Form below. Or, you may make your contribution online with your credit card through PayPal on the NRLN website at www.nrln.org by clicking on the "Membership" tab on the home page and selecting "Support the NRLN".

NRLN MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

FOCUS

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)**

*Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash please) for \$25, \$50, \$75 or more (any amount is appreciated) payable to: **NRLN, Inc., PO Box 18757, Washington, DC, 20036-8757***