

The News Register

June 18, 2008

A Letter from the President: Carole Lovell, President AASBCR_{SM}

Dear fellow retiree,

AASBCR_{SM} is your retiree organization. Its Mission is to work to preserve our AT&T retiree benefits that we worked so hard to earn. I want to take a moment to explain some things about AASBCR_{SM} that we believe are important for you to know and understand.

- 1.) We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.
- 2.) Dues are donations that support our work and are tax deductible.
- 3.) We cannot, as a 501(c)(3) organization, campaign for candidates or directly lobby members of Congress to influence legislation.
- 4.) Our efforts in support of our mission are focused in three areas.
 - The primary area of focus is working directly with AT&T at the local level for items that AT&T is responsible for such as benefit delivery to retirees. We are working along with our sister retiree organizations the Southern New England Retiree Association (SRA), Telco Retirees (Pacific Telesis/Nevada Bell), and ACER (AT&T Legacy) Retiree Group to address all retiree issues.
 - The second area of focus is as a shareholder of AT&T stock. April 2008 is the first time all 4 AT&T Retiree Coalition Groups have jointly sponsored/co-sponsored share holder proposals at the AT&T Annual Stock Holder Meeting. These shareholder proposals get the attention of AT&T as well as the rest of the AT&T shareholders. They are designed to help maintain the financial health of the AT&T corporation we helped build.
 - The third area of focus is the legislative and political arena. We are working with the NRLN at the federal level to support laws that will help maintain our benefits or to oppose laws that if passed would negatively impact our benefits. The NRLN is a Washington DC based lobbying

organization supported by many retiree organizations and individuals. The NRLN has been working at the legislative level to protect pension and health care benefits for all retirees. Let me be clear, lobbying is not cheap. And, the NRLN must obtain funding from its member organizations and individual donors willing to support protection and improvement of the pension and benefit laws. Contributions to the NRLN are not tax deductible. One more item. We now have a member, Ray Sternot, on the NRLN board which allows us to be more actively involved in the legislative agenda being undertaken by the NRLN: <http://www.aasbcr.org/2008legagenda.htm>

- 5.) Finally, the NRLN does not work directly with companies on any individual pension or healthcare issues that may come up. That is left up to the individual retirees or retiree organization to resolve with their companies and HR staffs.

Why is this clarification of what AASBCR_{SM} is really necessary? The AASBCR_{SM} board of directors is asking our members to also consider supporting our partner, the NRLN, in their annual solicitation drive. We want our members to be informed as to why we support the NRLN and why we think it is important. The NRLN solicitation letter and application is at: <http://www.aasbcr.org/NewsRegister/NRLNAppealSpring08.pdf>

Thank you.

Carole Lovell
President AASBCR_{SM}