

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



President Don Todd
Executive Vice President Miller T. Rodgers

Our Spring Legislative Priorities

The Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans has two main focus areas for Spring 2025:

1. **Tier 2 Pension Reform**
2. **Lowering the Cost of Prescription Medication**

At our January Executive Board Meeting, the Illinois Alliance officially Endorsed HB5909/SB3988 which would undo the unjust Tier 2 pensions and create a more equitable system that is supported by labor and retirees.

We also voted to continue our work and support on the Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY ACT

LOBBY DAY

FEBRUARY 25TH
RSVP: [CITIZENACTION-IL.ORG/LOBBYDAY](https://citizenaction-il.org/lobbyday)

SIGN UP FOR LOBBY DAY!
Call Executive Director Krystle Able at 309-831-5284
to reserve your spot or go to citizenaction-il.org/lobbyday



The need to pass this bill is urgent, especially as costs continue to climb across the board. I've said it before, and I'll keep saying it: no one should have to choose between paying for their mortgage, utilities, or groceries and affording life-saving medication. This issue hits our most vulnerable communities the hardest, particularly seniors on fixed incomes, who are already facing financial strain.

— REPRESENTATIVE NABEELA SYED



TAKE ACTION: citizenaction-il.org/pdabaction

Drugs don't work if people can't afford them.

28%

of Illinoisans either have not filled prescriptions or rationed their medication due to cost

77%

of Illinoisans are "concerned" about being able to afford prescription drugs over the next few years

86%

of Illinoisans are supportive of establishing a PDAB*

1/3

of premium costs are due to high-cost prescription drugs

*2020 Healthcare Value Hub Poll

Read what advocates said today about the Prescription Drug Affordability Act.





BUILDING A SENIOR POWERED MOVEMENT IN ILLINOIS

The population of senior citizens in Illinois is going to boom in the next 5 years. The Illinois Department of Aging estimates that by the year 2030, nearly three-quarters of a million people will be seniors and this demographic will be 25% of the population.

Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are at risk on the Federal level. Future retirees with public pensions who are on tier 2 are going to struggle to retire with dignity and financial security, and every day more and more people struggle to afford their prescription medication.

Over the year, the Illinois Alliance has advocated for legislation that has won bipartisan support including H.R. 82 the Repeal WEP/GPO Act. Alliance leaders were at the forefront of the national task force and built the case for the campaign to repeal WEP/GPO by collecting and sharing stories from people affected, meeting with legislators, writing letters to the editor and op eds, and creating a Facebook group for workers being unfairly denied the benefits they paid for.

The next few years are going to be tough. We will be combatting cuts while holding our champions' feet to the fire to protect the vital programs seniors and retirees depend on. However, we all understand that we are all in this together.

Collectively, we can champion worker rights, mobilize retirees and seniors around the issues that matter to us most, hold our elected officials accountable when they vote against our interest, and raise them up and celebrate when they have our backs.

The Illinois Alliance is the perfect organization to capture the momentum the boost in the senior population is sure to bring, but we need your help. It is time to activate! We need volunteers who are willing to share a story, phone bank, meet with legislators, write letters to the editor, attend lobby days, and much more. Let us know how you would like to be involved this year in building a senior-powered movement in Illinois.



Scan Me
**SHARE YOUR STORY & GET
INVOLVED**

bit.ly/IARAGetInvolved



Save the Date

**2025 Biennial Convention
Saturday September
13th, 2025**

**UAW Pat Greathouse Center
Ottawa, Illinois**

Nominations Now

OPEN

**2025 Senior Power Lunch
Awards**

**between now and March 15th,
nominate recipients for the three
awards given out annually at the
Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans
Senior Power Celebration**

**Jerry Prete Award
Retiree Champion Award
Frank & Beatrice Lumpkin Award**



**Scan Here or Visit this
website to learn more
about the awards and
make your nomination:
bit.ly/SPC2025nominations**

Events in 2025

The Illinois Alliance has several big events coming up next year. Stay Tuned to Your Inbox for More Info About:

**Spring Tea/Breakfast in
Central Illinois to Celebrate
Older Americans Month in
May.**

2025 Senior Power Celebration

2025 Biennial Convention

Affiliates will be eligible to participate in the 2025 Biennial Convention so long as their dues are paid on time-- March 31st, 2025

The Illinois Alliance just updated our bylaws and officers of the board will serve two year terms now instead of four. Due to this change, all five officers will be elected at the 2025 convention. We have also increased the number of labor director seats from 10 to 12.

Executive Director Krystle Able will be in contact with affiliates regarding all of these events.

**Krystle can be reached at
Kable@illinoisretiredamericans.org
309-831-5284
illinois.retiredamericans.org**

Call or email her to set up your 2025 annual affiliate visits!

JOIN THE MOVEMENT BECOME A MEMBER

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY NETWORK (CAN)

The Community Advocacy Network (CAN) is the community and individual membership program of the Alliance for Retired Americans. CAN members, in partnership with sponsoring organizations of the Alliance, work to ensure that all seniors and retirees can live a life of dignity and retirement security.

The CAN program is the mechanism to bring non-union members and individual union members together into the advocacy programs of the Alliance. Our focus is to protect and expand Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and pensions, to provide retirement security on the Federal level; as well as affordable healthcare, aging in place, worker's rights, pensions, and more in Illinois.

Membership Definition: A CAN member is an individual who pays their own dues to the Illinois Alliance and is not a member of a participating sponsoring organization

CAN is designed to give a voice to the individual members of the Alliance, and provide a mechanism to reach out to other individuals and community based organizations. Through this outreach, new individual members and activists can become members of the Alliance.



**JOIN THE ILLINOIS
ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED
AMERICANS CAN NETWORK
TODAY FOR A DONATION
OF \$10 PER YEAR**

TINYURL.COM/ILLINOISALLIANCE

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