

## President's Letter

Dear Illinois Alliance Members:

This year 2023 has been a challenging year for the IARA. Our legislative work this year was quieter than usual, but many of our affiliates met with their members of congress such as Sean Casten, Lauren Underwood and Nikki Budzinski to ask them to sign on as sponsors of the Social Security Act. Everyone signed on. The Social Security Act not only strengthened our benefits, it also would eliminate the WEB/GPO which adversely affects retired teachers and other retirees who worked in the public sector.

We did play a major role in getting HB3957 passed and signed into law by the Governor. HB 3957 creates the Pharmaceutical and Health Accountability, it places restrictions on manufacturers' amoral behavior through reasonable oversight. Which gives the Illinois Attorney General the right to investigate suspected price gouging by pharmaceutical companies. This bill is an important first step in bringing the cost of medications under control. We began working on the bill in 2018 when we surveyed us members and learned that many members couldn't afford their medications and were forced to choose between buying their medications or buying food.

In September the IARA held its biannual convention at the Pat Greathouse Center in Ottawa Illinois. Members of the IARA came together from across Illinois to plan our course over the next two years and to elect our new Board and our President and Secretary. Don Todd was elected President and Jane Russell Secretary.

In October due to challenging financial hurdles, we transitioned our Senior Power Lunch to a virtual format. We presented awards to Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, IFT President Dan Montgomery and to our own Vice President Miller Rogers from the UAW.

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(President's Letter Continued...)

Shortly after our Zoom Senior Power Lunch our Executive Director announced his resignation. In November, we hired Krystle Able as our new Director. Krystle has brought a new positive energy to the IARA. We are turning a corner and beginning to rebuild our finances and some of our sustainer organizations are wanting to play a more active role with us.

2024 unlike this year will be a very active year for the IARA both legislatively and politically. We will be busy working to elect candidates who support our issues in the March primary and in the November General Election. We will also be working to get important issues like the Social Security Fairness Act passed through Congress, and working to get a Pharmaceutical Board created to help control drug costs.

We will also be working to bring changes and improvements to the State of Illinois Tier two pension System. With Krystle Able as our new Director, we are energized and ready to do our work in 2024.

We want to wish you a Happy New Year and thank you for continuing to support the IARA. We look forward to working together with you next year.

Sincerely;



Don Todd  
President of the IARA.



Krystle Able  
Executive Director

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## Executive Director's Notes

I am so thrilled to be taking this next step as the Executive Director for the Illinois Alliance.

I have been with the Alliance for almost two years and am also an elected member of the McLean County Board in Normal, Illinois. I am a mother of 3 school-aged children and went to college at the University of Illinois Springfield.

I am currently working on booking affiliate visits for 2024, so please reach out to schedule your visit ASAP

The Alliance for Retired Americans is also looking for members who have stories to share! Has your life improved due to the Biden Administration Policies such as the Inflation Reduction Act? Have you suffered due to WEP or GPO legislation? Have you worried about making ends meet with meager social security payments? We want to hear YOUR story as we gear up for the 2024 election. Send me an email and let me know you've got something to say!



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