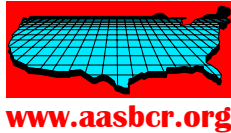


Association of Ameritech /SBC Retirees, Inc



Bruce Beckman President
Carole Lovell Vice President
Ray Sternot Vice President
Chet Przybyslawski Vice President
Richard Runge Secretary
Ralph Kolderup Treasurer
James Kempe Attorney - Agent

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Durochik Steps Down

A charter member of the AASBCR, Gary Durochik stepped down as Secretary of the Association. He is not resigning from the association. President Bruce Beckman has found a committee assignment for him (see below). Durochik's wise council will be missed from the board. Often during heated debate Gary would listen and take notes for the minutes. When he thought everything had been said at least once, he would sum up the salient points, both pro and con, in a few words, effectively ending the discussion. The Board and the Association thank him for his dedication and unstinting service.



On behalf of the Board and Association, Bruce presents Gary a plaque commemorating Gary's years of service to the AASBCR Board of Directors.

Runge Steps Up

At the Annual Meeting of the AASBCR, Rich Runge, of Waukegan, was unanimously elected Secretary of the Association, replacing retiring Gary Durochik. This is his "official biography:



Runge takes Oath of Office as Secretary of AASBCR

Rich Runge started in PBX Installation with Illinois Bell in Chicago in 1957. In 1968 he was promoted to PBX Engineering. In 1984 Rich transferred to the General Trades Organization where he worked until 1987. In 1989 he was transferred into the Ameritech PBX Contracting Department. Rich "retired" from Ameritech while working in Hoffman Estates in 1992, after 35 years of service.

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Installation of Officers

At the June 7th AASBCR Annual Meeting, Jim Kempe, the AASBCR Attorney/Agent swore in the 2006-2008 Board of Directors. Taking the Oath of Office for a two-year term are President Bruce Beckman, Vice Presidents Carole Lovell (Administration), Ray Sternot (Legislative Actions), and Chet Przybyslawski (Technology), Secretary Rich Runge, and Treasurer Ralph Kolderup. Having been appointed to an open position in March, 2006, Vice President Carole Lovell is in her first full term. Charter member Gary Durochik stepped down as Secretary to be replaced by Rich Runge.



Attorney/Agent Jim Kempe administers the Oath of Office to the new AASBCR Board of Directors

2005-2006 Accomplishments

These are the main accomplishments of the AASBCR for the “Board year” of June, 2005 to June, 2006.



Ralph talks with member Bob Ledvina during a break in the action.



During the meeting, Chet verifies a point for the Board. The laptop makes the Association records portable and allows the Board instant access.

- **Membership has nearly tripled. This gives us more weight when we deal with SBC/AT&T. And with more membership funding, we will do more.**
 - **We implemented methodology to bill members for renewal dues in a timely manner.**
- **We are members of the National Retiree Legislative network (NRLN). This enhances our voice with the 2 million NRLN members. Our Association has recently authorized the use of NRLN's CAPWIZ program for writing to our elected representatives. After a thorough investigation we believe that our membership will enhance their ability to effectively communicate with our Congressman and Senators on matters that affect our retiree rights. Our recent experiences have demonstrated that this tool will improve and simplify your ability to “reach-out”.**

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- We joined the NRLN letter campaign that generated several thousand letters to Senators.
- While the NRLN's major push had been for pension protection, we are helping them move into the healthcare arena. Not only are we being heard by AT&T locally but we are being heard on a national basis with our input to the NRLN on healthcare.
- We continue to mature our relationship with SBC/AT&T Senior Management – especially in Human Resources. We have an ongoing dialog and have implemented communications tools to assist our members in seeking benefit solutions. They are listening to us.
 - Members of the Board will be meeting with Senior ATT Human Resource personnel later in July. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss retiree issues, offer suggestions for improvement and to maintain an ongoing relationship with ATT. Your Board has been doing this for several years and has found the meetings to be an effective communications avenue.
- We have formed a coalition with the retiree associations of Pac Bell, SNET and ATT retirees. While we have many issues unique to each group, we have many issues in common. This coalition recently met with AT&T Senior HR Management in San Antonio on April 27th to explore our common needs.
 - This coalition met with AT&T Senior HR Management in San Antonio before the AT&T Stockholders' Meeting.
 - The coalition is appointing a Facilitator. His/Her job will be to coordinate our common dealings with AT&T. The NRLN stresses the importance of a consistent focus when dealing with Congress. The same is true among the various retiree groups when dealing with SBC/AT&T.
- The Association is now an AT&T shareholder. This will facilitate efforts to successfully submit Shareholder Proposals at future Stockholder Meetings. It has been other retiree group's experiences that this approach gains the attention of senior management to those items that are of importance to us and the corporation. The Association has also established a Shareholder Proposal Committee to implement the process.
- We own an up-to-date laptop computer. This holds all the AASBCR records; from the membership database, to our charters and other legal documents, and meeting minutes, etc. It is backed up on a regular basis.
 - We have a FREE conference bridge with up to 20 ports. We use this for board and committee meetings. It requires a toll call to Atlanta, so we use it from sbc@home phones or cell phones with free or available long distance minutes.
 - We conducted the Annual Meeting with an 800 call-in number. This was a very reasonable service and we will use it again. (Hopefully we can include participation from outside the SBC area.
- Our by-laws are a living document. We have amended them several times this year. And they have told us what we cannot do, helping the organization to stay focused on our objectives.

Report from Ohio

The Annual Meeting was held at 3 sites this year, connected by an 800-number dial-up link. Carole Lovell and Ray Sternot hosted the Cleveland area (Parma) site and Don Conrad hosted the Columbus (Lewis Center) site. Here are some comments from those attendees:

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- When we start with shareholders proposals, get a count from our members as to how many shares of AT&T stock they own. Inform AT&T that we will suggest to these members that they vote for whatever shareholder proposals we have put on the proxy ballot. That is a lot of clout.
(We will look into this.)
- Paper newsletters, and smaller. This can be used when meeting with retiree friends who ask about AASBCR. Want something tangible to use as a hand out.
(We will try to publish more, shorter on-line newsletters. The costs of postage and mailing and the effort involved will limit mailed newsletters to about 4 per year. Unfortunately, when a Call to Action arises, we will not be able to reach our Postal Mail Only members in a timely fashion.)
- Members admitted not reading about the satellite annual meeting until Carole sent out an email just referring to the meeting. They say when an email is too long, they do not read it.
(Unfortunately, many of the issues we are facing are too complex to be handled in a page. We can try to include a synopsis of an issue in the newsletter and carry the entire discussion on the web site.)

Several members still have Health Care/Caremark issues. (We will continue to work with AT&T HR to find equitable solutions.)

The Ohio Pioneers are still extremely helpful with Ohio recruiting efforts.

Results of Meeting with AT&T Management

On April 27, in San Antonio, Texas, leaders from the four major retiree associations, representing retirees of the various ATT companies, met and developed a series of questions for AT&T. They then met with AT&T management where they posed these questions. In attendance from AT&T Management was HR Benefits VP Sue Colburn with four of her associates (Marty Webb, Debbie Trammell, John Brockman, Jeff Mains) plus Pam Medina of Human Resources Policy.

Because this report runs 4+ pages, to read the Questions posed by the Retiree Groups and the AT&T Answers please visit the web site (aasbcr.org).

Review of the Membership Survey

Carole summarized the membership survey results, reporting that the number one concern of the membership was the quality and cost of the health care plan administered for our benefit by AT&T. Tabulated results of the survey will be on the web site soon.

Membership Contest

AND THE WINNER IS - - - - Liz Lorence from Michigan! Ray Rhodes, also from Michigan, was second. (Maybe why Michigan rose to be the third largest AASBCR state!) **CONGRATULATIONS LIZ!** Liz won a year's membership in AASBCR (2008-2009) and a gift certificate to the restaurant of her choice.

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How Does the 2006-2007 Year Look?

The second annual planning meeting is in October, with place, time/date, and agenda to be determined. (The meeting is scheduled this "late" to give the new board time to learn to work together.)

We want to double our membership in the coming year. When we see what is happening to retirees from other companies – indeed, what has happened to our health care in the past few years, the question is (or should be): "Do we want to take on the AT&T Bureaucracy alone? Or do we want to band together for our common good?" (Remember that often our common good is the same as AT&T's common good.)

- Ralph has issued a challenge that Illinois will resume its rightful place as the state with the most members.
- Carole and Ray doubt that. They expect another strong enrollment year in Ohio.
- Michigan, the 'sleeping giant', is awakening. Carole and Bruce have made some inroads that we expect will get our message out to Michigan retirees. This could lead to a membership explosion.
- We have recruiting help in Wisconsin. Watch those numbers rise.
- Ohio membership was stagnant until Carole became active and blitzed the state. We now have more Ohio members than from any other state – in fact, except for Illinois, where the Association started, Ohio has more members than any two other states. We need volunteers in Indiana and several non-Ameritech states.

Shareholder Proposal Committee Announced.

Bruce has announced the formation of a committee to investigate, formulate, and execute Shareholder Proposals. This committee will consist of Ralph Kolderup, Gary Durochik, and 3 other members.

Annual Meeting Q & A:

Q – Bob Ledvina (WI) – Why will AT&T be responsive to the AASBCR?

A – Bruce Beckman and others reinforced the growing visibility of the AASBCR through the news media, face-to-face meetings with AT&T management, legislative initiatives, and shareholder proposal activities will enhance the professionalism and credibility of the AASBCR and thus AT&T will and has been more responsive.

Q - Jack Hanahan (IL) – Requested a summary of accomplishments to help answer the question with regard to what the member is getting for their \$25 annual dues.

A- Bruce Beckman has requested Art Comings to develop an accomplishment summary and post it on the website and insert it into the next newsletter (see earlier summary developed by JB).

Q – Bob Ledvina and Stan Smith (WI) – How can the AASBCR increase their visibility to the Telecom Pioneer Life organizations?

A – Bruce Beckman asked Carole Lovell to contact Bob Ledvina and discuss methods of interfacing with the Pioneer Life organizations.