

Newsletter

A State Affiliate of the National Alliance for Retired Americans

January 2007

WEST VIRGINIA ALLIANCE ON THE MOVE

Membership dues for our WV Alliance chapter are to be paid each January. You may pay for your organization by bringing a check to our February meeting in Charleston or mail it to:

West Virginia Alliance for Retired Americans
501 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston WV 25301

The recent passing of one of our Vice Presidents has saddened us: Kenney Cozart. Kenney was also President of the Ormet Retirees and a proud member of the Steelworkers/SOAR and will be missed by all who knew him.

The WV ARA is looking forward to the 2007 AFL-CIO Legislative conference in Charleston on February 15 & 16. Our Chapter is very appreciative of the opportunity to voice our retiree concerns and accomplishments with our working brothers and sisters

Last February our Chapter supported the Public Retiree rally at the Capitol in Charleston as part of the 600 retirees asking for pension and benefit protection. This Year many of our members hope to be part of an even larger rally on February 12 at noon in the Capitol lower rotunda.

The West Virginia Alliance for Retired Americans has scheduled monthly meetings to be held at 11:00 am on the second Monday of each month and rotated between Charleston or Parkersburg. The proposed schedule is as follows:

2007 Schedule

February 12 – Building and Trades – Charleston
March 12 – Building and Trades – Charleston
April 9 – Unity Apartments – Parkersburg
May 14 – Building and Trades – Charleston
June 11 – Building and Trades – Charleston
July 9 – Unity Apartments – Parkersburg
August 13 – Building and Trades – Charleston
September 10 – Building and Trades – Charleston
October 8 – Unity Apartments – Parkersburg
November – to be announced

This Newsletter is a new service for our members with assistance from the National Alliance. Please contact Ernest 'Spud' Terry at eterry3066@charter.net or Jim Picarella at jpicarella@verizon.net with any ideas, contributions or suggestions for this bi-monthly newsletter. Next deadline: March 16, 2007

2007 Calendar of Events

Meeting information:

11:00 AM

Second Monday of every month
(Schedule listed on front)

Charleston:

Affiliated Construction Trades Building
(Red Brick Bldg beside the Capitol
Market)

1st Floor conference Room
1st door on right
600 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301

Parkersburg: Unity Housing

If you need additional information or
driving directions, contact one of the
officers listed below via email or call
the West Virginia AFL-CIO office at:
304-344-3557

President: Ernest 'Spud' Terry
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Executive Vice President: Sterling Ball
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Treasurer: Jim Picarella
jcpicarella@verizon.net

Secretary: Betty Totten

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

George J. Kourpias, President How Retirees Can Stand Up for Today's Workers

Unions built the middle class. By standing together, we fought for and won better wages, health care and pensions, and rights and safety on the job.

But these things are quickly becoming a relic of the past. Why? There are many reasons, but I think workers and retirees have been badly hurt by a corporate and government assault on our freedom to form and join unions.

Did you know that one out of five activists trying to form a union is fired? Or that 78 percent of private employers demand supervisors deliver anti-union messages to the workers whose jobs and pay they control? Employers routinely harass, intimidate, and fire those who want a union. And I don't think our government does much to stop this.

But we have now have a chance to change this. Because of our great work last Fall, the newly-elected Congress is likely to vote on the Employee Free Choice Act, which would finally crack down on companies that break the law and try to block a worker's freedom to choose a union. And the bill would say that workers can form a union when a majority signs an authorization card.

So what can retirees do to help?

First, talk to your children and grandchildren. Polls have shown that younger workers are the least aware of the benefits of collective bargaining. Tell them that those in unions earn 29 percent more than nonunion workers. And that they are 62 percent more likely to have employer-provided health coverage and four times more likely to have pensions. Tell them all that our generation went through to create jobs that could support a family. And how much it hurts to see it all slipping away.

Next, tell your Representatives and Senators in Washington. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202/224-3121.

Retirees have a lot at stake in this fight. We are the ones that helped build strong unions. We are the ones who wore the uniform of our country to help defend our nation's freedoms. But the middle class we created is crumbling, and the freedoms we fought for are not available to many.

I know we all have at least one more fight left in us. We can pass the Employee Free Choice Act if we take the time to educate our family and friends and our neighbors on how collective bargaining is the best thing we can do to help working families and build stronger communities.

I look forward to working with you to make this dream a reality. Thank you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: 2007 Dues notices will be sent out in December. If you have any questions about your 2006 dues please contact Jim Picarella, Treasurer at jcpicarella@verizon.net



Ernest 'Spud' Terry, President
501 Leon Sullivan Way
Charleston, WV 25301

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

