



AT&T Ameritech /SBC Retirees – We are AASBCR®

*Proudly working on behalf of the Bell System and successor
companies of the New AT&T, located throughout the World*

Legislative Ledger

May 5, 2010

NRLN – What Have You Done for Us Lately?

Given the current gridlock in Washington, it is appropriate to focus on the benefits AASBCR® receives from working with the National Retirees Legislative Network (NRLN). The NRLN is our lobbying partner in Washington. AASBCR® contributes a portion of its members' dues to support the NRLN in order to have a presence in Washington. The primary reason is to protect against having Congress create flawed legislation that would negatively impact or jeopardize retiree earned benefits (pension and healthcare). Another reason is to educate members of Congress and their staffs about retiree issues so that they can effectively create and support legislation that will be beneficial to preserving earned retiree benefits. Finally, sometimes it is necessary to provide actual wording for drafted legislation in concert with supporting the first two points. The NRLN does all of these things, much of it behind the scenes.

So “What has the NRLN done for us lately?” The simple answer is they provide a continued presence in the legislative process by talking to members of Congress, their staffs and various committees dealing with retiree issues. Sometimes the most important product resulting from that presence is no bad legislation. At times this is hard to quantify because it is something that isn't tangible, but it is very important. Stopping a defective provision from being introduced into a law is just as important as getting a favorable retiree position into a law. With healthcare and pension discussions being very combative in Washington at this time, that may be the best that can be expected. Yet, the NRLN continues to be an advocate for retirees, building relationships with congressmen and their staff, and discussing and educating Congress on retiree issues.

<http://nrln.org/documents/NRLN%202010%20LEGISLATIVE%20AGENDA%20POST%20010110.pdf>



AT&T Ameritech /SBC Retirees – We are AASBCR®

Proudly working on behalf of the Bell System and successor companies of the New AT&T, located throughout the World

Lobbying is not easy. It takes a great deal of time and effort and the *NRLN cannot do it alone*. It doesn't have a large staff like major corporations or trade organizations. AASBCR® members can help the NRLN by assisting in getting the attention of members of Congress. Congress often acts only when confronted by a squeaky wheel. AASBCR® members need to contact their senators and representatives and respond in support of the NRLN calls to action. With the help of grassroots AASBCR® members, the NRLN can continue to identify important retiree issues, educate members of Congress and convince them that retiree pensions and healthcare are important and that laws must not harm retirees or cause companies to cut earned retiree benefits. But, the NRLN can't do it alone! The buck stops with us, the retirees.

So when we ask the question, “What has the NRLN done for us lately?” also ask, “What have we done to support the NRLN and the grassroots efforts that the NRLN needs to be successful?”

