



## AFSCME WV RETIREE'S CHAPTER 77 NEWS

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

Fall - Winter 2009

# Alliance for Retired Americans

The annual convention for the West Virginia chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) will be November 19 and 20, 2009 at Cedar Lakes.

AFSCME RETIREES will take part in the Convention with the largest vote which is based on the numbers of our membership. There are only a few rooms at the Cedar Lakes lodge and AFSCME is usually allotted four rooms for double occupancy for a total of eight persons for Thursday November 19. Also for those close enough to commute, a few more of us could attend.

The State AFL-CIO pays for the rooms and meals for all those selected to attend.

For information call Spud Terry at 304-767-1799

## Retirees Mourn the Loss of Senator Ted Kennedy

In a rare joint statement, Alliance President **Barbara J. Easterling**, Secretary-Treasurer **Ruben Burks**, and Executive Director **Edward F. Coyle** commented Wednesday on the death of Senator **Edward M. Kennedy**. "Senator Kennedy was one of the greatest champions of older Americans in our nation's history. Senior citizens are deeply indebted to him for his lifetime of achievements and leadership, from the beginning of his Senate career until the end," the Alliance leaders said. They continued, "Senator Kennedy began his career in public service by helping launch Medicare, a true American success story that has reduced senior poverty by two-thirds. We will forever remember his courageous return to the Senate Floor in 2008, against medical advice, to keep Medicare from being slashed. From Medicare through debates on issues such as Social Security, fair and affordable housing, civil and economic rights, and most recently health care, Senator Kennedy's voice was a guiding light, pointing the way toward the right and decent way our nation should treat its citizens." Sen. Kennedy was also the first recipient of the Alliance's Leadership Award, which recognizes the achievements of legislators on behalf of older Americans. Alliance members are invited to share their memories of Sen. Kennedy at [araletters@retiredamericans.org](mailto:araletters@retiredamericans.org), and the submissions will be posted on the Alliance web site.



**"Sen. Kennedy was also the first recipient of the Alliance's Leadership Award."**

## OUR COALITION RALLY 2010 (CORPE)

Our public retiree legislative rally is tentatively scheduled for January 20 in the Food Court at the State Capitol.

Other members of the coalition are retirees from AFT, WVARSE, PERSA, WVEA and NARFE. We expect that other groups will join us before the end of the year.

As you know, we are in great need for some kind of pension increase and reduced cost for our PEIA. Our chances would be better if we have a very large turnout at the rally.

For those who join us to rally for the benefits we earned, we plan to have a better **free breakfast** this year.

**CORPE = Coalition of Retired Public Employees**



*AFSCME Chapter 77 Retiree Board members at a recent meeting. Left—right standing: Juanita Auer, Spud Terry, Eddie Harman, Virginia Moles, Seated: Jean Teal, Rachel Craddock and Sue Bayless.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Spud Terry

Brothers and Sisters, we have lost a lot of our buying power from our pensions. For those of us that have been retired for several years, it is like taking a 50 % pay cut and with PEIA taking more money out of our pocket we are truly in hard times.

For several years now, the Governor and the Legislature have generally ignored the obvious need of our membership while giving themselves rich benefits.

This year the Governor is receiving a \$55,000 salary increase and the Legislators a

very nice increase. In addition, department heads got big raises and there are hundreds of millions being spent on buildings and a security fence for the Governor but not a dime for long suffering retirees.

Ernest 'Spud' Terry

### **New Study Reinforces the Need for Employee Free Choice Act**

Young workers today are significantly less likely to have health care or economic security than they were 10 years ago, and one-third live in their parents' home, according to a new national survey, *Young Workers: A Lost Decade*, released by the AFL-CIO at its annual Labor Day briefing on Tuesday.

The AFL-CIO and its 3-million member community affiliate, Working America, commissioned the national survey of 1,156 workers, which included 602 young workers and was conducted by Hart Research Associates in late July. The full report is available at [www.youngworkers2009.org](http://www.youngworkers2009.org). The survey found that 31% of young workers report being uninsured, up from 24% ten years ago. The survey also found that a mere 47% of today's young workers have retirement plans at work, compared with 53% in 1999. To help reverse these trends, over 100,000 union members will make a push for health care and the Employee Free Choice Act at celebrations around the country this Labor Day weekend.

"The Alliance is working hard to pass this bill because it will help future retirees. We worry about our children and grandchildren, and if we can help workers live better, we will help them retire better," said **Ruben Burks**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance for Retired Americans.

## Membership Details from Virginia Moles, Sec-Treas

### TREASURER'S Report:

If you mail your annual dues to Retirees Chapter 77 rather than have it deducted from your retirement check (\$1.00 per month), mail your annual dues of \$12.00 for 2009 to:

**AFSCME WV Retirees**  
**501 Leon Sullivan Way**  
**Charleston, WV 25301**

If you prefer the more convenient dues paying method of paying by deduction (\$1 per month) from

your retirement check, simply call the AFSCME office and ask for a deduction application or if you need to update your address. That number in Charleston is 304-342-2114 or get it from our website.

Did you know that your state wide Retiree Executive Board meets every month in Charleston between the annual membership meetings?

If you have issues or suggestions

for the Board to consider, mail it to the address in this article .

We hope you all have a **happy and safe fall season.**

I hope to see you all in the State Capitol 'food court' (old Cafeteria) in Charleston in the morning on - January 20, 2010.

*Thank you, Virginia Moles*

## AFSCME Retiree E-Activist Network

The Highway to Health Care made its final stop earlier this week in Washington DC, and let me tell you, our three week cross-country tour was a road trip to remember, and to be proud of.

We traveled over 6,000 miles to take the fight for real health care reform on the road — to 10 states and 19 cities where several key senators and representatives were for their August recess. And we came a long way over that time. But now that Congress is coming back to Washington, **we're about to embark on the most critical phase of our campaign for quality health care that is affordable and that we can depend on.**

**The stakes? It's simple: if the insurance companies win, you lose.** The health insurance industry profits by keeping the system as it is — rejecting claims, raising premiums, co-pays and deductibles at will, making health care decisions instead of our doctors, and denying care because of pre-existing conditions. No wonder the industry is spending \$1.4 million a day in lobbying to stop meaningful reform.

- **Get on the map!** Our tour might be over, but you can still **add your name** to the thousands of other people who have signed our Highway to Health Care road map — it's a powerful display that working families need reform, and need it now.
- **Learn fact from fiction.** During his special online briefing on health care, President Obama reminded us that, "The best ambassadors for true information, factual information is all of you." So as the health insurance lobbyists continue to spread misinformation and downright lies, **one of the most effective things you can do is learn fact from fiction** — and make sure you let no lie go uncontested.

Stop after stop during the tour, I was amazed by the stories we heard, from the dad in North Dakota whose son has hemophilia and is denied care to the student in Louisiana who wondered how his generation is supposed to contribute and lead if they don't even have good health.

We can't afford to let the insurance companies win.

Sincerely,

**Steve Regenstreif**  
Director, AFSCME Retirees



# From the Officers and staff of AFSCME West Virginia Retiree's Chapter 77

## HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE FALL SEASON



**Ernest 'Spud' Terry**  
*President*  
**Eddie Harman**  
*Vice President*  
**Virginia Moles**  
*Secretary -Treas*  
**Eloise Jack**  
*Recording Sec.*  
**Jean Teal**  
*Executive Board*  
**Juanita Auer**  
*Executive Board*  
**"Vacant"**  
*Executive Board*  
**Cecil Hardin**  
*Trustee*

### MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN CHANGES

PEIA has informed us that several changes in our Medicare Advantage insurance will take place on January 1, 2010.

1. Humana will take over the Medical part of the plan
2. Avantara Freedom will still do the drug part of the plan
3. We will get a different card for each company in December
4. This will be in effect until July 1, 2010
5. PEIA informed us that there should not be significant changes from the plan now in place

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West Virginia  
public retirees.  
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for NEWS YOU  
CAN USE!!

