

THE NATIONAL RETIREE LEGISLATIVE NETWORK (NRLN)

The Role of and Support for NRLN CHAPTERS

About The NRLN

Based in Washington, D.C., the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN) is the only nationwide organization solely dedicated to representing the interests of retirees and future retirees. Formed in 2002, the NRLN's endeavors to secure federal legislation to protect retirees' employer-sponsored pensions and benefits in addition to keeping Social Security and Medicare strong. The NRLN is a non-partisan, grassroots coalition representing more than 2 million retirees who came to the NRLN from 31 retiree associations and as individual members who have retired from 131 different U.S. corporations and public entities. Members live in all 50 states and 65% all Congressional districts and are working together to preserve the retirement benefits they earned during their many years of employment.

The NRLN Mission and Structure

The mission of the National Retiree Legislative Network is to develop, identify and rally support for federal legislation that guarantees fair and equitable treatment of retirees and future retirees. We work to protect earned employer-sponsored pensions and benefit plans and Medicare and Social Security that Americans worked many years to earn and expected to be available throughout their retirement. It is important that we protect the real income and economic security of retirees. We will oppose legislation and regulations that will do harm to the quality of retirement life.

As a non-partisan coalition of retiree associations and individual from across America we utilize the strength of our Board of Directors, Washington, DC staff, Regional Vice Presidents, Retiree Associations, State Chapters, and individuals in our Grassroots Network in all 50 states to represent and lobby for the interests of the millions of men and women who retired from the private and public sectors. The NRLN collaborates with and serves on various levels with national advocate organizations headquartered in Washington D.C. and elsewhere.

The NRLN Focus, Practices and Sources of Income

We focus on protection and enhancement of Income and Health Care Security issues and only for Retirees. The NRLN proactively lobbies a Legislative Agenda that is built from the bottom up by members; we pride ourselves on preparation, diligence and professional representation.

The NRLN is a 501'C(4) non-profit that does not campaign for candidates or political parties nor do we make campaign contributions, buy meals or drinks or otherwise try to influence elected officials or those running for office by offering personal gains.

Our sources of income are dues from member associations, their members' contributions and individual contributions from At-Large Chapter's members and other individuals.

For a detailed view of our organization, Legislative Agenda, White Papers about our Top Priorities and more about us go to www.nrln.org

NRLN Chapters

In order to reach more individual members that can help us better understand retiree issues and thus help us define our agenda on an ongoing basis and in order to expand our local grassroots support networks, we are introducing Chapter organizations.

NRLN Chapters will be labeled “NRLN xxxxx Retiree Chapter” and will be governed by teams comprised of a President and Directors of Legislative Affairs, Membership and Communications. Chapter Boards are not required. We are encouraging a wide diversity of participants from companies and other entities that may or may not have formal retiree organizations and want to create a “full disclosure” dialogue. Chapters may choose to engage socially, in the spirit of fellowship, without political bantering.

Chapter Leadership Teams will coordinate the effort of their chapter members along with pre-existing NRLN members who are already engaged in NRLN grassroots activities in their States and Congressional Districts. Chapters will recruit volunteers to serve on teams that will lobby the NRLN agenda in States and Congressional Districts (CD’s) and will receive support from their Regional VP’s and the NRLN VP’s of Grassroots, Communications and Legislative Affairs and Chapters will collaborate with but not raid other NRLN Chapter or Association members.

Where NRLN Chapters are formed in communities that require that community rules be followed, our Chapters are obligated to abide by such rules. Specifically, in communities such as The Villages, our NRLN Chapters will conduct membership recruitment, business meetings and other activities in compliance with local rules. The NRLN reserves the right to rescind its affiliation with a Chapter that does not comply.

Chapter Focus – The NRLN Legislative Agenda Top Priorities

Income Security

Protect Social Security earned and paid for benefits

Protect Pension plan assets from misuse by U.S. and foreign corporations

Protect Pension Plans from corporate mergers & acquisitions, including foreign control

Protect Pension Plans from terminations

Bankruptcy Reform and PBGC takeover rules

See NRLN whitepapers for each of the above topics – also tax and other agenda issues

Health Care Security

Protect Medicare Benefits

Protect against take-back of retiree health care benefits

Protect against rising cost of prescription drugs

See NRLN whitepapers for each of the above topics – also see other agenda issues that protect against health care service and product cost inflation increases that erode retiree income security.

Chapter Contributions, Expenses and Operational Particulars

All mail and email member contact information and the NRLN Treasurers database will be maintained on NRLN secured servers and access to or use of such data by third parties is prohibited.

Initially, Chapters are required to upload their member mailing lists to NRLN Capwiz, Mail Server and Treasurer's databases; mailing address including 9-digit Zip Code, phone number and email addresses of all members.

New Chapter individual member applications and contributions will be sent directly to the NRLN Treasurer who will maintain Individual and Chapter revenue subaccounts.

NRLN, Chapters are not required to file as state entities nor should they be required to obtain EIN numbers from the IRS or have to file tax returns, The NRLN Treasurer will account for revenue and expenses and file the required NRLN reports.

NRLN's board of directors is provided copies of NRLN Income and Balance Sheet Statements monthly, annual tax filings and copies of the NRLN registered lobbyist's quarterly filings.

Leaders of Chapters will receive member contribution reports and other data upon request. Chapter individual contributions data will not be shared with other Chapters or Associations but grassroots information will be shared but only with approval of and through access by the NRLN VP Grassroots so that cross Chapter and Association teams and individuals can be enlisted to help in lobbying in States and CD's

Local Chapter expenses will be agreed upon in advance and finally approved by the NRLN president. Approval requests shall be then processed by standard voucher form to the NRLN president by the Chapter president and then passed for payment by the NRLN Treasurer.

Chapters will collaborate with the NRLN Treasurer and VP Communications to schedule solicitation of Chapter Members Contributions.

NRLN Services Provided To NRLN Chapters

Formation Assistance Team – NRLN president, NRLN Treasurer, Regional VP, VP Communications and VP Grassroots.

Ongoing Grassroots Assistance - training and materials; day to day collaboration and sharing of member contacts; setting of agenda priorities and other special assistance, as needed.

Mail, Email, Website, Phone Service and Financial Service Provided to Chapters by the NRLN:

NRLN Quarterly Newsletters - Chapter members will receive the NRLN Quarterly Newsletter, *FOCUS*, that will contain Chapter inserts (one-page double sided) that will include Chapter president messages and news provided by Chapter Communications Directors; the Chapter VP's Communications will coordinate input with NRLN VP's.

NRLN annual solicitation - will be sent in February and late November and NRLN Chapter solicitation letters will be mailed, at agreed upon dates.

Capwiz grassroots lobby messages and Action Alerts - will be sent to Capwiz subscribers by the NRLN and will be in support of the NRLN's Legislative agenda. Any NRLN individual member on the Capwiz database may "Opt Out" at any time!

Phone conference calls – since most chapter business can be conducted without extra charges using member's personal phones, conference service may not be necessary. When necessary, conference calls can be made using NRLN's service provider.

Electronic Messaging - The NRLN assigns association and chapter codes to names on NRLN databases so that association officers may develop and send **Chapter business messages** over Capwiz or mail-server partitions provided by the NRLN. Collaboration on chapter messages sent via Capwiz or mail servers will be in concert with NRLN VP's.

The NRLN website will be modified to add a "Chapters" tab and sub-tabs that Chapter members can access to see how to contact NRLN and Chapter leaders. Chapter Communications Directors may work with NRLN Communication's VP and the NRLN Webmaster.

Accounting and Financial Service - collect contributions, maintain Chapter sub accounts and pay approved Chapter expenses.