FRIDAY ALERT

Verizon Strike Enters 7th Week

As the Verizon strike continues the telecom giant is scrambling to keep up with service demands. With nearly 40,000 of their employees on strike, Verizon has put the calls out to hire hundreds of temporary employees in an attempt to replace them. The Verizon workers are represented by the **Communications Workers of America** and the **International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers**. Verizon's stock price has fallen nearly 5% in recent days, indicating shareholder disapproval.

"The Verizon workers' fight is our fight," said **Robert Roach, President of the Alliance**. "They are fighting against low wages, outsourced jobs, and unfair contracts. We are urging all our members to get involved by going to www.standuptoverizon.com and attending an event, signing the petition or donating to the Solidarity Fund."

The walk off began after negotiations broke down for a new contract that would have lowered healthcare benefits for employees and rely more heavily on cheaper contract workers.

Recently, **Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez** became involved in talks and **House Minority Leader Pelosi** joined a picket line.

Donald Trump is a Threat to Social Security and Medicare

A person is known by the company he keeps, and among Donald Trump's top advisors are two people who have long track records advocating for privatizing and/or cutting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Sam Clovis, Trump's senior policy advisor, recently said that a Trump administration would 'look at" privatization of Medicare and Social Security after a year or two. And he isn't the only Trump team member to advocate cutting off support for seniors. John Mashburn, Trump's policy director, recently likened the disability program to a welfare program.

"Donald Trump has Social Security a 'ponzi scheme' but is hoping that voters will forget that when it comes time to vote," said Joe Peters, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. "He's surrounding himself with people who have an anti-senior agenda. Retirees should be wary of someone who lacks a core commitment to retirement security and the sanctity of our earned benefits."

Department of Labor Announces New Overtime Rule

The Obama administration released a new rule this month that will expand overtime pay to millions of Americans, as well as encourage new hiring. Under the new rule, those making up to $47,476 per year must be paid time and a half for hours worked overtime. The change is expected to affect an estimated 4.2 million workers.
"We applaud this incredible move to protect workers' rights," said Rich Fiesta, Alliance Executive Director. "Higher wages will help create a more secure retirement for millions of Americans."

The last time the rule was updated was 2004, when the salary cap for overtime was set at $23,660. That limit on overtime was to prevent those in executive or management positions from claiming overtime pay, however the salary limit was too low to reflect that. In many instances, workers who were being paid a salary above the limit were making less than minimum wage when working unpaid overtime hours. The new rule more than doubles the salary cap, and will encourage employers to either pay workers for their time or hire more staff to manage the workload.

The new overtime rule will take effect December 1, 2016. This informative video from the Department of Labor explains the details.

Former Pennsylvania Alliance President Jean Friday

Wilma Jean Friday, former President of the Pennsylvania Alliance, died on May 22 at the age of 82. A retired Steelworker, Jean was a strong advocate for retirees and all working people.

"We will all miss Jean, said Mr. Fiesta. "She did so much for so long on behalf of Pennsylvania seniors. We send our condolences to her entire family."

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national organization that advocates for the rights and well-being of over 4.3 million retirees and their families.