

Alliance for Retired Americans Celebrates Anniversary of Social Security

Members of the Alliance for Retired Americans participated in two celebrations in August to mark the 79th anniversary of Social Security, America's most successful retirement security program.

On August 14th at the Laborers' Local 309 hall in Rock Island, over 40 members celebrated with Congresswoman Cheri Bustos. The Congresswoman was a leader in the successful defeat of the Chained CPI proposal, which lowers the Social Security cost-of-living-adjustment.

David DeBailie, an Alliance member, said "Congresswoman Bustos can be trusted to lead with our interests. Her views on keeping health care affordable and retirement secure are among the reasons that we stand with the Congresswoman."

At the Decatur Macon County Senior Center on August 15th, nearly 30 Alliance members gathered to support Ann Callis for election to the U.S. House for Illinois' 13th congressional district because of her strong positions on fighting Social Security and Medicare privatization.

This year, the Alliance looks forward to celebrating the 80th anniversary of Social Security and continuing to protect and strengthen this important program.



Alliance members stand beside Congresswoman Cheri Bustos at a Social Security anniversary celebration in Rock Island.

Alliance Members Rally in Champaign and Chicago on Medicare's Anniversary



IARA President Barbara Franklin (left) joins members of the Alliance at a protest in front of Congressman Rodney Davis' office.

On July 30th, area members of the Alliance celebrated the 49th anniversary of Medicare in front of Congressman Rodney Davis' Champaign office by rallying to call on him to preserve the Medicare guarantee. Congressman Davis voted in favor of privatizing Medicare.

Speakers shared their stories about why Medicare is important to them and delivered a birthday cake into Congressman Davis' office to ask him to strengthen, not cut, Medicare.

"Retirees in our area are struggling to get by, but they know how much worse things would be without Medicare. For nearly 50 years Medicare has given seniors the ability to see a doctor and fill a prescription," said David Spinner, an Alliance member.

On July 31st, Alliance members in Chicago protested outside of then gubernatorial candidate Bruce Rauner's office. Rauner avoided paying Medicare and Social Security taxes in 2010 and 2011, even though he reported a combined adjusted gross income of \$55 million. Members chanted, "Rauner's schemes are bad for retirement security and bad for Illinois' seniors."



Katie Jordan honored at Senior Power Lunch

At the annual Senior Power Lunch on September 9th in Des Plaines, Illinois Alliance Treasurer Katie Jordan, was honored with the 2014 Jerry Prete Award.

Katie Jordan stands with Joe Costigan, Director of the Illinois Department of Labor, at the Senior Power Lunch.

Joe Costigan, Director of the Illinois Department of Labor, presented the award to Katie Jordan, praising her as a trail blazer within the labor movement.

Katie Jordan was the first African American tailor at the Lytton's department store in Chicago in the 1960's. Her co-workers were inspired by her courage and elected her to be their shop steward of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union Local 5, making her the first African American shop steward in her work place. Later, she was the first woman elected to be an officer of the union.

Katie Jordan now serves as the President of the Workers United International Association of Retirees and serves on the SEIU Retirees National Advisory Council. She is also the President of the Chicago Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

Other speakers at the Senior Power Lunch included the late Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka, Workers United Retiree Action Department Director Yadhira Alvarez, and Citizen Action/Illinois Co-Director William McNary.



Illinois Alliance members rally with Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and Citizen Action/Illinois Co-Director William McNary at the Federal Plaza in Chicago.

Alliance Members Celebrate National Grandparents Day in East St. Louis



Illinois Alliance leader Pat Peterman introduces Congressman Bill Enyart.

On September 5th at the Clyde C. Jordan Senior Center in East St. Louis, Alliance members marked Grandparents Day at an event with Congressman Bill Enyart.

Pat Peterman, Co-Chair of the Illinois Alliance Southern Regional Committee, said "Grandparents Day is an opportunity for us to recognize grandparents and reflect on retirement security for grandparents of today and the future. The Alliance is proud to support Congressman Enyart who is one of Congress' most fierce protectors of Social Security and Medicare."

On Election Day, Congressman Enyart lost his re-election bid, however, members will continue to mobilize in the 12th congressional district to fight for a secure retirement for grandparents.

Illinois Alliance Members Join "Put the Middle Class First" Bus Tour

On October 3rd at the Federal Plaza in Chicago, Alliance members joined the rally for the Americans United for Change "Put the Middle Class First" bus tour. The purpose of the nationwide tour was to drive home the clear choice before voters on Election Day between having a U.S. Congress that works for seniors and working families or one that works for the corporate special interest. The event was covered by the local media.