



AFSCME WV RETIREE'S CHAPTER 77 NEWS

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Winter 2010

American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees,
West Virginia Chapter 77, AFL-CIO

Retiree Lobby Day – Jan. 20, 2010

www.afscmewv.org

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CORPE NEWS

On January 20, 2010 our coalition of WV retired public employees (CORPE) will rally at the State Capitol in Charleston, West Virginia. This is the time each year the different retiree groups can come together as one. The CORPE group meets with our legislators and Governor to lobby for increases and protection for our retirement benefits.

Where: Food Court

in the Capitol Base-
ment

When: Wednesday,
January 20, 2010

Time: 8:30 am to
Noon

Again, this year there will be a free breakfast for retirees and guests. We can sit and enjoy the breakfast while listening to our Legislators and Special speakers. Also, as in past years, you can park free at the Laidley Field parking lot and ride the free shuttle bus

to the Capitol.

If we do not show up in large numbers we cannot expect the needed help in our PENSIONS, HEALTH-CARE OR TAX EXEMPTIONS!!!! **SEE YOU THERE.**

Note: Active AFSCME members are being invited to attend our rally through e-mail, copies of this newsletter and calls. We should return the favor and attend their rally in Feb. See pg 4

President's Message

For many of us, as we have gotten older, times have become more difficult and at times we lose all hope. As I write this message, Christmas is just over and is truly the season of hope for us and the world.

After Christmas it is just a few days until the New Year; a time for

new beginnings and resolutions. It is my hope that each of us could find the strength and resolve to do all we can to help protect our retiree benefits. There are too few of us fighting for many. We need many more fighters. Our CORPE rally on January 20, 2010, gives us a chance to help

ourselves and it would be my hope that AFSCME RETIREES will lead the way!

As you read my Christmas poem in this newsletter (page 2), I trust you will be encouraged to share my Hope for the New Year.

Ernest "SPUD" Terry

WV PEIA NEWS

On December 16, 2009, the West Virginia Public Employee Insurance Agency (PEIA) gave themselves an early Christmas present. As usual their present will be paid by increases in retiree costs for our benefits which will include:

- A four percent increase in premiums beginning July 1, 2010
- A new \$25 deductible beginning July 1, 2010
- Worst of all, an unknown quantity of our drugs are being moved to the \$50 co-pay

It seems that everyone gets a present except the retiree. The State continues to make a ton of money by making deals to put us into insurance companies (Advantage Freedom and Humana) allowing them to make a ton of money. Any break in the PEIA deal is being seen by our active employees.

In the true spirit of Christmas, Advantra Freedom bailed out on our retiree medical plan because they weren't making enough money. The idea is to make up for not making as much money as anticipated by jacking up the costs in the prescription plan. The PEIA approved drug formulary has been changed. Some of the drugs that are working for us have been moved to a tier that many of us will not be able to afford (\$50).

The public retirees being left out and piled on is a familiar feeling for us. We do not receive cost of living adjustments (COLA), our pensions and Social Security benefits are taxed by our former employer (West Virginia) and our current \$2000 tax exemption does little to offset the ever increasing assault on the pocketbooks of the retired public employee.

Christmas Journeys - A Poem by Ernest Terry - 2009

Our trek to the
woods to cut our
tree

Is no longer
a tradition
And not because we
have gotten older

It is just our
current condition

We no longer shop
for hours on end

To find those
special toys

Because our mus-
cles all ache

And our bones make
a funny noise

Our trip downstairs
for Santa's cookies

Is really a
major journey

Very slowly a

step at a time

So we won't
need a gurney

But there's a trip
that's easy to take

To some special
Christmas past

And though we do
forget some things
Christmas memories
are made to last



It seems that everyone gets a present except the retiree. The State continues to make a ton of money by making deals ...





WV ARA Officers (L to R) Sterling Ball, Betty Toten, Ernest 'Spud' Terry and Jim Picarella



Speakers and guests (L to R) Virginia Moles, ARA President Barbara Easterling and Elaine Harris.

Alliance for Retired Americans - WV Convention News

ARA NEWS

The WV Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) held their annual convention on November 19 and 20, 2009, at Cedar Lakes. The Convention was a huge success with many attendees and the discussion of some timely topics.

Speakers and presenters for the convention included State Treasurer John Perdue, State Auditor Glen Gainer, Derek Walker with the WV Attorney Generals office, Perry Bryant with West Virginians for Affordable Healthcare, and Sarah Stevenson with the WV Institute for Labor Studies, all giving a very informative pres-

entations. The WV AFL-CIO Kenneth M. Perdue, President, Larry Metheny, Secretary/Treasurer and Sherry Breeden, Administrative Assistant to the President – Political Director/ Mobilizer has supported the ARA since its existence. Two of AF-SCME Retiree's own, President Ernest "Spud" Terry and Treasurer Ginny Moles, were also among the speakers and presenters. In addition, Sterling Ball with The AFCW Retirees made his first speech as WV ARA newly elected President.

The keynote speaker for the 2009 Convention, introduced by Elaine Harris of CWA, was The Na-

tional Alliance for Retired Americans President Barbara Easterling, retiree from The Communications Workers of America.

On the last day, the officers were re-elected. The new officers for your WV ARA are Betty Toten, Secretary, Jim Picarella, Treasurer; and former President Ernest "Spud" Terry and former Executive Vice President Sterling Ball switched positions. These officers are committed to continued service on your behalf. (See photos.)

The keynote speaker for the 2009 Convention, introduced by Elaine Harris of CWA, was The National Alliance for Retired Americans President Barbara Easterling.



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**WHAT: Public Employee Lobby Day -  
'Retirees welcome'.**

**WHEN: Monday, February 15, 2010 - 9:30 AM**

**WHERE: WV State Capitol - Charleston**

**Lobby Day** is a one day event beginning with a morning briefing on our issues with coffee and continental breakfast provided as the Legislative leadership in the House and Senate talk with us and concluding with visits to Legislator's offices and to watch the legislative session in progress. Attendees are encouraged to car pool and arrive on Monday the 15th by 9:30 AM. Bring relatives, neighbors and friends. Many of these issues directly affect retirees!

**Directions and Meeting Location:** Treasurer's Office east wing conference and training room (EB-54) on the basement floor under the Treasurer's main offices at the West Virginia State Capitol in Charleston.

Signs will be placed around the Capitol pointing to this meeting room and if you need directions to the Capitol from anywhere in the state, email us at [Council77@aol.com](mailto:Council77@aol.com) call 304-342-2114. On February 15 (Lobby Day) if you have any problems, call the same number.

Plenty of FREE President's Day holiday parking at the meters on Capitol grounds. If you need a ride to Capitol, call us and we will try to help ~ 304-342-2114



**Mark Your Calendars Now - President's Day, Monday February 15, 2010. 9:30 AM - 'Lobby Day'**

American Federation of State,  
County & Municipal Employees,  
West Virginia Chapter 77, AFL-CIO



Retiree's Chapter 77  
501 Leon Sullivan Way  
Charleston, WV 25301

(304) 342-2114 [www.afscmewv.org](http://www.afscmewv.org)

**Ernest 'Spud' Terry**  
*President*  
**Eddie Harman**  
*Vice President*  
**Virginia Moles**  
*Secretary - Treas*  
**Eloise Jack**  
*Recording Sec.*  
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