



## An Introduction to the Alliance

The Alliance for Retired Americans is a nationwide coalition of community-based and retired union organizations working to advance public policy that protects the health and economic security of older Americans. The Alliance believes that seniors must work together to preserve all that we have fought for and all that future generations of Americans deserve. **We must be our own advocates!**

1. **Self-Awareness of the Issues**—Educating ourselves and fellow seniors on the issues that affect our lives, our children, and our grandchildren.
2. **Self-Representation with Legislators**—Direct issue advocacy with our elected officials at the local, state and federal level.
3. **Preserving Our Legacy through Activism**—Self-determination and voluntary action to make our voices heard and protect the society we built.

### The Alliance works on many issues, including:

- **Healthcare**—Medicare, Prescription Drugs, Medicaid
- **Economic Security**—Pensions, Social Security, Poverty, Tax Cuts
- **Housing and Services**—Affordable Housing, Long-Term Care, Community Services

Our work is driven by grassroots organization and collective action to improve the quality of life for all seniors. **We believe that the best way to achieve our goals is by taking action together.**



## Mission Statement

The mission of the Alliance for Retired Americans is to ensure 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. The Alliance believes that all older and retired persons have a responsibility to strive to create a society that incorporates these goals and rights and that retirement provides them with opportunities to pursue new and expanded activities with their unions, civic organizations and their communities.

A primary objective of the Alliance is to enroll and mobilize retired union members and other senior and community activists into a nationwide grassroots movement advocating a progressive political and social agenda-one that respects work and strengthens families. The long-term goal of the Alliance is to become the voice for all older Americans. By engaging in important political battles to protect and preserve programs vital to the health and economic security of older Americans, the Alliance will gain recognition as the country's leading progressive grassroots senior organization.

In pursuit of these values, the Alliance will:

- Build a strong organization of seniors with a viable structure, ample resources and clear objectives - a structure compatible with that of the labor movement and community-based groups at local, state and national levels.
- Create programs and membership organizations designed to promote a commitment by retired workers and older persons to the concept of lifelong participation in their unions, and in their community, political and civic organizations.
- Encourage all segments of the senior population to act with unity on legislative, political and policy issues of importance to retirees and their families in order to maximize their influence on federal, state and local governments and on private organizations that affect their interests.