



AFSCME RETIREE NEWS

West Virginia Chapter 77, AFL-CIO

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OUTRAGE OVER SENATE PASSAGE OF MEDICARE BILL

Washington, D.C.—

This is a sad day for America's seniors. Shame on the House and Senate for not taking the time to do the work to give seniors a comprehensive prescription drug benefit.

The Alliance for Retired Americans is outraged that both the House and Senate failed older Americans and passed a bill that will not give seniors what they need. Millions of seniors across America will soon realize the shameful way in which they have been passed over by this Congress.

Shame on Congress for opening the door to privatize Medicare.

Shame on Congress for protecting the profits of the pharmaceutical and insurance industries over the needs of older Americans.

Shame on Congress for allowing 2.7 million retirees to lose their existing coverage.

Shame on Congress that they will not allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices.

The Alliance for Retired Americans believes seniors will lose because Congress failed to do its work. We have said from the beginning that no bill is better than a bad bill, and we do not agree

with those who say that though the bill is imperfect it's all we can get. This is about choices, and Congress has chosen profits over people.

We think it's disgraceful that members of Congress have passed a bad bill so they can go home and claim a hollow political victory.

This is a sad day for America's seniors and anyone who has to now step in and take care of their parents and grandparents. Congress may think that the final vote is today, but seniors will have their final vote on November 2, 2004.

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a nationwide organization of more than 2.7 million union retirees of which the AFSCME Retiree Program is part of...

www.retiredamericans.org



Special points of interest:

- *WV Senators Byrd & Rockefeller voted against this bad bill*
- *WV Congresswoman Shelly Moore Capito supports it*
- *Both of Kentucky's Republican Senators voted for this bad bill*
- *According to Peter Hart Research Associates Poll, 78% of all senior Americans were against this bill*



Happy Holidays

Inside this issue:

Bad Medicare Bill Passes	1
President's Message	2
Meeting Photos	2
Meeting Notes	3
Membership Renewal	3
Spud's Holiday Pen	4
Mailing Page w/Officers	4



SPUD Speaks ~ President's Message

The holiday season is right around the corner and if those Christmas turkeys don't hide they will soon be in our ovens. I don't know about you, but I can hardly wait. Speaking of Christmas, I will bore you with my annual poem somewhere in this issue.

I hope that all who read this are doing well but I know all of our Retirees go through up and down times. Your President and Executive Staff also experience those times as I have had a couple of surgeries lately but am doing fine now. We have a little good news this year as we have been told that PEIA WILL NOT RAISE PREMIUMS OR CUT OUR BENEFITS THIS YEAR !

The same old bad news is that we do not have much of a chance of getting a cost of living raise. I, along with the other Retiree Volunteers continue to monitor and lobby the powers that be in Charleston.

I am sure that you know that the 2004 election is the most important election in many years, maybe ever, for working people and Retirees. The middle class, working and retired are about to be wiped out by the powers in Washington. The security and good life we worked for is in danger, including our pensions, social security, and our savings as well as the jobs our children and grandchildren have.

Our Retiree chapter will gather as much information on our candidates and issues, and pass on to you what we find. We will have candidates talk with us (two in this issue) and get information from the AFSCME RETIREE INTERNATIONAL and monitor the AFL-CIO endorsements.

I would ask that you vote and become involved in the process because GOOD CANDIDATES NEED THE HELP OF GOOD WORKERS.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
SPUD TERRY
Retiree Chapter President

2003 Holiday Lunch Meeting in Charleston



Retiree Chapter 77 Executive Board, members and guests December 2003



Retirees President Spud Terry and Recording Secretary Eloise Jack enjoy a Holiday Greeting.



Chapter 77 Meeting Notes

CANDIDATES SPEAK

At the September Retiree Meeting Natalie Tennant, Democratic candidate for West Virginia Secretary of State spoke about her candidacy.

First of all she wanted us to know that she was a Union Member through her broadcasting career and her heart was with us even though as Secretary of State she would be limited in what she could do about Retiree matters.

Natalie was the Mountaineer Mascot and said she would carry that kind of energy to improve



Help the less fortunate this Holiday Season and in the new year.

and manage the Secretary of State office. She said that her coverage of the news as a TV reporter will be an advantage.

At our October meeting George Daugherty, Democratic candidate for West Virginia Secretary of State spoke about his run for office.

Mr. Daugherty reminded us that

he is better know as "The Earl of Elkview" because of his music career and as a musician, he is a Union member.

Mr. Daugherty is a Lawyer and a Korean War Veteran, He said he has always loved and promoted West Virginia and wants to use the elected office to do so even more.

He also wanted us to know that though not retired, he is a senior citizen.

If you would like to attend out Retiree Executive Board meetings as a Chapter 77 member, call Spud at 342-2114.



Time to Renew your Retiree Chapter Membership or JOIN for 2004 from Secretary Treasurer Craddock.

We are lucky in West Virginia to have a check off available for retired state employees to pay the \$1.00 per month Retiree dues directly from your retirement check. If you retired from a city or county or choose not to use check off, you should send your

annual payment of \$12.00 to:

AFSCME Retiree WV Chapter
501 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301

If you have been on check-off,

you don't need to do anything. If you would like the form to start the automatic deductions, call 1-800-642-1983.

"IN UNITY, THERE IS STRENGTH" JOIN TODAY.

Rachel Craddock



AS A CHILD I HAD CHRISTMAS DREAMS I STILL RECALL
NOCTURNAL VISIONS THAT BEGAN IN EARLY FALL
OF TOYS SHINY AND NEW UNDER A SPARKLING TREE
AND I JUST KNEW THAT CHRISTMAS WAS ALL ABOUT ME.

ALTHOUGH THOSE DREAMS SELDOM CAME TRUE
MY WANTS AND DESIRES INCREASED AS I GREW
I DREAMED OF BIG PRESENTS THAT COULD NEVER BE
YET I KNEW THAT CHRISTMAS WAS STILL ALL ABOUT ME.



Have a Happy & Safe
Holiday Season and a
Happy New Year!!

AS A MAN IT WAS THE CHRISTMAS SCHEMES I RECALL
PLANNING THE PERFECT GIFTS FOR ONE AND ALL
THOSE GIFTS I NEVER GOT NOW UNDER THE FAMILY TREE
SO I KNEW THAT CHRISTMAS WAS SOMEHOW ABOUT ME.

NOW AS A WISE MAN ITS CHRISTMAS TRUTH I RECALL
THAT JESUS WAS BORN TO DIE AND SAVE US ALL
A PRESENT MUCH TO BIG TO FIT UNDER ANY TREE
AND NOW I TRULY KNOW THAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT
ME.

American Federation of State, County &
Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

SPUD TERRY, 12-03

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