

National Alliance Strongly Endorses Hillary Clinton For America's President

Washington, D.C. Citing her commitment to expand Social Security, strengthen Medicare, and rein-in prescription drug prices, on June 29, 2016, the members of the Executive Board of the Alliance for Retired Americans voted to endorse Hillary Clinton for President of the United States.

“Hillary Clinton has been a champion for retirees throughout her distinguished career. Her life’s work exemplifies the Alliance’s mission to enhance the quality of life for all Americans,” said Robert Roach, Jr., President of the ARA. “She has pledged to strengthen and expand Social Security, and she will oppose efforts to cut, privatize or shift Medicare costs to retirees. We are confident she will work to rein in the uncontrolled prices of prescription drugs, which are far outsourcing the rate of inflation and forcing too many Americans to choose between food and medicine.

Secretary Clinton has our full support as the candidate who will protect the rights and interests of older Americans,” said Joseph Peters, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “She has an unmatched record of public service and has earned a lifetime score of 100% from the Alliance for her pro-retiree votes as a U. S. Senator. We can count on her to protect our retirement security and she can count on us to educate, mobilize and turn out older voters for this critical and historic election. We encourage all of our members to vote for her and to bring at least two other voters to the polls with them.”

“No one has been more ready to provide seniors with what they need on Day One,” added Roach. “She will protect our traditional pension plans from attack. She will stop the proposed TPP Trade Agreement before it locks in patent protections and makes it more difficult for the U.S. government to reduce prescription costs in public programs like Medicare.”



A much younger Bill and Hillary look toward the future.

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The ARA Works Hard To Protect Retirees

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national grass roots advocacy organization, with more than 4.4 million members and 1600 chapters. The Alliance works to protect the rights and well-being of retirees and their families across the United States. Fourteen years ago, the Alliance started to mobilize retired union members, seniors and community activists into a nationwide grassroots movement advocating a progressive political and social agenda that respects work and strengthens families.

Their Mission Statement puts forth the beliefs and the goals of the Alliance:

The Alliance for Retired Americans Mission Statement

The mission of the Alliance for Retired Americans is to insure social and economic justice and full civil rights for all citizens so that they may enjoy lives of dignity, personal and family fulfillment and security.

Alliance members visit the polls in record numbers. We use the power of our membership and our Congressional Voting Record to educate and mobilize seniors to elect leaders committed to improving the lives of retirees and older Americans.

We are effectively warding off cuts to our most important social programs like Social Security and Medicare. In 2013, our Human Chain Against the Chained CPI mobilized support for stopping this cut to earned Social Security benefits in more than 50 cities and beat back the proposal.

We blocked the privatization of Social Security with our Social Security "Truth Truck" delivering 2.1 million petitions to members of Congress.

The Alliance makes its voice heard on the issues that Matter, not just to current retirees, but to all Americans who hope to retire one day. We are a leading voice in debates considering changes to Medicare, like replacing guaranteed benefits with a voucher system, and increasing Part B premiums, and remain so in 2016.

MiARA Welcomes Bob Sisler To the Michigan Board

Bob Sisler was recently appointed to the Board, as a representative of the AFL-CIO. Sisler brings years of experience to the board due to his work as a clinical social worker and union leader. Bob worked for the State of Michigan for 29 years and he served in various leadership capacities with UAW Local 6000.

Since his retirement, Sisler has remained active as Chairperson of Local 6000 Region 1A's Retired Workers' Chapter. He will be able to use his leadership skills as a member of MiARA's Board.

On June 23, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. led a march down Detroit's Woodward Avenue, followed by a speech at a rally in Cobo Hall. The speech was essentially the same speech that he delivered from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., two months later, known as the "I Have a Dream." speech.

Information obtained from Carl Bunin – Peace and Justice History

Alliance Members Must “Get Out the Vote” In the Upcoming Elections

The 2016 elections are going to be so important that America’s future depends on the outcome. The election will determine who will be our next president, who will control Congress and who will be serving on the Supreme Court.

The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEX), the Koch Brothers and the De Vos family will pour huge amounts of money into this election cycle. ALEC is a shadowy group of companies and politicians working together behind closed doors to rewrite laws. ALEC and other right-wing groups will far outspend Alliance-supported candidates.

If we fail to elect candidates that support our issues, the ultra-conservative one-percent will succeed in implementing their reactionary agenda.

Alliance members **must be active**. We must learn about the candidate’s positions, contribute money to candidates who are friendly and work at the grass roots level to ensure that those who are elected respect retiree issues.

In solidarity, Jack Schneider (editor)

MiARA Executive Board

Dick Long, President (UAW)
Henry Lykes, Executive Vice-President (AFSCME)
Richard McInerney, 1st Vice-President (USW)
Charlie Robinson, Treasurer (AFT Michigan)
Judy Foster, Secretary (MEA)

Board Members from State-Sustaining Organizations

Warren Danford, (UAW)
Arthur Kroll, (USW)
Jack Schneider, (MEA)
Bob Sisler, (AFL-CIO)

Editors: Jack and Merylene Schneider

U. S. District Judge Drain Rules Against Straight Party Voting Ban

Today (July 21, 2106), U.S. District Judge Gershwin Drain granted a request for a preliminary injunction to prevent the ban on straight party voting from taking effect for the November election. In a strong, well-written 37-page opinion, he found that the confusion, congestion and long-standing lines caused when millions of voters are denied the ability to vote straight party this fall will disenfranchise voters in violation of the U.S. Constitution and Voting Rights Act.



This is a victory for millions of Michigan voters who have used straight party voting for 125 years without complaint or problems, and who have upheld their right to do so in two statewide referenda. There is no rational reason to eliminate straight party voting. Its repeal will increase the cost of elections, confuse voters, and cause more congestion and longer lines at the polls, which will disenfranchise voters.

To be a citizen in a democracy, a human being must be given a healthy start

Eleanor Roosevelt

Mark your Calendar for the next Michigan Alliance for Retired American's General Membership Meeting

September 15, 2016

Michigan Education Association Headquarters

**1216 Kendale Blvd.
East Lansing, Michigan 48826**

The next Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans is scheduled for September 15, 2016, at the office of the Michigan Education Association, in East Lansing Michigan.

Our featured speaker will be State Representative Tim Greimel. The Honorable Tim Greimel is the current House Minority Leader. He has many interesting tales to tell about the Michigan political process, and he can offer insight into the current election cycle as well.

As an additional bonus, a great lunch will be provided.



The smiles on these four faces attest to past scrumptious MiARA lunches.