



ACTIVITY REPORT

2022

LEADERSHIP LETTER

THE ALLIANCE'S WORK IN 2022

resulted in significant legislative and political victories for Alliance members.

Our level of grassroots advocacy returned to pre-pandemic levels, with members lobbying their elected officials, joining in-person actions and picket lines, testifying in voting rights cases, and supporting Labor 2022 phone banks and many other types of activism.

At the same time, online tools remained important to our work. We conducted our quadrennial National Membership Meeting virtually, and our annual retirement security symposium was a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting, allowing more people to participate.

A highlight of our work was the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which included significant measures to lower the price of prescription drugs.

For the first time, Medicare has to bring the drug corporations to the bargaining table to negotiate lower prices on some of the highest priced medicines on behalf of older



President Joe Biden takes a selfie with Alliance President Robert Roach, Jr. and Alliance Executive Director Rich Fiesta at a White House Inflation Reduction Act celebration event.




Americans and taxpayers. Over the next several years this will save seniors at the pharmacy counter and taxpayers well over \$1 billion.

The Alliance began working to lower drug prices in 2001, and our members are rightfully proud of this achievement. However, there is more work to do. We will fight to allow Medicare to negotiate prices for additional drugs and extend provisions such as the new Medicare cap on insulin prices to all Americans.

Our retiree advocates were deeply engaged in the 2022 midterm elections and the Labor 2022 program, with a focus on the battleground states that would determine control of the U.S. Senate. The Alliance's 527 "super PAC" invested significant funds in advertising in Arizona to help re-elect Sen. Mark Kelly, in Pennsylvania for new senator John Fetterman and Rep. Susan Wild, and in Georgia for Sen. Raphael Warnock.

None of these victories would be possible without your continued support. We are grateful for the opportunity to advocate for older Americans and look forward to continuing that work in the coming years.

In solidarity,


ROBERT ROACH, JR.
President


JOSEPH PETERS, JR.
Secretary-Treasurer


RICHARD FIESTA
Executive Director

Kentucky Alliance
supporting Warrior
Met Coal workers in
Alabama.

Wisconsin Alliance on picket line with striking Case manufacturing workers.

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE

Who We Are

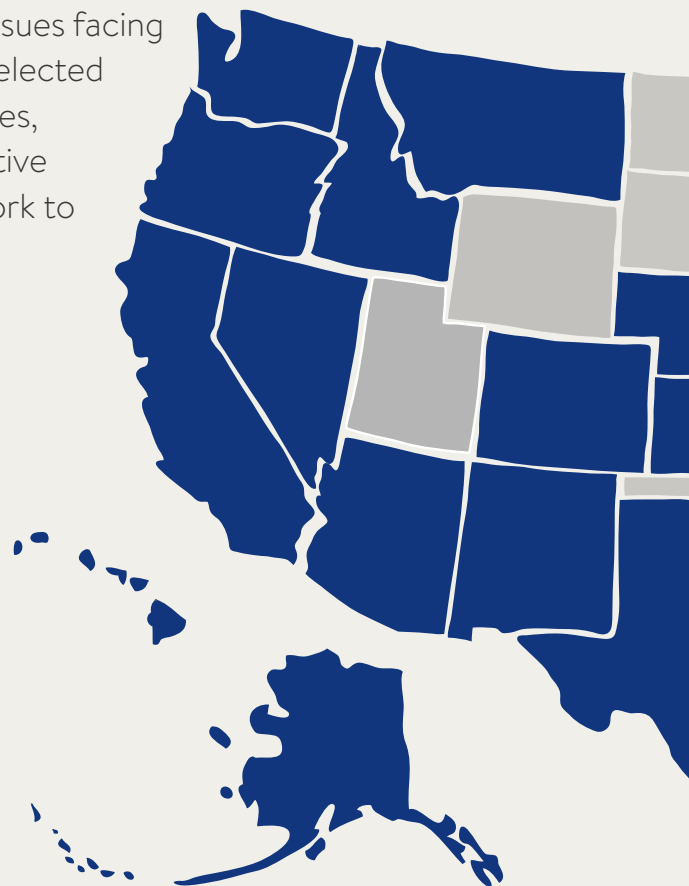
The Alliance for Retired Americans is 4.4 million members strong. Our retiree activists are in every state and are from all walks of life. We are former teachers, industrial workers, health care workers, state and federal government workers, construction workers and community leaders, all united in the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

What We Do

Our retiree activists understand the power of collective action to create change in their communities and the country. Alliance members educate the public and policymakers about critical issues facing older Americans. We engage elected officials in our local communities, take direct action through creative demonstrations and protests, work to elect pro-retiree candidates, and organize online.

Where We Are

Members in every state
39 State Alliances
and growing

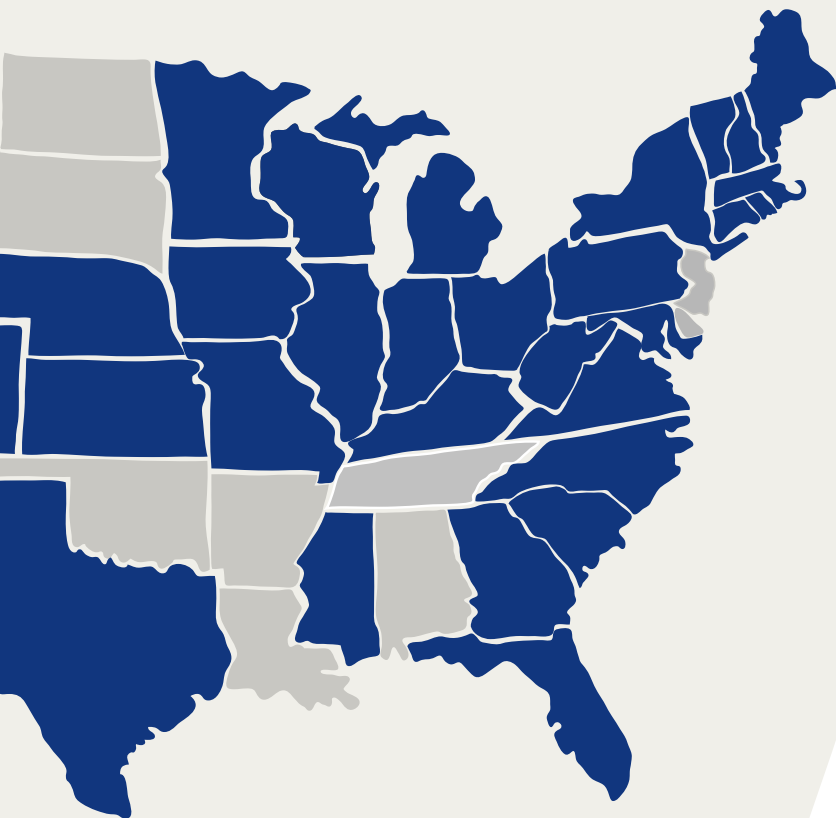


OUR PRIORITIES

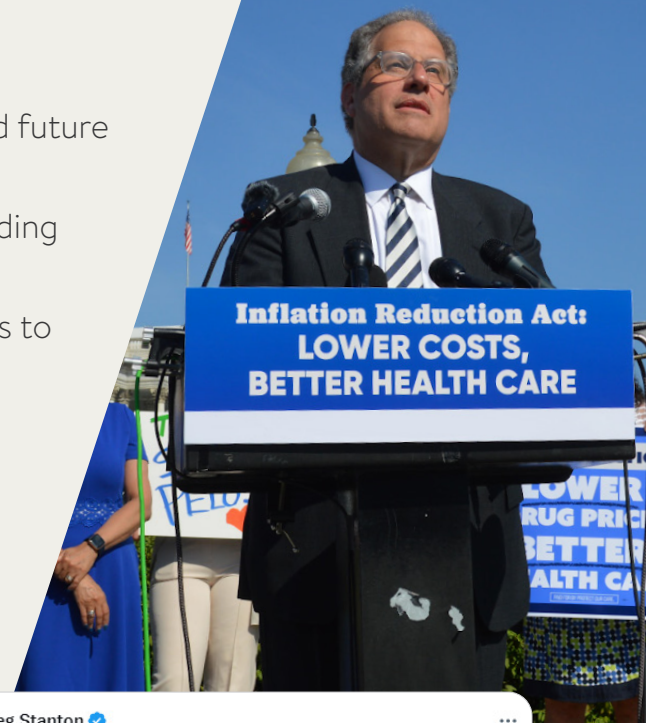
Our Priorities

The Alliance for Retired Americans policy agenda is set during quadrennial meetings of its membership and our board. Most importantly, our activism and ideas come from our members. 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 and strengthen the system;
- △ 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;
- △ Protect the right to vote; and
- △ Elect pro-retiree officials at all levels of government.



Alliance Executive Director Rich Fiesta speaks about the importance of the Inflation Reduction Act for seniors during a press conference.



Rep. Greg Stanton
@RepGregStanton

The Inflation Reduction Act will be a game changer for Arizona seniors—capping insulin costs + lowering the price of prescription drugs.

Grateful to join [@ActiveRetirees](#), [@AARPArizona](#), [@ProtectOurCare](#) + [@ValleDelSolAZ](#) members to break down what this means for AZ.



2022 ACTIVITIES



National Membership Meeting

In July, more than 300 retiree activists attended the Alliance's quadrennial National Membership Meeting, which was held virtually for the first time.

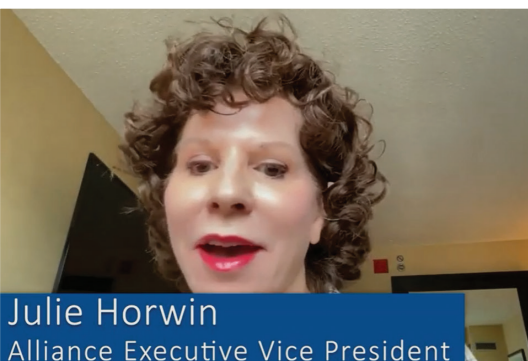
The delegates re-elected President Robert Roach, Jr. and Secretary-Treasurer Joseph Peters, Jr. and elected Julie Rivera Horwin of Arizona as our community Executive Vice President. Members also elected regional Alliance board members.

The National Meeting adopted resolutions calling for strengthening and expanding Social Security and Medicare, addressing income inequality, and protecting the right to vote. New resolutions were adopted calling for the protection of the rights of federal workers and for passage of the PRO ACT, which would make it easier for workers to form and join a union. In addition, we passed resolutions honoring George Kourpias, Ruben Burks, Jo Etta Brown, Richard Trumka, and John Sweeney, all of whom worked to transform the lives of retirees and the labor movement.

The attendees heard from national leaders and retirement security experts including AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler and AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer and Alliance labor Executive Vice President Fred Redmond. American Federation of Government Employees President Everett Kelley also sent a video greeting.

Rep. John Larson (CT), chair of the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, spoke about his Social Security expansion bill, the "Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust Act." Pollster and strategist Celinda Lake shared data on which issues were on the minds of older voters heading into the fall midterm elections—protecting and strengthening Social Security and Medicare, the economy, and giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices.

Attendees also sharpened their advocacy skills in workshops on "Combating Disinformation Online" and "Why Voter Contact Matters."



NATIONAL EVENTS & CONVENINGS

2022 Retirement Security Symposium

Speakers from unions and government agencies, young workers and others shared strategies to address the continuing retirement security emergency in America at the Alliance's Retirement Security Symposium: An Intergenerational Seminar in November.

Dozens of people joined the annual event in Washington, DC, and many more participated virtually to discuss the issues and challenges facing traditional pensions, with an emphasis on the need to engage young workers on the issue.

President Roach served as the convenor and AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler gave the opening remarks in a special video about the Alliance and Labor's role in the passage of the American Rescue Plan, which saved the earned pension benefits of millions of retirees, spouses, and survivors.

Rep. Larson spoke about the need to protect and expand Social Security now, noting that there has not been a benefit increase in more than 50 years.

We are grateful to the experts and advocates who shared their knowledge and experiences during the symposium, including senior officials from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC); Meghan Rozarie, senior associate, American Federation of Teachers Retirees Organization and Field Services Department; Mike Walden, Incorporator and former President, National United Committee to Protect Pensions (NUCPP), and Ken Stribling, current NUCPP President, representing Pension Warrior Rita Lewis; Ilana Boivie, Senior Research Economist for the Strategic Resources Department with the Machinists Union (IAMAW); Sisto Campana, Labor Advocate with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and many others.

Education and Training Webinars

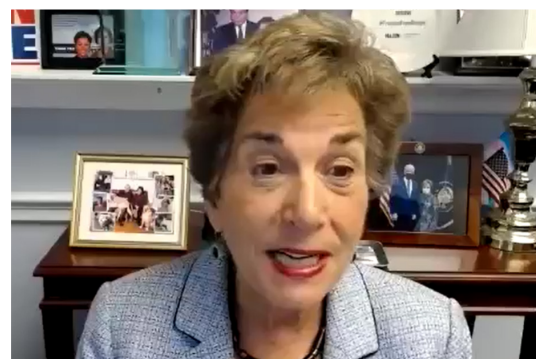
Last year the Alliance launched a well-received monthly education and training webinar open to all members. Topics include Zoom 101; the Inflation Reduction Act and Older Americans; Storytelling for Advocacy; and a presentation on Social Security scams presented by Social Security Administration staff.



AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler speaks during the 2022 National Membership Meeting.



Rep. John Larson and Connecticut Alliance President Bette Marafino at the Alliance Retirement Security Symposium.



Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL) speaking during the Alliance's virtual Inflation Reduction Act celebration event.

ISSUE ADVOCACY

Lowering Prescription Drug Prices

Americans pay the highest prices for prescription drugs in the world, and older and retired Americans, who live on limited incomes and take the most medications to stay healthy, bear the brunt of this crisis. One in four people over the age of 65 report not taking at least one prescription drug as prescribed due to its high price.

In 2022 Congress and President Biden took strong action to lower drug prices for seniors by enacting the Inflation Reduction Act into law. This legislation requires Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices for some of the highest priced prescription drugs, which has been an Alliance legislative priority since 2001.

The pharmaceutical industry spent more than \$100 million to block the drug price provisions of the legislation, which nevertheless was supported by more than 80% of the American public.

The Alliance's advocacy over nearly two decades helped achieve this victory. Our members made the case for change and put a spotlight on this problem through a wide range of actions, including sponsoring bus trips to Canada to show the higher prices Americans pay for the same drugs; speaking at news conferences and rallies; lobbying their elected officials in person, online, and through the mail; and signing petitions to mobilize online.

Highlights of the law include:

- ▲ Requiring Medicare to negotiate lower prices for some of the highest priced prescription drugs, using its enormous purchasing power on behalf of seniors and taxpayers;
- ▲ Capping out of pocket costs for insulin at \$35 per month for Medicare beneficiaries;
- ▲ Making all recommended adult vaccines free for Medicare beneficiaries beginning in 2023;
- ▲ Prohibiting drug corporations from increasing the price it charges Medicare for a drug by more than the rate of inflation; and
- ▲ Capping out of pocket drug spending at \$2,000 per year for Medicare Part D.

As important as the Inflation Reduction Act is, there is more to do to rein in drug corporations and lower prescription drug prices for all Americans, and the Alliance will continue pressing Congress for stronger action.



Our seniors have struggled to pay for life-saving medications for far too long. The Inflation Reduction Act will finally allow Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices & cap insulin at \$35 a month for seniors.

Thank you Michigan @ActiveRetirees for your support!

Michiganders Hail Enactment of Inflation Reduction Act

“Older and retired Americans, who take the most medications to stay healthy and often live on fixed incomes have borne the brunt of high prescription drug prices. Along with Senator Peters, we have been pushing for strong congressional action to lower prescription drug and health care costs. The Inflation Reduction Act will finally provide relief to seniors, including Michigan retirees. We thank Senator Peters for helping the Inflation Act, which is a game-changer because it will save lives and result in savings for seniors. We applaud the critical measures that allow Medicare to negotiate the prices of drugs and cap annual out-of-pocket drug costs as well and seniors on Medicare pay no more than \$35 per month for insulin.”

- Dick Long, President of the Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans



Sen. Murray (WA), Rep. Schrier (WA), and Washington State Alliance members at IRA celebration event.

Social Security Expansion

With inflation reaching record highs, Alliance members continued to press for Social Security expansion by making the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share into the system.

While there were no House or Senate floor votes on Social Security expansion, the number of elected officials showing support for expanding and strengthening Social Security grew significantly.

President Roach testified before both the House Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee and the Senate Budget Committee about the challenges seniors face to make ends meet and the need to increase Social Security benefits.

More than 200 members co-sponsored Rep. Larson's Social Security 2100, A Sacred Trust Act (H.R. 5723), which would increase benefits for five years.

The Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82), which repeals both the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) that reduce the Social Security benefits of millions of public sector workers and retirees, garnered 305 bipartisan House sponsors. The bill was passed by the House Ways & Means Committee, a significant step in the fight to end this unfair law.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (VT) introduced the Social Security Expansion Act (S. 4365), which would increase benefits by \$200 per month and extend the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund by 75 years.

President Roach with Sen. Sanders after testifying at a June 9, 2022 Senate Budget Committee hearing focused on expanding Social Security for all beneficiaries.



Strengthening the U.S. Postal Service

Older Americans rely on the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) for timely home delivery of their medications, bills, packages and important documents.

In 2022 the Alliance joined with allies, including the American Postal Workers Union, to support passage of the Postal Service Reform Act, which President Biden signed into law in April.

The law repealed the 2006 Congressional mandate that required the USPS to prefund retiree health insurance 75 years in advance, something no other corporation is required to do. Elimination of this requirement will save the Postal Service more than \$50 billion, allowing it to focus on investing and innovating new services to better meet its mission to serve every American household and business.

Washington State Alliance President Jackie Boschok rallies to save the Post Office.



ISSUE ADVOCACY

Medicare Coverage for Medically Necessary Dental Services

The Alliance supported the Biden Administration's decision to expand Medicare coverage to include some medically necessary dental procedures, such as dental services prior to cardiac procedures or organ transplants.

While this step falls short of comprehensive Medicare dental coverage, it is a significant change that will improve the health of many seniors.



Sen. Ben Ray Luján (NM) receives the Retiree Hero Award from New Mexico President Dennis Conerty (left) and Executive Director Fiesta Director Fiesta (right).

Congressional Voting Record and Retiree Hero Awards

Our annual Congressional Voting Record was released in February. Forty-two members of the Senate and 218 members of the House of Representatives earned the distinction of "Retiree Hero" with perfect scores of 100 percent. Fifty senators earned scores of 20% or below, while 167 House members earned a score of 0%.

Ten Senate and House floor votes were considered in the report, including votes on bills and amendments to provide stimulus payments during the pandemic; protect voting rights; lower prescription drug prices; raise the federal minimum wage; and protect older workers from discrimination.

Organizing and Strike Support

Knowing that workers who form or join a union earn better wages and have greater retirement security, Alliance members enthusiastically showed support for union organizing campaigns in large and small workplaces this year.

Alliance activists also stood in solidarity with striking UAW members at Case New Holland in Iowa, BCTGM members at Frito Lay in Kansas, and UMWA members at Warrior Met Coal in Alabama, walking picket lines, donating to strike funds, and helping deliver supplies to families of striking workers.



Kentucky members stand in support and solidarity with Louisville, KY ATU Local 1447 for a fair contract on wages and safety.

Protecting the Right to Vote

Older voters are the most likely to vote by mail and this right was under continued attack in 2022, particularly in battleground states.

As we did in 2020, Alliance members went to court to protect vote by mail, ensure ballot return drop boxes were available and accessible to older voters, and stop vigilantes who were harassing Arizona voters while returning their mail ballots.

A summary of the significant cases is below:

WON ▶ ARIZONA ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS v. HOBBS

A federal court issued an injunction against SB 1260 that would have allowed county registrars to remove voters from the early voting list without notice.

WON ▶ DEAS v. NC STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The court upheld the State Elections Commission decision that ballots received by Monday, November 14 will count. The RNC and state GOP wanted November 10.

WON ▶ GILL v. LEHIGH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Pennsylvania Alliance intervened in the America First Legal Foundation, founded by former Trump Administration insiders Mark Meadows and Stephen Millier, suit in Lehigh County that aimed to eliminate or restrict drop box use. Alliance members testified at the hearing. The court ruled that the county may continue to use drop boxes.

WON ▶ ARIZONA ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS v. CLEAN ELECTIONS USA

The Arizona Alliance filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court and won a temporary restraining order against Clean Elections USA to stop vigilante “poll watchers” with guns and cameras from harassing and intimidating voters at drop boxes. The group was also forced to correct their lies about early voting and drop boxes on their social media sites.

WON ▶ ARIZONA ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS v. CROSBY

The Arizona Alliance won an injunction against the hand counting of all early ballots in Cochise County, instead of the statutorily mandated and more accurate machine counting.



2022 ELECTION WORK

Older Americans are the most reliable voters, showing up at the polls in large numbers in every election. In a midterm election, like 2022, seniors have outsized importance. Nationally, turnout was lower in 2022 than 2018, and a majority of voters over the age of 65 supported Republican candidates.

There is evidence, however, that in the most hotly contested races, older voters helped swing races in favor of pro-worker and pro-retiree candidates. In 63 of the most competitive House races, polling showed that voters aged 65+ shifted from favoring Republican candidates

50% to 40% to favoring Democrats 49% to 46% between July and November. Women voters in these polls said threats to Social Security, Medicare and prescription drugs were important factors when deciding who to vote for.

Social Security and Medicare were prominent issues throughout the 2022 campaign, with numerous Republican senators and House members openly campaigning on their plans to cut or privatize earned benefits.

Sen. Rick Scott (FL), chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, released a plan that would “sunset” Social Security and Medicare. His plan was praised by several candidates, including Dr.

Mehmet Oz (PA). Senator Ron Johnson (WI) and Ron Bolduc (NH) came out in favor of even deeper cuts, and Blake Masters (AZ) proposed privatizing Social Security.

A majority of House Republicans endorsed a “Blueprint for America” platform that included cuts to Social Security and Medicare, as well as privatization.

The Alliance’s messaging, and that of the AFL-CIO’s Labor 2022 campaign, emphasized these retirement security threats.

Our election activities and tactics included in-person and virtual events, direct mail to members, phone banks, paid advertising, email, social media, tele-town halls, candidate side-by-side comparison flyers, and participation in Labor 2022 get-out-the vote efforts.

Events with candidates and union retirees

Alliance leaders spoke to union retirees and leaders about senior issues and the importance of the senior vote throughout 2022.

President Roach spoke to AFT retirees at their national convention. Executive Director Rich Fiesta spoke at UAW, APWU, and USW retiree convention meetings; the New Mexico Alliance convention with Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham, Sen. Ben Ray Luján and Reps. Teresa Leger Fernandez and Melanie Stansbury; and the Wisconsin Alliance’s Power Lunch with Gov. Tony Evers, Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, and AG Josh Kaul.

Texas Alliance members participate in a Dallas GOTV rally.



Retirement Security Roundtable with Senator Mark Kelly (AZ)



The Arizona Alliance hosted a Rally for Social Security with Sen. Mark Kelly in Phoenix. Sixty people attended the roundtable event and the event was covered by the largest Arizona TV station. Sen. Kelly headed a panel with Rich Fiesta that was moderated by Arizona Alliance Executive Director Dora Vasquez.

Endorsements

The Alliance endorsed 267 candidates for the U.S. House and Senate, and 77% of those candidates won their elections.

Candidates promoted their Alliance endorsement in their campaign materials, speeches, and social media, and many held campaign events with Alliance members. In Wisconsin, Lieutenant Governor Barnes mentioned his endorsement on “The Last Word with Lawrence O’Donnell” (MSNBC) program on October 26.

Alliance members appeared in campaign commercials for Senators Mark Kelly (AZ) and Catherine Cortez Masto (NV) and at public events. We sent more than 50,000 emails to Alliance members so they knew which candidate would protect Social Security, Medicare and pensions and vote to lower drug prices.

Direct Mail

The Alliance sent two direct mail pieces to nearly 75,000 modeled union retiree members in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin that coincided with the first day of early voting.

For the important Georgia Senate runoff election, we sent a direct mail piece featuring Alliance member and CWA retiree Booker Lester to 8,700 modeled Georgia union retirees supporting Sen. Raphael Warnock.

Tele-town Halls

Senate battleground state town halls with Alliance members were held with Sen. Cortez Masto, Lt. Gov. Barnes, Rep. Tim Ryan (OH), and Justice Cheri Beasley (NC).

Alliance President Roach joined an AFL-CIO national battleground retiree call for the final push to Election Day.

AFL-CIO Retirement Security Week

The Alliance partnered with the AFL-CIO communications team in October to provide information to union members about the election and retirement security via social media, news releases, and the AFL-CIO’s daily newsletter.



The Alliance endorsed **267** candidates for the U.S. House and Senate.



Catherine Cortez Masto @CortezMasto

It was my pleasure to take questions over the phone today with hundreds of retired union workers from @ActiveRetirees.

Nevada seniors can count on me to lower costs, protect Social Security and Medicare, and ensure everyone has the ability to retire with dignity.

2022 ELECTION WORK

Retired Americans PAC (Alliance 527 Super PAC) Spending

The Alliance's 527 Super PAC conducted independent expenditure advertising campaigns in five states. These included digital video and display ads targeted to persuadable voters age 60+.

ARIZONA Digital video ads highlighting Blake Masters' plan to privatize Social Security reached more than 115,000 persuadable and likely Democratic Arizona voters over the age of 60.

PENNSYLVANIA Digital video ads noting Mehmet Oz's history of scams and phony medical cures reached 250,000 persuadable and likely Democratic Pennsylvania voters over the age of 60.

In Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District, Republican candidate Lisa Scheller's company closing a plant and the subsequent outsourcing of jobs to China was highlighted in digital video ads to voters in Carbon County.

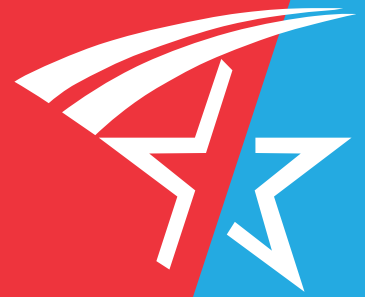


WISCONSIN, NEVADA, NEW HAMPSHIRE Digital display ads pointing out Sen. Ron Johnson (WI), and candidates Adam Laxalt (NV), and Don Bolduc (NH) regarding their support for cutting and privatizing Social Security and Medicare ran on websites during October and November.

GEORGIA RUNOFF ELECTION Ads emphasizing candidate Herschel Walker's ties to Sens. Rick Scott (FL) and Lindsey Graham (SC) and their plans to cut Social Security and Medicare reached 150,000 older, likely Democratic voters.



IN MEMORIAM



Alliance members mourned the passing of

Jo Etta Brown,

Alliance Executive Vice President from 2014-2022, on August 15, 2022 in Nevada after a long career of fighting for seniors and civil rights.

Ms. Brown first joined the Nevada Alliance in 2007 after 30 years in community banking, urban development and affordable housing advocacy, bringing to the Alliance her experience fighting for more women in management roles. She led the Alliance's Community Advocacy Network while serving as Executive Vice President.

In 2016 Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval appointed her to the Nevada Commission for Women, which studies the changing and developing roles of women in society and recommends proposed legislation. In 2020 Governor Steve Sisolak re-appointed her and made her Chair, and he re-appointed her as Chair in 2021. The Alliance is a much stronger organization because of Jo Etta's activism and leadership.



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www.retiredamericans.org
[@activeretirees](https://www.facebook.com/activeretirees)
[facebook.com/retiredamericans](https://www.facebook.com/retiredamericans)

COVER PHOTOS:

Mississippi members help
distribute water in Jackson.

Gov. Lujan Grisham, Sen.
Ben Ray Lujan, Rep. Melanie
Stansbury stand with members
at NM Alliance convention.

North Carolina members at the
Moral Monday March. (Photo
Credit: Guy Brown)