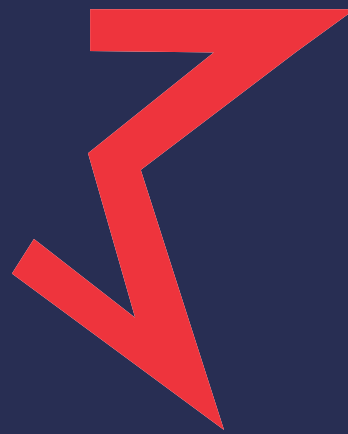




ACTIVITY REPORT 2020



Leadership Letter

The unrelenting coronavirus pandemic shaped and informed the work of the Alliance for Retired Americans this year. Seniors have been the hardest hit, and as of December, 80% of those who died from COVID-19 were over the age of 65. Nursing homes and senior living facilities across the country have been hotspots for the disease, with both workers and residents infected in massive numbers.

As soon as the scale of the pandemic was clear, we went to work to help and protect older Americans. We called on Congress to include the needs of older Americans in all coronavirus stimulus and relief packages. We worked to streamline the delivery of stimulus checks to seniors and people with disabilities. We held a national tele-town hall meeting to answer questions from our members about how to protect themselves with AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and Dr. Steven Albert of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

The pandemic also meant that the 2020 presidential election would be unlike any other. Our members rose to the challenge—learning new tools and techniques to campaign virtually and protect their health.

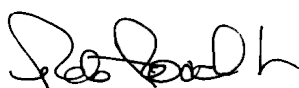
- > We endorsed and worked to elect hundreds of pro-retiree candidates, including President-elect Joe Biden. President Roach announced the endorsement during a virtual town hall with Dr. Jill Biden on Social Security's August 14 anniversary that reached nearly 300,000 Americans nationwide.
- > Older voters were advised to vote by mail, but public polling found that many seniors were reluctant and unsure about the process. We conducted public education on voting by mail for months through our weekly newsletter, action alerts and social media. Several of our Florida retirees starred in a documentary produced by Brave New Films about voting by mail in their state. And as part of the final push to the election, we partnered with members of the Pittsburgh and Detroit National Football League Players Association Former Players Chapters on non-partisan public service announcements in Pennsylvania and Michigan.
- > We also fought to protect voting rights in the courts, filing lawsuits in nine states to ensure that older voters could cast a ballot that would actually be counted without putting their health at risk. The Alliance made voting easier and safer for millions across the country.

The incoming Biden Administration has put forward a robust agenda for older Americans that will strengthen and expand earned Social Security benefits, protect pensions, lower the cost of prescription drugs and strengthen Medicare.

We look forward to fighting to make those policies a reality, to ending the pandemic and strengthening retirement security for all Americans.

We are confident that with your continued support, we will succeed.

In solidarity,



ROBERT ROACH, JR.
President



JOSEPH PETERS, JR.
Secretary-Treasurer



RICHARD FIESTA
Executive Director

Who We Are

The Alliance for Retired Americans is 4.4 million members strong. Our retiree activists are in every state and are from all walks of life. We are former teachers, auto workers, state and federal government workers, construction workers and community leaders, all united in the belief that every American deserves a secure and dignified retirement after a lifetime of hard work. Founded by the AFL-CIO in 2001, the Alliance now has 1,500 local chapters and 39 state alliances.

What We Do

The Alliance's retiree activists understand the power of collective action to create change in their communities and the country. Often working in coalitions, we educate the public and policymakers about critical issues facing older Americans. They lobby elected officials, take direct action through creative demonstrations and protests, and organize online.

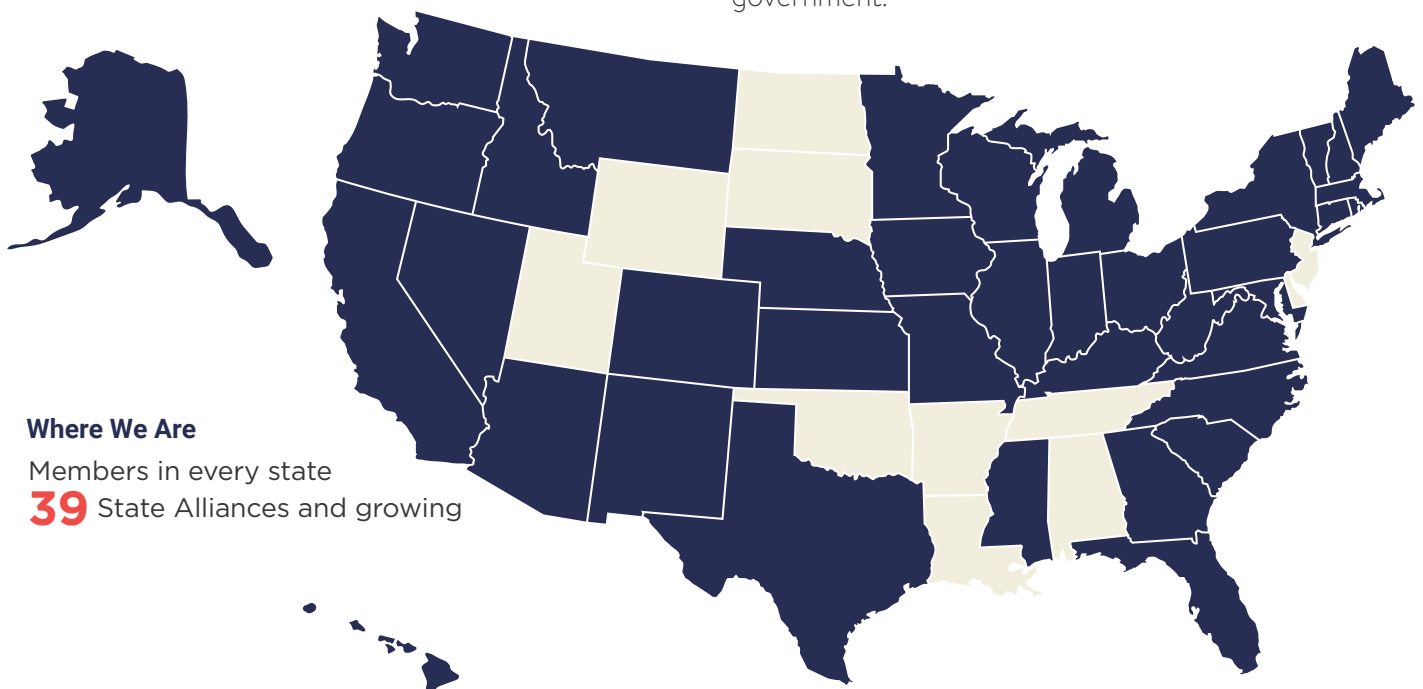
Alliance members are highly engaged and active in their community. In 2020 they held more than 900 local meetings, membership conventions, actions, news conferences, and lobbying visits, all advancing the goal of a more secure retirement for all.



Our Priorities

The Alliance for Retired Americans policy agenda is set during quadrennial meetings of its membership and our board. To protect and strengthen retirement security, our members are working to:

- ▲ Lower the cost of prescription drugs;
- ▲ Expand Social Security to increase benefits for current and future generations;
- ▲ Expand Medicare to cover essential medical services including hearing, vision and dental;
- ▲ Strengthen Medicaid and ensure all Americans have access to health care;
- ▲ Strengthen and protect earned pension benefits;
- ▲ Protect older Americans from financial fraud and abuse; and
- ▲ Elect pro-retiree officials at all levels of government.



Where We Are

Members in every state

39 State Alliances and growing

A Pandemic Election

Alliance members have always been highly-engaged participants in the election process, from joining labor walks to in-person phone banking. With the need for social distancing, retirees had to work to reach voters by other means.

The COVID-19 pandemic also made it more difficult for millions of older Americans to exercise their right to vote. To protect their health, retirees needed to avoid long lines at polling stations in primary and general elections. For example, our analysis found that 94% of our members in Pennsylvania had never voted by mail before 2018. Therefore, with facts like this, the Alliance went to work on educating members and the public on voting by mail options and went into court to make voting easier and safer.

Alliance Members Voted 69% to 30% for Joe Biden

The AFL-CIO's Election Night Survey found that 69 percent of union retirees voted for Biden and 30 percent voted for Trump. This was a four percentage point improvement for the Democratic candidate over 2016, demonstrating the effectiveness of Alliance outreach to its members. Overall, seniors nationally voted at least 2 percentage points more Democratic than in 2016. In key states like Arizona, Georgia, and Michigan there were dramatic shifts where seniors voted much more Democratic, contributing to the Biden wins there.

The Alliance's election activities drew significant attention from national and local media. More than 600 news stories mentioned the Alliance's election activities, including stories in national media outlets quoting Executive Director Richard Fiesta on the 2020 senior vote.

Protecting Voting Rights in the Courts

Alliance participation in lawsuits against barriers to easier voting by mail or in person was pivotal in easing restrictions in several states. With seniors at high risk, voting by mail was the safest option. However, many state laws have barriers that make voting by mail cumbersome. Compounding the health risks as well as the legal and administrative barriers, the Postal Service in July notified state elections officials that it could not guarantee that ballots would be delivered in time to meet state law requirements.

Depending on state law, the Alliance cases focused on:

- (1) Ensuring that ballots postmarked before or on election day are counted;
- (2) Waiving state mail ballot witness requirements;
- (3) Providing prepaid postage for mail ballots;
- (4) Reforming arbitrary signature matching requirements;
- (5) Allowing third parties to assist in returning voted, sealed ballots; and
- (6) Providing safe, convenient ballot return structures like drop boxes.

Alliance members stepped up to become plaintiffs who submitted statements, affidavits, and depositions.

The cases resulted in a great deal of publicity in state and national media, helping to educate the public about voting by mail. The suits led to a number of victories, making the right to vote easier and safer.

FLORIDA

The Florida Alliance suit resulted in a July settlement that made drop boxes more available statewide; the Secretary of State sent all eligible non-registered voters a postcard on how to register and held a statewide education campaign so that county election officials could better prepare for the general election.

MAINE

After the national Alliance filed suit, the Maine Secretary of State made administrative changes including increasing the availability of drop boxes statewide and making the ability to cure absentee ballot deficiencies easier; the state Supreme Court ruled against extending the ballot receipt deadline.

MICHIGAN

The Michigan Alliance won the ballot receipt extension issue and a partial lifting of the ban on third party assistance in ballot delivery in the state court of claims. The state appeals court overturned the decision and the November 3 ballot receipt deadline and the ban on assistance remained.

MINNESOTA

A Minnesota Alliance state court settlement was reached to waive the witness requirement and extend the August 11 primary ballot receipt deadline by 7 days; a second general election settlement waived the witness requirement and extended the deadline to November 10. The federal 8th Circuit ordered the late general election ballots to be segregated; they are being counted and added to the totals as a separate category. The witness requirement remained waived.

NORTH CAROLINA

A state court approved a North Carolina Alliance consent decree and made the following key changes to absentee ballot procedures: (1) Extend the ballot receipt deadline to count all ballots postmarked on or before Election Day and received by 5:00 PM November 12; (2) Institute a process to cure ballot deficiencies including: misplaced voter signature, no witness or assistant name or address, and misplaced witness or assistant signature; and (3) Establish a separate absentee ballot drop-off station at each one-stop early voting location and county board office that can be located outdoors. The consent decree was upheld by the federal 4th Circuit. The state also reduced the two witness rule to one for mail ballots.



PENNSYLVANIA

The Pennsylvania Alliance, with other consolidated cases, won a state Supreme Court decision extending the ballot deadline to November 6. The U.S. Supreme Court in a 4-4 vote did not disturb the decision and the federal 3rd Circuit in another challenge allowed ballots received by November 6 to be counted. The state also sent prepaid postage envelopes for ballot returns. In addition, our work helped win the ability of counties to provide multiple drop boxes.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The South Carolina Alliance filed an amicus brief in federal district court asking that voters be given the opportunity to cure mail ballots with deficiencies before election day. The court did not grant the relief.



TEXAS

The Texas Alliance was involved in three cases:

- ⚡ Federal suit to extend mail ballot deadline, overturn arbitrary signature match standards, provide pre-paid postage, and allow third party assistance in returning ballots. After procedural maneuvering, the case remained without a final decision.
- ⚡ Federal suit to reinstate straight ticket voting. After a federal district court found for the Alliance, the federal 5th Circuit overturned the decision and reinstated no straight ticket voting.
- ⚡ Federal suit to overturn the Texas governor's order of only one ballot drop box per county. After a federal district court found for the Alliance and reinstated the ability for multiple drop boxes per county, the federal 5th Circuit overruled the decision and the one per county rule stayed in effect.

WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Alliance sued to waive the mail ballot witness requirement in the April primary. After winning in the federal district court, the 7th Circuit overturned the decision reinstating the requirement. In consolidated cases, after winning a ballot deadline extension and allowing online replacement ballots for the general election, the 7th Circuit overturned that decision.

The Alliance's voting rights cases were covered in more than 200 news articles in national and local outlets.

Supporting the Labor 2020 GOTV Program

Each of our state chapters was active in getting out the vote this cycle, with most folding directly into the AFL-CIO's Labor 2020 program. Chapters in the battleground states including Arizona, Florida, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin joined the Labor 2020 phone banks, reaching thousands of older voters.

The Michigan Alliance purchased 50 cell phones so that its members could phone bank from their homes. The Washington State Alliance participated in the WA AFL-CIO's "Labor Neighbor" program, and hosted virtual candidate forums followed by retiree phone banks and postcard writing. The Iowa Alliance held weekly Labor 2020 virtual phone bank trainings for members.

Endorsing Pro-Retiree Candidates

The Alliance endorsed 262 federal candidates, each of whom had strong records on retiree and labor issues. Digital materials and logos were provided to each candidate to promote their endorsement on social media and their websites. Targeted blast emails announcing each endorsement were sent to more than 206,000 activists. Facebook posts about the endorsements reached another 4,000 people in priority congressional races.

Our members also hosted 31 virtual endorsement events with priority candidates and Alliance allies such as Mark Kelly (AZ Senate), Rep. Susan Wild (PA-7), Rep. John Larson (CT-1), and Senator Jack Reed (RI).

In partnership with the Montana AFL-CIO, the Alliance held a tele-town hall and endorsement event for Governor Steve Bullock and Lt. Governor Mike Cooney with a call-out universe of 2,200 and live-streaming video.

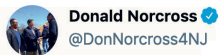
The Alliance used the Spoke peer-to-peer texting tool to drive turnout to large endorsement and town hall events. Staff and volunteers sent a total of 154,000 texts and had 20,317 conversations with members.

To support Rep. Tim Ryan's close race in OH-13, the Alliance sent mail to 13,000 targeted members touting Ryan's record on issues of importance to union retirees.



Deb Haaland ✓
@Deb4CongressNM

Today I'm proud to announce that I've received the endorsement of the Alliance for Retired Americans. In Congress, I've fought for our seniors & the American promise they've paid into, like Social Security. I'm honored to have their endorsement & to continue fighting for them.



Donald Norcross ✓
@DonNorcross4NJ

Thank you to the Alliance for Retired Americans for supporting our re-election efforts! [@ActiveRetirees](#)

Protecting Social Security, strengthening Medicare, and ensuring Americans can retire with dignity and security will continue to be a priority for me in Congress.



Steven Horsford ✓
@StevenHorsford

I am proud to be endorsed by the ada Alliance for Retired Americans ([#NARA](#)).

I am thankful for groups like NARA who's mission is to advocate on behalf of retired Nevadans. I will fight on their behalf and guarantee that our retired Nevadans will not be left behind!



Jennifer Wexton ✓
@JenniferWexton

I'm so proud to have earned the endorsement of [@ActiveRetirees](#)!

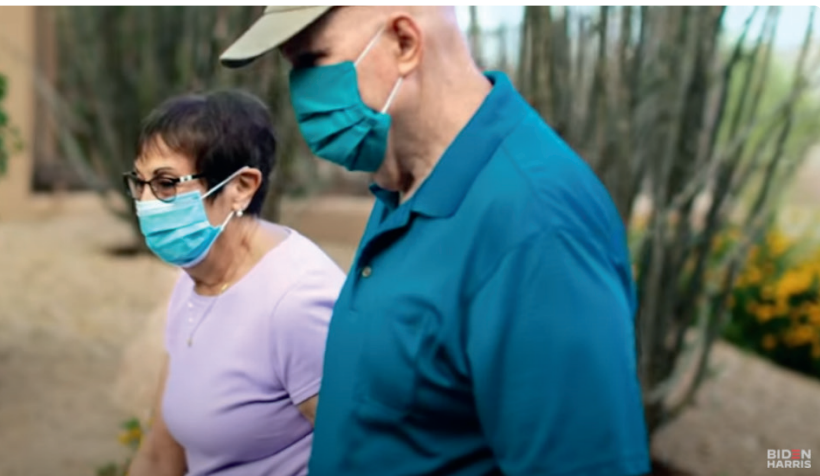
I'll continue fighting to protect Social Security and Medicare in Congress and support [#VA10](#)'s seniors.



Angie Craig ✓
@AngieCraigMN

We made a promise to our seniors: that if they work hard and play by the rules, the federal government would ensure dignity in their retirement. I'm fighting to make good on that promise, and am honored to receive the endorsement of [@ActiveRetirees](#).





Linda and Gary Somo are featured in a Biden-Harris television ad.

Teletown Hall with Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton

President Robert Roach, Jr. hosted a tele-town hall with former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, AFSCME President Lee Saunders, and 36,228 union retirees from 17 key states on October 28th. Secretary Clinton discussed the Biden-Harris plan for seniors and took questions from four retirees. President Saunders urged everyone to volunteer and to contact three people to ensure they had a voting plan. Most members stayed on the call for nearly 20 minutes, a very high rate of engagement.

Pennsylvania Get Out the Vote Teletown Hall

The Retired Americans PAC, the Alliance's super PAC, hosted a GOTV tele-town hall on October 30 for more than 17,000 Pennsylvania seniors who had not yet voted. Robin Cole, vice president of the NFLPA Former Players Pittsburgh Chapter and retired Steelers linebacker, joined President Roach for the call and encouraged everyone to vote on Election Day.



Dr. Jill Biden accepted the Alliance's endorsement from President Roach.

Leading Seniors for Biden-Harris

The Alliance played a central role within the Biden-Harris 2020 campaign's Seniors Coalition program. Alliance staff and members directed, guided and became the face of seniors engagement on behalf of the campaign. Highlights include:

Dr. Jill Biden Accepts the Alliance's Endorsement

On the August 14 anniversary of the Social Security Act, President Roach officially announced our endorsement during a virtual event with Dr. Jill Biden, Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL-9), actor Louis Gossett, Jr., and Alliance members from Arizona, Florida, and Wisconsin. Each participant spoke about the importance of Social Security. The event was live streamed on YouTube and Facebook and was viewed more than 292,000 times.

Grandparents Day

Alliance members participated in a virtual Grandparents Day event on September 13 featuring labor leader Dolores Huerta, members of the Emhoff family, and a special video from Dr. Biden. Dr. Biden's video was viewed more than 98,000 times.

Weekly Union Retiree Phone Banks

President Roach led several weekly union retiree phone banks into battleground states with guest speakers including Amb. Caroline Kennedy, AFSCME President Lee Saunders and APWU President Mark Dimondstein.

Alliance Members Featured in Biden-Harris ads

Linda and Gary Somo appeared in two television and digital ads, 'Dignity' and 'Sacred,' which focused on retirement security and the COVID-19 pandemic.

State Alliance Activism

Arizona—Proposition 208

The Arizona Alliance phone banked, gathered signatures, wrote postcards, and attended rallies in support of "Invest in Ed," which was approved with 52% of the vote.

California Alliance for Retired Americans Candidate Forums

The California Alliance hosted 11 forums for candidates running for federal, state and municipal elections.

Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans Fair Tax Campaign

The Illinois Alliance worked to pass the Fair Tax ballot initiative in Illinois, organizing activists throughout the state.

Missouri Amendment 3

The Missouri Alliance partnered with the state AFL-CIO in its campaign to defeat the “Dirty Missouri” ballot initiative. Alliance members phone banked, performed election day visibility, and sent a mailer to 3,100 members urging them to vote no on the initiative.

Texas State House Campaign

The Texas Alliance engaged in a full court effort of endorsements, phone banks and postcard writing in an effort to flip the Texas state house.

Educating Seniors About Voting by Mail

Alliance-NFLPA Public Service Announcements

The Alliance joined forces with the Detroit and Pittsburgh chapters of the NFLPA Former Players and produced two public service announcements (PSAs) encouraging seniors to make a plan to vote. The PSAs were released on Facebook and YouTube and reached nearly 10,000 seniors in both states.

Tim Walton, a former Detroit Lion, his daughter Tristyn Walton, President Roach, and Dick Long, Michigan Alliance President, were featured in the Michigan PSA. Former Pittsburgh Steeler and Super Bowl champion Robin Cole and his wife Judith, Pennsylvania Alliance member Harriet Ellenberger, and Alliance Executive Director Richard Fiesta participated in the Pennsylvania version.



Tim Walton, Vice President of the Detroit NFLPA Former Players Chapter, appears in the Michigan Vote by Mail PSA.

“Safe and Easy: How to Vote by Mail in Florida”

Members were in a short documentary produced by Brave New Films. The film was launched with a virtual premiere that included messages from actor and director Rob Reiner and leading Democratic election lawyer Marc Elias.

Alliance members Lorenzo Canizares (CWA); Stewart Cohen (AFT); Barbara DeVane (AFT); and Lorraine Tuliano (AFGE) appeared in the film, which was viewed more than 11,000 times in Florida.

Congressional Voting Record and Retiree Hero Awards

Our annual Congressional Voting Record was released in February. Forty-two members of the Senate and 216 members of the House of Representatives earned the distinction of “Retiree Hero” with perfect scores of 100 percent. However, 51 percent of senators and 45 percent of House members earned scores below 50 percent.

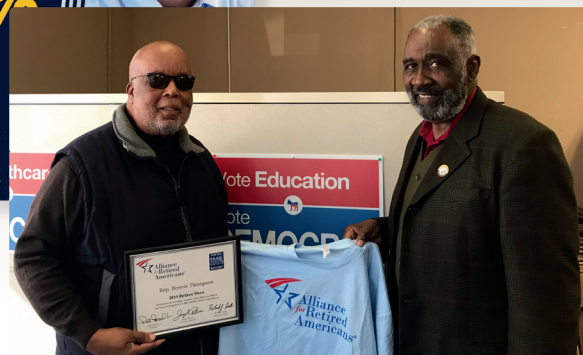
The 2019 report reviewed ten key Senate and House votes including bills and amendments to lower prescription drug prices, protect people with pre-existing health conditions, ensure caregivers can take sick leave, protect pensions, and repeal the 40% excise tax on employer-sponsored health plans.



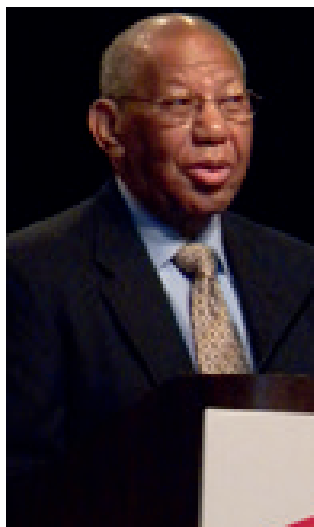
US Rep. Al Lawson Jr. (@RepAllawsonJr) · Aug 5
Today, I spoke with the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans (FLARA) about Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, the Voting Rights Act and other issues affecting the 5th District. I was also presented with the HERO Award for my 100 percent pro-retiree voting record. #FL05



Rep. Bennie Thompson (MS), left, poses with his Hero Award and Mississippi Alliance President James Sims.



In Memoriam



Alliance members mourned the passing of their founding Secretary-Treasurer **Ruben Burks** in his hometown of Flint, Michigan on April 6, 2020 at the age of 86.

Mr. Burks became the Alliance's first Secretary-Treasurer following a long history of unionism in the United Auto Workers and fighting for social justice. He served in that position from 2001-2015.

In 1955 he began working as an assembler at the former General Motors Fisher Body Plant 2 in Flint and joined UAW Local 598. From that position he rose through the ranks of the local, serving in various leadership posts, including shop committeeperson and executive board member.

He was a leader in the early days of the civil rights movement and a pioneer in the UAW, becoming the highest ranking African-American officer in the union when he was elected Secretary-Treasurer in 1998.



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COVER IMAGES:

102-year-old Alliance member Bea Lumpkin voting by mail in Illinois.

Arizona Alliance President Sandra Cole calling members.

Mississippi Alliance President James Sims proudly displaying his Alliance t-shirt.