



## **Association of Ameritech /SBC Retirees, Inc<sup>SM</sup>**

*Proudly working on behalf of the retirees of the AT&T Midwest Region, SBC Midwest Region, Ameritech, and predecessor/successor Bell Companies of the New AT&T, located throughout the United States*

### **Legislative Ledger**

**May 22, 2009**

#### **NRLN – Second Request - Special Appeal for Funds**

**Two months ago AASBCR<sup>SM</sup> sent information about the special appeal for the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN). We retirees are already way ahead of so many others who are sitting in the dark saying nothing, waiting for that shoe to drop when they find they have no company provided health care, dental, prescription, or catastrophic care (Care Plus). We have already seen many of our friends and loved ones experience this very thing. We must work together to keep AT&T providing the benefits that we all worked so long and hard to earn. Yes, we earned them. They are not just gifts promised by a benevolent employer. These are our benefits that we earned through years of productive work. The NRLN is working to promote three pieces of legislation to protect what we worked for.**

**Following is an outline of those three pieces:**

**1.) Protection of Defined Pension Plan Assets. Pension plan assets must: a) Not be allowed to be bought out by management firms and hedge funds or any high risk third parties. b) Not be used for Corporate Restructuring lump sum buyouts. c) Not be used to pay for Executive Management non-qualified pensions or other deferred compensation.**

**2.) Maintenance of [Benefit] Cost Payment. The employer's health care plan would be required to pay to the retiree the amount the corporation had been paying on behalf of the retiree and eligible dependents at the time of a partial or full cancellation. Companies would be entitled to tax credits as an offset against capital dollars paid.**

**3.) Medicare Reform – Inclusion of Catastrophic Coverage. Add catastrophic coverage to Medicare for retirees over age 65 and support Medicare “buy-in” whereby retirees under the age of 65 are offered an opportunity to buy-into total Medicare coverage at Medicare cost levels. The NRLN believes Medicare is the best group plan alternative.**



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The NRLN needs funding support to advance the work on these three high priority items. The Lucent Retiree Organization (LRO) has begun the process by donating \$14,000.00. The cost of these three initiatives will be \$125,000.00. This work will include research, white paper development, meetings with potential bill sponsors on Capitol Hill, and, if Congress fails to write a bill, the creation of a draft bill for yet to be identified, sponsoring legislators.

We need your financial assistance and are accepting contributions towards these initiatives through June. Please consider making a donation.

The bottom line is that neither can this work be done for free nor can it be done inexpensively. Drafts of bills, proposals and white papers, are often created as a straw man proposal then further developed by lobbyists, corporations, and/or special interest organizations. Once a viable bill is edited and socialized and edited several more times it is then presented to legislative sponsors (Congressmen and Senators) for introduction.

AASBCR<sup>SM</sup> is asking you to support this work effort to advance these three priority items by providing a special contribution to AASBCR<sup>SM</sup>. Please write a check made payable to AASBCR<sup>SM</sup> – NRLN Special Appeal and put “NRLN Special Appeal” on the memo line. AASBCR<sup>SM</sup> thinks this is very important to the success of making some of the NRLN proposed changes into law.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Please make your check payable to:  
AASBCR<sup>SM</sup> –NRLN Special Appeal

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AASBCR<sup>SM</sup> –NRLN Special Appeal  
P.O. Box 7477  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-7477