

FRIDAY ALERT



Alliance for Retired Americans

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Robert Roach, Jr. and Joseph Peters, Jr. Re-elected as Alliance Leaders

The Alliance's 2018 National Membership Meeting took place in Las Vegas, Nevada on Tuesday through Thursday of this week. On the first day, **Robert Roach, Jr.**, who has been President of the Alliance since September of 2015, was re-elected to a four-year term. Prior to joining the Alliance, President Roach served as the General Secretary- Treasurer of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM). In addition to thanking members, President Roach told those in attendance to speak truth to power and urged a return to civil discourse in America.

Joseph Peters, Jr., who has been Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance since September of 2015, was also re-elected to serve four more years. Mr. Peters was previously an international representative of the UAW, having served more than ten years as regional director of UAW Region 1 in Michigan.



Pictured: Andrea Fonte Weaver, Founder and Executive Director of Bridges Together; President Roach; and Beth Almeida, Principal with Cove Research

“The Alliance has worked hard for the last 17 years to make the lives of retirees better across the country,” Mr. Peters said. “I am eternally grateful for the role I have been given in this wonderful organization, and I am looking forward to another four years of success.”

Jo Etta Brown of Nevada was re-elected Executive Vice President of the Alliance. Three non-union members were re-elected to the Community Advocacy Network (CAN) Board: **Dr. Joseph Boffa** of Massachusetts; **Gail Dietrich** of Nevada; and **Jean Dobashi** of Hawaii. **Julie Horwin** of Arizona, a retiree from the National Education Association (NEA), was newly elected.



Attendees in Las Vegas included retirees from UFT/AFT Local 2 in New York City

National Meeting Includes Several Distinguished Speakers

Pulitzer Prize winner **David Cay Johnston**, a well known investigative journalist and expert on taxes and pensions who had a long career with *The New York Times*, addressed members and stressed that the government has been run “by and for the wealthy” over the past forty years. He said that unions are needed now more than ever to protect our hard-earned pensions, change the tax code and reduce income inequality.

Nolan Harrison, Senior Director of Former Player Services of the National Football League Players Association, spoke of the union’s role in protecting the interests of professional football players and retirees and also took questions on a wide variety of topics.

Alliance Executive Director **Richard Fiesta** reviewed the Alliance's 2018 advocacy and electoral work. Renowned author **Nancy Altman**, an expert on Social Security and pensions and the President of Social Security Works, noted the champions of Social Security who will be in the next Congress. Ms. Altman recently published her third book on the history and importance of Social Security.

Additional notable speakers in Las Vegas included labor leaders **Robert Martinez, Jr.**, International IAM President, and **Rusty McAllister**, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Nevada

AFL-CIO. **Richard Trumka**, President of the AFL-CIO, and **Liz Shuler**, Alliance Executive Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, sent videotaped messages.

A special intergenerational panel featured 100-year-old legendary Illinois Alliance board member **Bea Lumpkin**; **Lakesia Collins**, an organizer for SEIUHCIIIMK (Health Care Illinois- Indiana- Missouri- Kansas); and **Andrea J. Fonte Weaver**, Founder and Executive Director of Bridges Together.



Left to right: Emma Rice, Workers United Retiree (Arkansas); Bea Lumpkin; and Katie Jordan, Illinois Alliance Treasurer and Workers United Chicago & Midwest Regional Joint Board member

New York State Alliance President **Barry Kaufmann** served as Parliamentarian during the meeting, and dozens of Alliance members shared their personal stories on video in a booth set aside for growing the Alliance's story bank. A representative from [Guide Dogs of America](#), a charity that works closely with both **President Roach** and IAM, gave a presentation on Thursday.

"Thank you to all of our speakers and presenters, and to our attendees who made the meeting such a success by being so engaged," said Executive Director Fiesta.

Resolutions Address Improving Social Security Benefits, the Right to Vote and More

Ten resolutions were passed at the convention. They included resolutions to:

- Improve Social Security benefits
- Address Social Security office closings
- Advocate for Medicare for all
- Negotiate prescription drug prices
- Address income inequality

- Improve voting accessibility
- Oppose the [Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision](#)
- Remove the barriers that prevent people with disabilities from accessing facilities and services
- Protect pensions
- Take on racial injustice and human inequality

New Phase of the "Save our Public Postal Service" Campaign is Launched

On Thursday, the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers began another stage in the shared campaign to "Save our Public Postal Service." A new campaign website, www.usmailnotforsale.org, with a short video ad highlighting the stakes of postal privatization was launched as part of the initiative. The Alliance is a partner in the effort.

Publication of the Friday Alert will resume on November 30, 2018. The Alliance wishes all its members a happy Thanksgiving.

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a national organization that advocates for the rights and well-being of over 4.4 million retirees and their families.