



Illinois Alliance *for* Retired Americans

2011 Annual Newsletter

Illinois Alliance Holds its Annual Convention

The Illinois Alliance convention was held on September 23 at the UAW Pat Greathouse Center in Ottawa.

Barbara Franklin was re-elected state President. Other officers elected include: Homer K. Spaulding, re-elected as Executive Vice President; Katie Jordan, re-elected as Treasurer; and Jane Russell, Secretary.

Speakers included Barbara Easterling, President of the national Alliance for Retired Americans, Kris Sadur of Rep. Jan Schakowsky's office and Terri Gendel, Director of Benefits and Advocacy at AgeOptions.

End of Super Committee Good News for Seniors

The congressional "Super Committee" recently adjourned without recommending any spending cuts to the federal budget. This is good news for current and future retirees. It was better to have no deal than a bad deal. Over the past several months, members of the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans sent a clear message to Congress – Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are critical lifelines for millions of Americans and cannot be sacrificed for even greater tax breaks for Wall Street and corporate CEOs.

On November 7, over 400 seniors rallied at the Federal Plaza in Chicago to demand that Congress protect America's safety net programs. Sen. Dick Durbin, Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Rep. Mike Quigley and Rep. Danny Davis addressed the crowd at the rally. Senator Durbin said, "Social Security has served America for over 70 years. Let's stand behind Social Security; make it stronger and longer so that everyone across America has the protection of Social Security when they retire."

Additionally, hundreds of postcards and petitions, signed by Illinois Alliance members, were recently delivered to Sen. Mark Kirk's office. The postcards and petitions ask Sen. Kirk to protect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

The attack on America's safety net is not over. There may be votes to cut these programs before the end of the year. While some in Washington will continue to find ways to fund an extension of tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, the Illinois Alliance will continue to fight any efforts to cut retirement security programs.



Sen. Durbin speaks to the crowd at the Rally for Retirement Security in Chicago on November 7.



Illinois Alliance members protest outside of Rep. Bobby Schilling's office in Moline.

Seniors Tell Congressman Bobby Schilling: Hands off Medicare and Social Security!

Members of the Illinois Alliance met with U.S. Rep. Bobby Schilling on Friday, August 26 in Moline to ask him to oppose cuts to Social Security and Medicare

in the continuing debate about federal spending. Rep. Schilling voted for Rep. Paul Ryan's bill to privatize Medicare.

After the meeting, the Illinois Alliance members rallied outside of Rep. Schilling's office to call on him to protect retirement security for current and future retirees in his district, not cut it.



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Retirees in Alton Celebrate Social Security Anniversary

To celebrate Social Security's 76th anniversary and continue educating seniors about Social Security, the Illinois Alliance held an educational forum in Alton on August 18. Nearly

60 area seniors gathered to learn about the importance of the program, the recent attacks on Social Security and how to take action to protect and strengthen the program.

Speakers included Illinois Alliance President Barbara Franklin, Illinois Association of the Deaf President Angela Botz, and Larry Evans from the United Congregations of Metro-East.

The forum ended with the participants taking action by signing postcards and petitions that call on Congress to not cut Social Security.

Illinois Alliance Honors UAW Retiree at Senior Power Lunch

The Illinois Alliance honored Homer K. Spaulding, UAW retiree and Illinois Alliance Executive Vice President, with the 2011 Jerry Prete Award at this year's Senior Power Lunch in Des Plaines on October 18.



From left to right, UAW Region 4 Director Ron McInroy, Illinois Alliance Executive Vice President Homer Spaulding, Illinois Alliance Vice President Norm Coleman and Illinois Alliance President Barbara Franklin.

UAW Region 4 Director Ron McInroy presented the award to Mr. Spaulding. Illinois Alliance President, Barbara Franklin said, "Homer's years of outstanding leadership with the Illinois Alliance has made our organization better and stronger."

Other speakers at the lunch included U.S. Rep Jan Schakowsky, Citizen Action Co-Director and USAction President William McNary and Illinois Federation of Teachers Legislative Director Nick Yelverton.

Seniors Deliver Medicare Birthday Cake to Rep. Aaron Schock



To mark the 46th anniversary of Medicare, members of the Illinois Alliance celebrated this important date by delivering a birthday cake to Congressman Aaron Schock's office in Peoria on July 22 .

Outside of the office, leaders of the Illinois Alliance rallied and spoke with local news outlets about why Medicare is so necessary for current retirees and future generations. The Illinois Alliance opposes Congressman Schock's vote to turn Medicare into a voucher program.

Illinois Alliance Workshop Educates Retirees about Economic Justice and Social Security

This summer, the Illinois Alliance held workshops in Joliet and Rock Island about the connections between the shrinking middle class, economic justice and Social Security. The Illinois Alliance is working to debunk the myths about Social Security, so that seniors understand Social Security is a financially strong program with a \$2.6 trillion surplus. The workshop series will continue this spring and summer into several different locations throughout the state. Stay tuned for more details about a workshop near you.



Seniors in Rock Island at the Social Security workshop.