

# MEA-RETIRED Tribune

April 2014

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## ALEC: The New-and-Improved Political Corruption

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has been described as a “shadowy group” of companies and politicians working behind closed doors to rewrite our laws, frequently to bolster corporate profits at any cost. Over the last 41 years, ALEC has worked tirelessly to tear down many of the programs and protections Americans, particularly seniors, have come to rely on, and only recently have many of their objectives come to light.

ALEC doesn't just exist in the backrooms of Washington, D.C.; they're also in the backyards of every community in every state, pursuing their agenda at the state and local level. When these representatives and corporations sit down at the table to craft “model” legislation, middle-class Americans don't win.

These pieces of legislation are uniformly disastrous for retirees and anyone who hopes to retire one day. They include initiatives to wipe out public pensions systems in favor of private 401(k) plans, regardless of how well the public pension is doing. Policies like this not only scapegoat and attack public services, public workers and collective bargaining but expose workers to higher fees, which go straight into the pockets of Wall Street bankers.

**READ MORE AT [HuffingtonPost.com](http://HuffingtonPost.com)**

## Kellogg's: Frosted Flakes®, Froot Loops®, and a Worker Lockout

Kellogg Company, the \$14 billion global snack food giant, has embarked on a perilous path that threatens the very principles and values that its founder, **W.K. Kellogg**, envisioned a century ago. Under the guise of another restructuring program and led by its CEO, **John Bryant**, Kellogg is closing factories, cutting production lines, locking out workers, taking uncompromising and unreasonable stands at collective bargaining tables throughout the world and is even turning its back on its hometown of Battle Creek, Michigan.

More than 220 workers have been locked out of their jobs at Kellogg's Memphis, Tenn. cereal plant since October 22, 2013. The workers, members of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union Local 252G, who make Frosted Flakes®, Froot Loops® and other breakfast favorites, were locked out as part of the drive by the company to replace steady, middle-class, full-time jobs with casual part-time employees who would make significantly lower wages and substandard benefits.

“We need to stand with these Kellogg workers in order to help save the middle class,” said **Rich Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. To tell Kellogg to stop the global destruction of middle class jobs, go to <http://www.kelloggsgreed.com>.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 297,049 NEA-Retired members. 34,503 are MEA-Retired members.
- If you order prescriptions from Express Scripts, you **MUST** give them permission to fill each **new** prescription your doctor submits. This is a change beginning January 1, 2014.
- You elected 34 delegates to represent you at the NEA-Retired Annual meeting and the NEA RA.
- Forty million people owe student loans. Seven million default on their loans.
- MEA-Retired was well represented at the 2014 NEA-Retired Organizing Conference in Houston, Texas, March 25-27. Members attending were Dave Schopp, George and Inez Hubka, Dan Rudd, Jack Schneider, Al Beamish, and Roger and Judy Foster.

**OFFSHORE TAX EVASION:  
The Effort to Collect Unpaid Taxes  
on Billions in Hidden Offshore Accounts**

MAJORITY AND MINORITY  
STAFF REPORT

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON INVESTIGATIONS

## ***Tax dodging through secret accounts hurts honest taxpayers***

The Senate Permanent  
spent several years examining  
taxpayers in evading their

accounts, these taxpayers conceal their income and

issued its latest report, examining how one Swiss bank, Credit Suisse, attracted thousands of U.S. customers seeking to avoid U.S. taxes, and how the Justice Department hasn't done enough to collect back taxes from tax dodgers at Credit Suisse and other offshore banks. (from Senator Levin)

Subcommittee on Investigations, chaired by Sen. Levin, has the ways offshore banks have aided and encouraged U.S. responsibility to pay what they owe. By using secret bank therefore avoid paying taxes. The Subcommittee recently

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## **SCHOLARSHIP READERS**

Many thanks to everyone who read scholarships this year. It is a very heart warming task to read each application and learn about the accomplishments and challenges of those applying.

### **Dates to Remember:**

April 14, 2014 – MEA-Retired Annual Meeting

May 10 2014, – MEA PAC Annual Meeting. Looking forward to seeing many of you there.

July 29-31, 2014 – Summer Leadership for all chapter presidents.

## **Union Teachers at Detroit's Largest Charter School Win Unprecedented Settlement While Hundreds of Students, Parents, and Teachers Watch Film About César Chávez**

DETROIT – On César Chávez's Birthday, March 31, teachers at César Chávez Academy (CCA), Detroit's largest charter school, won an impressive settlement that will return educators to the school and provide over \$75,000 in back pay. Representatives from the teachers union, The César Chávez Academy Alliance of Charter Teachers & Staff (CCA ACTS), reached a late deal on Monday evening with The Leona Group—the for-profit company that manages the day-to-day operations of the charter school.



“This win could not have come on a better day,” exclaimed Rose Crowley, a Reading Specialist at CCA High School. “It’s incredible that we were able to celebrate this victory on Cesar Chavez’s birthday, and I’m elated that we were able to share this moment with hundreds of our school’s amazing students and parents.”

CCA teachers were joined by over 600 parents, students, alumni, teachers, union leaders, public officials, and community representatives at a screening of the new Diego Luna film, “Cesar Chavez” sponsored by AFT Michigan and CCA ACTS. The film documents Chavez’s struggle to unionize immigrant farm workers in California. Currently, CCA ACTS is negotiating a first contract with the CCA Board of Directors and The Leona Group. Throughout the organizing campaign and contract negotiations, teachers at CCA have drawn inspiration from Chavez’s work and his legacy as a union organizer

**Judy Foster, MEA-Retired President and Editor**