

## Report from President

### Barbara Franklin

This past year, IARA members mobilized across the state to fight back against the Trump/Ryan attack on retirement security and Governor Rauner's destructive agenda for seniors and working families.

In 2017, IARA also began an exciting partnership with Caring Across Generations (CAG), an



*IARA Organizer  
Louis Goseland*

organization committed to building a nationwide movement to protect and expand care for seniors and people with disabilities.

With CAG's support, IARA is excited to announce that we have hired a central Illinois community organizer, Louis Goseland, who is based out of Bloomington. Louis has 11 years of diverse professional experience ranging from worker justice to grassroots political power building.

As a part of IARA's campaign work with CAG, we are screening a documentary called "CARE". This film delves deep into the world of care giving through the eyes of both caregivers and the people who rely on their dedicated work, care and compassion. If you are interested in hosting a screening, contact Louis at [lgoseland.ara@gmail.com](mailto:lgoseland.ara@gmail.com).

## Saving Medicaid, Medicare, and the ACA

In 2017, retirees mobilized across Illinois to fight back against the Trump/ Ryan plan to cut Medicaid, Medicare and the Affordable Care Act. Retiree leaders began by meeting with their Congressmen and Congresswomen to discuss concerns that an ACA repeal would have on seniors and their opposition to threatened cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. Throughout the year, members participated in vigils, rallies and press conferences in Belleville, Carbondale, Chicago, Rock Island and Springfield.



*Retirees tell Congressman Mike Bost  
"Hands off our Healthcare!" in Belleville*

In a Letter to the Editor in the Decatur Herald-Review, IARA member David Spinner said, "These kinds of changes are not about improving health care or even saving money. Instead they will fund tax cuts for multinational corporations and the wealthiest Americans. Meanwhile, beneficiaries will pay significantly more out-of-pocket. The impacts will be devastating to all Americans".

After successfully defeating the effort to repeal the ACA, retirees continued to fight back against the recent tax bill. This bill provides tax cuts to wealthiest 1%, while threatening deep cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and



*August Recess in Springfield— Retirees called on  
Congressman LaHood and Congressman Davis to  
protect Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.*

Social Security. Retirees mobilized in Barrington, Bloomington-Normal, Downers Grove, Champaign, Chicago, Springfield and West Chicago. Although the tax bill has passed, IARA Board Member Kim Johnson stated, "We are not backing down. We are standing together to tell Congressman Roskam and leaders in Congress that we will oppose any cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security".

## Retirees Win Battle to Protect Home Care for Seniors

Governor Rauner continues to attack the state's homecare program, the Community Care Program. CCP provides long term care for 80,000 seniors in their homes in Illinois. In 2017, the Rauner Administration attempted to force non-Medicaid-eligible seniors into an untested, poorly patched-together set of services called the Community Reinvestment Program (CRP). This program would force 36,000 seniors out of CCP and into CRP and would cut nearly 31% of their services.

Working in coalition with Caring Across Generations, SEIU Healthcare, AARP and the Alzheimer's Association, retirees mobilized across Illinois to stop implementation of CRP. IARA members participated in actions and meetings with elected officials. IARA leaders, including President Barbara Franklin, Executive Vice President Homer Spaulding, Board Members Gary Hall and Miller Rodgers, retiree activists Dorothy Asbury, Don Todd and Steven Welch, spoke out against CRP at press events across Illinois.

As a result of retiree mobilization, plans for CRP were abandoned during the state budget resolution process in August. IARA and the care coalition continues to stay vigilant as the Rauner administration continues to seek ways to cut CCP. Stay tuned for updates on the fight to protect care for all.



*IARA Vice President Homer Spaulding with retirees and State Representative Greg Harris*

## IARA Constitutional Convention



*2017 Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans Constitutional Convention in Ottawa, IL*

On September 23rd, IARA held its second constitutional convention, as a 501 (c)(4), at the UAW Pat Greathouse Center in Ottawa. Over 75 members attended, with presentations from UAW Region 4 Director Ron McInroy, Maureen Dunn of the Alliance for Retired Americans, Paul Ogwal of Caring Across Generations and IL AFL-CIO Political Director Bill Looby. Bea Lumpkin and leaders of Chicago Metro Retirees gave a presentation on the INTERGEN Alliance, which is a coalition of younger and older activists, working together for social justice. Newly elected board members include Tomas Sean Milhouse of AFSCME Subchapter 60, Jacki Naughton of IFT Local 1274, Scott Marshall of SOAR and Mike Malmstrom of the Quad Cities ARA Chapter.

## 2017 Senior Power Lunch

On Columbus Day, Senator Dick Durbin received the Jerry Prete Award at IARA's annual Senior Power Lunch held at the Plumbers Hall in Chicago. Senator Durbin continues to provide critical leadership in protecting affordable, quality health care for all people. Reverend Alvis Martin gave the invocation, Congresswoman Schakowsky spoke and Citizen Action Co-Director William McNary gave an inspirational closing. Over 150 retirees attended, including members from AFSCME Retirees Chapter 31, UAW Region 4, Chicago Teachers Union, SEIU State Council, Illinois Education Association, Illinois Federation of Teachers, SEIU Healthcare Illinois and Indiana, 34th Ward Seniors, Coalition of Labor Union Women, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, IBEW 134 Retirees and SOAR. Elected officials also in attendance included State Senator Dan Biss, State Rep. Theresa Mah, State Rep. Juliana Stratton and Chicago Alderman Ameya Pawar.



*Congresswoman Schakowsky, Senator Durbin and State Rep. Stratton*