



Association of Ameritech /SBC Retirees_{SM}, Inc

Proudly working on behalf of 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

My dear fellow retirees,

Below please find a request from the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN). As you may know, AASBCR_{SM} works with the NRLN. They can and do lobby the House of Representatives and the Senate for bills that assist with pension reform and healthcare. This is time consuming and costly work. It is a necessary part of our strategy for preserving retiree benefits. Because AASBCR_{SM} is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, we must be very limited in our political dealings.

The NRLN acts for its retiree organizations in the political arena. They do an outstanding job. Right now, with much input and work from Ray Sternot, our AASBCR_{SM} V-P Legislation, and NRLN board member, the NRLN is completing work on a candidate questionnaire which was sent to presidential, congressional, and senate candidates. As Ray did last year, this will provide us with answers on how the candidates will deal with retiree issues.

Please read the letter and seriously consider an individual contribution to the NRLN. Legislation is one very important key to ongoing benefits.

Sincerely,

Carole Lovell
President and director of membership



Dear AASBCR Member,

The pensions and healthcare benefits that retirees and future retirees have earned continue to be under attack from corporations, Congress, federal agencies and the courts. Because the National Retiree Legislative Network is the only U.S. organization solely dedicated to representing your retirement interests, the NRLN greatly depends on annual contributions from individuals like you to provide the financial resources to secure federal legislation to protect retirees' employer-sponsored pensions and benefits, plus keep Social Security and Medicare strong. Here are a few reasons why your support is necessary.

Earned Pension and Healthcare Benefits Are Still In Jeopardy! Millions of America's retirees have seen drastic erosion of earned pension and healthcare benefits. Many retirees have seen their pension benefits turned over to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), and in many cases pension benefits have been reduced. No laws exist to protect earned healthcare benefits! The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's new rule allows employers to reduce or drop benefits for age 65 and older retirees who are eligible for Medicare. However, this rule does not protect those under 65 from healthcare cuts. Unless the EEOC's rule is overturned by Congress, many companies will use the rule to reduce or eliminate benefits for Medicare-eligible retirees and possibly younger retirees. The NRLN is working to gain legislation to repeal of the EEOC rule.

What Has Been Done About Pension Benefits? The NRLN was directly involved in getting Congress to pass the Pension Security Act of 2006 that strengthened the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), the federal law protecting pension benefits. The NRLN wants to further strengthen ERISA by passing a bill to stop companies from using your pension assets to pay for company restructuring. The NRLN believes those assets should remain in pension trusts to protect pensions and possibly fund Cost of Living Allowances (COLA).

Healthcare - A Costly National Problem. In 2007, the NRLN was able to get an amendment passed that funded 17 new FDA staffers and millions of dollars to reduce the huge backlog on the approval of generic drugs and to speed up new approvals. With your financial and grassroots support, 2008 and 2009 can be the years when we bring about the importation of safe, lower-cost prescription drugs and implement competitive bidding to reduce your drug costs. Last year the NRLN adopted and is now lobbying for national healthcare guidelines that cut costs and inefficiencies out of the system and set guiding principles for better, more affordable healthcare.

Legislative Agenda Requires Support. The NRLN has a good legislative agenda. (Read the Legislative Agenda at <http://www.nrln.org> .) Corporations contribute multi-millions to politicians and lobby groups. Often, these lobby groups write the proposed legislation and then get U.S. Representatives or Senators to introduce the legislation. The NRLN does not spend one cent on wooing Congressional leaders or their staff—no campaign contributions, lunches, trips, etc. The NRLN's lobbying is performed by its staff and Grassroots Network members, you and others, who write and speak to their elected representatives, and it is working. In 2008, we'll need to pay experts to write one or two bills and then lobby them through to passage.

How You Can Help. You can help us advance our Legislative Agenda by participating in our Grassroots Network efforts (sign up at <http://capwiz.com/abtr/mlm/signup/>) and by making a contribution of \$25, \$50, \$75 or more. Any amount you can contribute will be appreciated. You may make your check or money order payable to **NRLN, Inc.** and mail it along with the Membership Contribution Form to the address shown on the form at the end of this letter. Or, you may make your contribution online with your credit card through PayPal on the NRLN website at <http://www.nrln.org> by clicking on the "Support the NRLN" link on the home page. With help from you, we can advance the NRLN mission of enacting federal legislation that guarantees fair treatment of retirees. Thank you for your support. Our NRLN mail systems are very basic and may overlap so we apologize in advance should you receive additional NRLN solicitation letters. We will improve on this soon!

Sincerely,

Bill Kadereit, President
National Retiree Legislative Network

NRLN MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION

AASBCR Retirees

The NRLN is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Contributions are not tax deductible.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address (if available) _____

I get my pension check from (name of company) _____

Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash please) for \$25, \$50, \$75 or more (any amount will be appreciated) payable to **NRLN, Inc., P.O. Box 18757, Washington, D.C. 20036-8757**