

Report from President Barbara Franklin

This past year has been one of transition and growth for the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans. On March 31st, we held our founding convention of IARA's 501(c)(4). We are excited to make our first endorsements in the upcoming election cycle.

In August, Emily Stewart, left her position as Executive Director to attend graduate school. Emily's hard work has contributed to our strong and vibrant organization, which now has over 80 affiliate organizations, representing over 247,000 retirees across the state of Illinois. We welcomed Jeanne Cameron as our incoming Director and look forward to working with her.

In September, the Illinois Education Association became a Sustaining Member of the IARA. We are pleased to have Janet Kilgus of IEA join us on the Board as an Executive Vice-President. Her energy and experience will be a positive addition to our leadership team.

In sad news, we said goodbye to our friend and fellow Board Member, Ginny Nailing of UAW, who passed away on November 1st.

I look forward to another productive year, as we continue to fight for retirement security, affordable prescription drugs and a fair state budget for seniors and all the people of Illinois.

Seniors Continue to Fight for a Fair State Budget

IARA members continue to mobilize across the state to call on Governor Rauner and the Illinois General Assembly to enact a fully funded state budget that protects critical state services for seniors, children, and families.



August 18th, IARA Members gather in Loves Park

On August 18th, IARA members gathered in Loves Park to call on State Representative John Cabello to support critical senior services by voting "yes" on S.B. 1229. This legislation would have protected critical senior services by preventing a strike/lockout of state employees in the event that they are unable to reach a contract settlement. Services that could be impacted by a disruption include providing aid and care to veterans, investigations into elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation, and assistance through the Community Care Program, which keeps seniors out of nursing homes.

On Tuesday November 10th, IARA members, including Workers United Retirees, AFSCME Subchapter 163 and SOAR 31-9 joined with SEIU Healthcare Illinois and Indiana to call on legislators to restore cuts to child-care and protect vital senior services. Alliance members spoke with elected officials about the need to pass legislation protecting the Determination of Need Score (DON), as changes to this system could eliminate homecare services for thousands of seniors across the state.

This fall, IARA members participated in the Responsible Budget Coalition's



IARA Members lobbying in Springfield

Revenue Leader Summits in Rockford, Springfield, Carbondale and Metro East. These summits brought together local leaders to solve the state budget crisis. As IARA member Charlie Hogan told a December press event, "They need to put aside these non-budget issues. They have to sit down and find the revenue. The money is there somewhere."

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth Receives the 2015 Jerry Prete Award



Congresswoman Duckworth, Congresswoman Schakowsky, IARA Treasurer Katie Jordan and IARA President Barbara Franklin.

On September 15th, Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth was awarded IARA's 2015 Jerry Prete Award at our annual Senior Power Lunch. She has a lifetime score of 95% in the ARA's Congressional Voting Record. Congresswoman Duckworth has shown an unwavering commitment to expanding and strengthening retirement security programs, including Social Security, Medicare and the Affordable Care Act. Moving forward, we believe her strong leadership will greatly benefit seniors and working families in Illinois.

Illinois Retirees Call on Congress to Stand Up for Seniors, Prevent Giveaway to Drug Companies

On September 23rd, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky joined with IARA members to call on Congress to stand up for consumers, taxpayers and seniors by opposing a special carve-out for drug companies. The pharmaceutical industry has attempted to secure a special exemption from the Inter Partes Review (IPR) process, which was put into place to allow for timely challenges to illegitimate patents. Illegitimate drug patents are one of the causes of rising drug prices. Special treatment for the pharmaceutical industry would cost taxpayers billions in higher prescription drug prices.

"We are raising awareness on this issue because Americans pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world and seniors are particularly hard hit," said President Barbara Franklin, "Congress should stand up for consumers, taxpayers and seniors by opposing a special carve-out for drug companies from IPR patent review."



Congresswoman Schakowsky and IARA members at the flagship Walgreens, Wrigley Building.

Granite City Passes Resolution Opposing TPP

On November 17, with leadership from IARA leader Jeff Rains, President of SOAR 11-96, the City Council of Granite City passed a resolution opposing the Trans Pacific Partnership trade deal. This agreement contains various provisions that could affect drug prices for seniors. If passed by Congress, these provisions would block patent reform and jeopardize the government's ability to lower drug programs like Medicare. If you are interested in working on passing a resolution in your local government, please contact our Executive Director, Jeanne Cameron, at (312) 427-2114 ext. 207.



Ms. Geneva "Ginny" Nailing, March 17, 1941- November 1, 2015

We remember our sister, Ginny Nailing, of Peoria, IL, who passed away on November 1st. She was a passionate advocate for workers, veterans, women and seniors in the state of Illinois. Ginny was a proud UAW member, retiring in 2003 after 35 years of service from Caterpillar. Since, 2013, she was an active and influential IARA Executive Board member. Ginny's leadership in organizations included: Democratic Women, National Organization for Women, Veterans Committee, Central Illinois Women Committee, Citizen Action Policy Council, Clean Air, Planned Parenthood and the Red Hot Flutterbyes. She could always be counted on in Springfield to lobby on behalf of retirees. Ginny is survived by her devoted family, including her sister Evangelist "Twinkle" Stuckey of Peoria, and her nephews whom she considered her grandsons, Chad and Chaz Stuckey, both of Peoria.