

IARA President's Report

Brothers and Sisters,

As I reflect on the end of the year, there is so much to be thankful for, but I am most appreciative of the solidarity shown throughout the labor movement across our state. The midterm elections were something we all worked together diligently on to protect the rights of workers and seniors.

Retirees and workers, young and old, worked together with our fantastic partner from the Say Yes for Worker's Right Campaign and Citizen action to secure the passage of the Workers' Right Amendment and to elect two pro-workers Supreme Court Justice to have a 5-2 Democratic majority. We are also grateful that all the Alliance-endorsed candidates were reelected to congress. We are incredibly proud of the reelection of our friends Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (IL-9) and Congresswoman-elect Nikki Brudzinski (IL-13), who have been long-time friends and supporters of the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans.

This has been a historic year. In addition to monumental electoral victories, we secured historic investment in protecting pensions. We hired a new organizer in the Spring from Central Illinois, Krystle Able, and a new Executive Director, Jesús Palafox, who started his new position with a bigger-than-ever Senior Power Celebration (SPC).

This year at our SPC, we honored THREE outstanding labor women leaders, including Director Roberta Lynch, AFSCME Council 31 Executive Director. We created a new award honoring the legacy and work of Frank and Beatrice Lumpkin, which was presented to Bea Lumpkin. Our third new award went to State Representative Lakesia Collins, who received our Retiree Champion award.

As we look forward to a new year, let's take a moment to celebrate what we accomplished in 2022 and continue building on our solidarity for 2023.




*IARA President Don Todd
with his grandson*

Renewal of InterGen Alliance!

InterGen is an intergenerational alliance of retirees and young activists that was founded in early 2016 through the ChicagoMetro Retirees, a chapter of the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans, with the Future Fighters of SEIU Healthcare Illinois/Indiana.

The first InterGen worked on the 2016 General Election to promote voting, participated in several rallies and strikes, and organized a full-day retreat where the young and elder activists attended workshops together and collaborated on three main issues

- Saving Social Security and Medicare,
- Tuition Free Illinois
- Fight for \$15 & Right to Join a Union

IARA is happy to announce the InterGen Alliance has been renewed through our Chicago Metro Retirees!

"Young activists are fighting for justice and against racism. Many are working to prevent climate change catastrophe. Young workers are leading the exciting organizing drives at Amazon, Starbucks and more. Now's the time to Renew the Chicago InterGen after the Pandemic slowdown."

—Beatrice Lumpkin



Members of Chicago Metro InterGen, December 2022

The IARA and its affiliate, ChicagoMetro Retirees, invite young Chicago-Area activists to join us in renewing InterGen at a planning session **6 pm, March 23rd, at SEIU Health Care, 2229 S. Halsted St, Chicago.** Free parking on street and in the rear of the building.

If you're interested in establishing an InterGen Alliance for your retiree group, contact our organizer, Krystle Able at Kable@Illinoisretiredamericans.org

Upcoming Events with IARA

Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans has a bold mission that involves enrolling and mobilizing retired union members and other senior and community activists into a nationwide grassroots movement advocating for our political and social agenda and in 2023 IARA staff is looking to connect with our affiliates in new and more engaging ways. That's why we are hosting bi-monthly virtual meetings for our affiliate leaders to learn how they can be engaged in our shared battles and take that information back to their organizations to get involved.

These meetings will be virtual and registration is required.

First Affiliate Leaders Meeting:
February 24th, 2023, Friday, 12pm-1pm:
ARA and IARA Priorities for 2023

Tentative Future Dates:
Fridays: April 28, June 30, August 25,
October 27

Affiliate leaders can email organizer, Krystle Able to register for the events and get more information at
Kable@Illinoisretiredamericans.org

Save the Date!

The 2023 Biennial Convention

In Ottawa, September 2023

Elections for Officers and Executive Board Members take place at the biennial convention. Email IARA Executive Director, Jesús Palafox with questions at jpalafox@illinoisretiredamericans.org

IARA has a lot of programming in the works for 2023. If you want to be the first to know about:

- Lobby Visits
- Workshops
- Older Americans Month Celebrations
- Senior Power Celebration
- Actions
- Press Conferences
- Alliance for Retired Americans Events
- 2023 Biennial Convention
- And more!




You can be among the first to know about these events by joining our becoming an individual member of the Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans and being added to our mailing list.

<https://tinyurl.com/joinIllinoisAlliance>

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE

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We are here to help.

-  Schedule an in-person appointment on our website.
-  Call us for assistance at (312) 443-7550.
-  Send us message on social media.



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