



# AFSCME WV Retirees News

## WV SPECIAL SESSION REPORT

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The special session of the WV Legislature was in session from September 7, 2005 until September 12, 2005. This session was primarily to give pay increases to public employees and teachers. These raises were from a minimum of \$900 a year to \$1350 a year with some higher in the teacher sector.

In an earlier special session Judges got up to a \$26,000 a year increase with retired Judges getting a \$19,500 cost of living increase. The other

group of retirees to get a cost of living increase was certain members of the State Police retirees. The Retired Public Employees, Retired Teachers and Retired School Employees got nothing.

These retirees are really struggling with increased PEIA premiums and shrinking Pension dollars due to the rising cost of living.

Although there is talk that the Legislature may offer a one time bonus of about \$200 for retirees next year, it would be a one time check and

would do nothing for retirees' ongoing expenses. In plain language, the Judges will continue to get their \$19,500 check every year but the \$200 check for our retirees would be for one year only.

These developments are very disturbing but the worst may be ahead because it has been proposed that huge pay raises for Elected officials and Department heads be granted in the Spring of next year.

### 'Labor Donated'



These retirees are really struggling with increased PEIA premiums and shrinking Pension dollars due to the rising cost of living.

## COALITION MARCH ON CAPITOL

Right now our coalition of retired public employees (CORPE) has leaders working very hard for maintaining or increasing our Retiree Benefits. As we all know, the only way to get the attention of the Legislature and Governor is to show up in large numbers.

Our Coalition represents over 13,000 public retirees and we are proposing that at least 1,000 of you march on the Capitol for your needs. The details are being worked out so please stand at the ready!

# Message from the President

As retirees and especially public sector retirees, we are used to hard or lean times in our lifetime. Now especially for those of us who have been retired for a while things have gotten a lot tougher.

The high cost of health care, our stagnant pensions, the rising cost of heat and gasoline along with the food prices has caused many of us to go back to work if we can and others just get by the best we can.

As your president I have worked hard for the Re-


tirees. I believe that you have earned and deserve retirement benefits that will not wither away because of inflation while the State's resources are directed to less worthy causes.

Now we need each other more than ever. I urge you to March on the Capitol or if you are unable, I urge you to have family members march on your behalf. Together we can make a difference. You will be notified of the date and time for the march.

Thanks for your confi-

dence and support.

Ernest 'Spud' Terry



"Now we need each other more than ever. I urge you to March on the Capitol ..."

*Ernest 'Spud' Terry*



## WV ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

As members of the AFSCME RETIREES you are also members of the national Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA); because the AFSCME RETIREES International pays our ARA dues.

Now we will finally have a West Virginia chapter of the ARA to promote local retiree

issues. This alliance will include unions under the AFL-CIO umbrella as well as community action groups.

This Alliance will mean that thousands of West Virginians will be working together for the good of the retirees.

AFSCME Chapter 77 Retirees has a leadership

role in the WV ARA and hope all of our members will participate.



## MEDICARE DRUG COVERAGE INFORMATION

The Medicare Drug Program (Part D) is very complicated and will require a decision to opt in or stay with the Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA). We have asked a representative from PEIA to speak to our Executive Board about the issues at our next meeting.

**The meeting will be in our office at 501 Leon Sullivan Way in Charleston, West Virginia at 1:00 pm on Wednesday October 12, 2005.**

Although PEIA will get this information out, we want to obtain as many details as we can in order to keep our membership informed.

As a reminder, our Board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm in our office at 501 Leon Sullivan Way in Charleston, West Virginia.



Our meetings are open to all members, but you must make arrangements in advance if you want to attend because of limited seating.

DATE: The Second Wednesday of each month.

TIME: 1:00 PM for about 1 hour

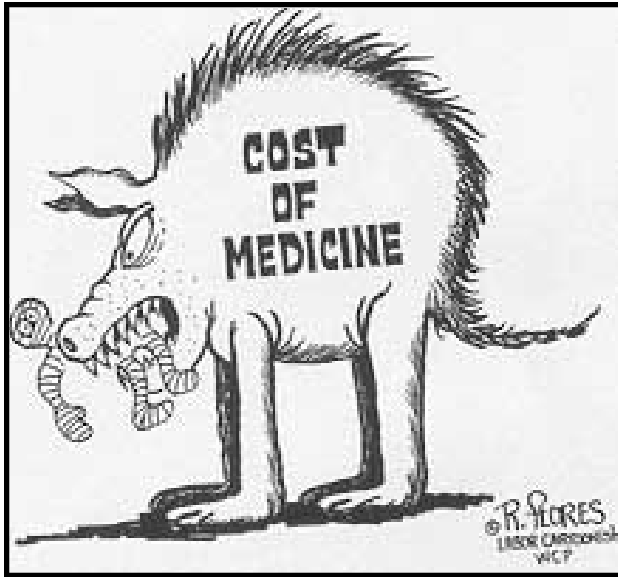
WHERE: AFSCME Office in the AFL-CIO Bldg  
501 Leon Sullivan Way, First Floor  
Charleston, WV 25301

For Directions or more information, call AFSCME  
Council 77 at 304-342-2114 [www.afscmewv.org](http://www.afscmewv.org)



All Retiree  
members invited.

## RETIREE COALITION FORMED



Our efforts to gain additional benefits and protect existing benefits for our members have been strengthened by the formation of an alliance with various Public Employee Groups.

Retirees from American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Public Employee Retiree System Association (PERSA), West Virginia Association of Retired School Employees (VARSE), and West Virginia Education Association (WVEA) have joined with AFSCME Retirees Chapter 77 to lobby and otherwise seek Pension increases and PEIA premium reductions.

This Coalition now gives us numbers that the Legislature and Governor will find hard to ignore and it will be harder for them to play one group against another.

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Charleston, WV 25301

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### WV Chapter 77 Officers:

Ernest "Spud" Terry, President

Eddie Harman, Vice President

Eloise Jack, Rec. Secretary

Rachel Craddock, Sec-Treas.

Jean Teel, Executive Board

Patricia Tyree, Executive Board

Juanita Auer, Executive Board

