

## Report from President Barbara Franklin

The Illinois Alliance saw changes and marked milestones this year. Sadly, our Executive Vice President, Homer K. Spaulding, passed away in January. Homer was 101 years old and served on our board for over 30 years.



*Homer, Katie and Bea.*

Miller T. Rodgers of UAW Local 6 has been elected to the position of Executive Vice President. Miller will continue to bring the leadership Homer brought to our board.

In joyous news, we celebrated IARA Treasurer Katie Jordan's 90th birthday on May 11th. In December, Katie was inducted into the Union Hall of Honor by the Illinois Labor History Society.

We also celebrated IARA leader and Chicago-Metro Retiree founder Bea Lumpkin's 100th birthday on August 3rd. ARA Director Rich Fiesta awarded Bea with a lifetime achievement award, U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky entered her biography into the Congressional Record, and she received a letter from Barack Obama.

We are looking forward to an active and energizing 2019!

## Pro-Retiree Candidates Win 2018 Elections

On November 6, pro-retiree candidates won across the country. In Illinois, ARA endorsed winning candidates Sean Casten (CD-6) and Lauren Underwood (CD-14). These champions for senior citizens will fight to protect the Affordable Care Act, Medicare and Medicaid, and work to towards expanding Social Security, Medicare for All, and a new green economy for future generations.



*Retirees endorse Sean Casten in Downers Grove.*

On the state level, retirees endorsed and worked to elect JB Pritzker for Governor and his running mate Juliana Stratton for Lt. Governor. JB and Juliana are committed to protecting and expanding long-term care for seniors in Illinois. Retirees also endorsed Kwame Raoul for Attorney General. Additionally, IARA endorsed 64 candidates for the Illinois General Assembly. Of the candidates we endorsed, 32 of were elected, with 15 elected to the General Assembly for the first time.



*Quad Cities ARA members host legislative candidate forum on care issues in August.*

The work of our members and grassroots leaders during this election cycle was tremendous. Retirees held 4 candidate forums in Springfield, Moline, Bloomington and Urbana. IARA also held endorsement events in the Downers Grove, Metro-East, Springfield and the Quad Cities. Retiree volunteers filled over 93 phone canvassing shifts, not to mention the countless other volunteer efforts across the state of Illinois.

Candidates that carried the Alliance's support earned our endorsement with their commitment to ensure our economic security by protecting pensions and earned benefits, as well as our ability to access services that make it possible to age with dignity in our communities. In the year ahead, we will continue to organize with the same vigor to protect and expand retirement security for all.

## Retirees Call for Universal Long-Term Care, Win Funding For Study

IARA is working with Access Living, Caring Across Generations, Jane Addams Senior Caucus and SEIU Healthcare to pass legislation to create a Universal Long-Term Care program for seniors in Illinois.

By 2025, the population of Illinoisans over the age of 65 will grow by a third, to 2.5 million. Most seniors will need long-term care at some point in their lives. Instead of investing in long-term care, former Governor Rauner attempted to cut home-care services to over 36,000 seniors across Illinois.



*Don Todd testifies with Rep. Chris Welch in Springfield.*

Because of the urgent need to expand long-term care, IARA leaders and activists lobbied, participated in forums, spoke at press

events and attended rallies. In May, IARA leader and AFSCME retiree Don Todd testified at a subject matter hearing in the House Human Services Committee in Springfield on proposed long-term care legislation. HB 5697 (The Affordable Long-Term Services and Supports for Illinois' Families Act) was sponsored by State Representative Chris Welch.

As result of our hard work, this year's state budget will include \$400,000 for an actuarial study that will assess the needs of long-term care in Illinois. Upon completion in January 2020, we expect results of the study to provide supporting evidence of the need for an expanded system of long-term services and support, lending greater credibility to our call for Universal Long-Term Care.

If you would like to find out more about how you can advance the cause of establishing Universal Long-Term Care in Illinois, contact Louis Goseland at [lgoseland.ara@gmail.com](mailto:lgoseland.ara@gmail.com) or by phone at 316.204.4315.

## ARA National Membership Meeting



*Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans delegation in Las Vegas, NV.*

The Alliance for Retired Americans held its National Membership Meeting in Las Vegas, NV November 13-15. Illinois had a delegation of over 20 members. Staff presented workshops on important senior issues. We heard from several speakers, including Pulitzer Prize winner David Cay Johnston. Robert Roach, Jr. was re-elected ARA President and Joseph Peters, Jr. was re-elected ARA Vice-President.

A special panel was held on intergenerational organizing. IARA leader and Chicago Teacher Union retiree Bea Lumpkin and SEIU Healthcare Illinois & Indiana organizer Lakesia Collins were presenters on Chicago-Metro Retirees project INTERGEN. Finally, ARA members had the opportunity to network with fellow retirees from across the country at a gala event.

## 2018 Senior Power Lunch

On September 25, IARA held its annual luncheon at the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Hall. We honored newly elected Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton with the 2018 Jerry Prete Award. Sarita Gupta of Jobs With Justice and Caring Across Generations was our Keynote Speaker. Reverend Alvis Martin gave the invocation and William McNary of Citizen Action gave rousing closing remarks. Over 150 retirees and union members attended.



*Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans officers award the Honorable Juliana Stratton with the 2018 Jerry Prete Award.*