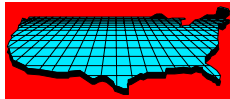


Association of Ameritech /SBC Retirees, Inc

Proudly representing retirees from the new AT&T Midwest Region, SBC Midwest Region, Ameritech, as well as the five Bell Companies in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin



www.aasbcr.org

Bruce Beckman	President
Carole Lovell	Vice President - Membership
Ray Sternot	Vice President - Legislation
Ralph Kolderup	Vice President - AT&T Relations
Chet Przybyslawski	Vice President and CFO
Richard Runge	Secretary
James Kempe	Attorney - Agent

Second Quarter Newsletter (Pre Annual Meeting Newsletter) May, 2007

AASBCR ANNUAL MEETING

The 2007 AASBCR Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2007 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EDT (1:00 – 3:00 CDT). So far we have 2 locations.

Chicago area: Elmhurst Presbyterian Church, Spring and St. Charles, Elmhurst, IL 60126

Cleveland Area: Mayfield Regional Library, 6080 Wilson Mills Rd, in the meeting room.
(You may look up these addresses via MapQuest or Google Maps)

The tentative Agenda is as follows: (At publication, this is a VERY tentative agenda.)

- **Call to order** (The President)
 - Introduction of Old Board members. (Bruce and all)
 - Review of the annual meeting agenda (Bruce)
 - Acknowledgement of the sites. (Bruce/others)
- **Review 2006-2007 accomplishments – The President and the Board**
 - Each Board Member reviews his/her accomplishments.
 - Financial Report (Chet)
 - President summarizes year
- **New AASBCR Board of Directors** (Jim Kempe)
 - General Counsel review by-laws on process
 - Board of Directors election of new President
 - Induction of new Board of Directors
- **Plans for the 2007-2008 year – New Board**
- **New Business** (all)
- **Q&A** (by site)
- **Adjourn**

Second Quarter Newsletter
May, 2007

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NOTE PAD:



This is the most difficult memo I have written in a long time.

I will be stepping down as the President of the Association of Ameritech/SBC Retirees at the end of the Annual Meeting in June. About a year ago, it became apparent that my home town, Downers Grove, needed to dramatically change its political landscape. After much discussion and soul searching I decided to run for Village Commissioner as part of a team of individuals who believed in a different kind of future than the then current Mayor and Commissioners. On April 17th, I won a seat on the Village Council. It has become apparent that I can no longer effectively serve both you and my fellow Downers Grove citizens.

As you know I was a co-founder of the AASBCR. I have served you for the last two years as the Associations President. I have taken great pride in our achievements since 2003. When we started, there was no template, no path to follow. Luckily there were similar groups forming about the same time. Through the NRLN, we were able to share ideas and gain a threshold on the Washington, DC landscape far more effectively than could have been done otherwise. The formation of the Coalition of ATT Retiree Associations has permitted us to speak with ATT in a unified effective manner yet allow us to focus on our regional issues.

Much still needs to be accomplished. Your help is key to our continued success.

The AASBCR has grown to be recognized as a national leader on Retiree issues and have gained the attention of ATT senior management. As I depart, I ask that you offer your support to the new Board stepping up in June. Your ideas, skills and experiences are vital for our continued success.

Thank you for your support.

Bruce Beckman
AASBCR President

FROM THE DESK OF RAY STERNOT – VP LEGISLATION:

We have worked hard this past year to make sure that our voice is heard on subjects such as healthcare and retiree issues. During the recent election, we were able to solicit information about where most candidates stood on these issues. Hopefully it helped in seeing where a potential candidate stood when voting. We were also very successful in influencing the NRLN's agenda on healthcare. We actually set forth some items that were eventually adopted in the NRLN platform (see www.nrln.org) and the 2007 talking points that describe the issues facing retirees ([http://www.nrln.org/Retiree Talking Points.htm](http://www.nrln.org/Retiree_Talking_Points.htm)).

Second Quarter Newsletter May, 2007

On the other front, many of you may have heard that the recent Snowe-Dorgan Amendment to the FDA bill that asked for the re-importation of prescription drugs was passed, but basically made ineffective by the Cochran amendment (see related story). We have contacted the NRLN to see what else can be done in this area. The cost of drugs and healthcare is way out of line with respect to retiree incomes, inflation, and, cost of living increases. Our goal is to work on that continually this year with our NRLN and AT&T retiree group coalition partners.

Ray Sternet

AASBCR VP- Legislation

OUR SHAREHOLDER PROPOSAL:



CEO Ed Whitacre at the 2007 AT&T Annual Meeting

Although our shareholder proposal did not pass, it garnered 44% of the vote. This is considered an excellent vote count for a first-time effort. To site a comparison, it took the Verizon retiree group 5 years to pass its first proposal.

The existence of the Association's Shareholder resulted in several "rewards". As an example, Association President Bruce Beckman was interviewed on CNBC's "Street Signs" on March 7 about the proposal. He was interviewed by the Associated Press and Reuters. These stories appeared in such major news-

papers as the Chicago Tribune, Dallas Morning News and New York Times. We know of a Mutual Fund group who voted 1.5 million shares for our proposal.

The most encouraging was that HR 1257, which mirrored our proposal, overwhelmingly passed the U.S. House of Representatives. Senate Bill S 1181 is the Senate companion bill (sponsored by Sen. Barack Obama) is in the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs committee. During the House debate, Rep. Barney Franks (the bill's floor manager) was holding aloft the AASBCR Stockholder Proposal. The issue of "say on pay" still has a long way to go.

We believe this heightened awareness of the Association, helps us gain credibility and permits us to have our message of Retiree Benefit protection be heard more effectively by the general population and the ATT Senior Management Team.

There's always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt...

**Second Quarter Newsletter
May, 2007**

Advertisement:

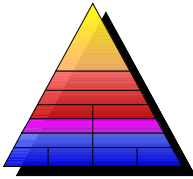
Robert F. Papierniak
Certified Financial Planner
(Retired Ameritech Finance Director)

A Registered Investment Advisor focusing on:

[Retirement Planning](#)
[Portfolio Analysis and Management](#)

**Many of our clients are retired telecommunications employees
and we are committed to understanding their
benefits and serving their needs**

**If you would like a review of your retirement plans or an
analysis of your portfolio, I can be reached at:**



Strategic Planning Group
16 N 486 Penny Road
Barrington Hills, IL 60010
847.428.4038
bob@IRAPRO.net

MEMBERSHIP:



To our loyal members

I cannot express how
proud I am of how far you,

the members, have taken
AASBCR. Without you,
there would be no
AASBCR. However, the
small group that
comprises the Board and
the committees is having
a difficult time doing
everything that we want to
do for AASBCR and you,
the members.

I am asking all of our loyal
members to reach deep,
search your souls and
come forward to offer your

assistance wherever
possible. We will take
whatever time and talents
that you offer. AASBCR
has other initiatives that
we would like to tackle.
We just do not have
enough assistance to take
on the other projects. In
addition, some of the work
that we now do for our
members will take longer
since other more pressing
activities must be
completed.

First Quarter Newsletter February, 2007

Please let me, or any Board member, know if you feel that you can offer AASBCR some assistance. Also, if you have questions or concerns. I can be reached at (e-mail) vp1@asbcr.org or (telephone) (440) 886-1575.

Thanks in advance for your consideration;

Carole Lovell
AASBCR VP-Membership

EDITORIAL:

In 2002 my friend and colleague, Marvin, forwarded me an e-mail about a meeting of Ameritech retirees to explore creation of a group to watchdog retirees' benefits. Hired in '83 to work in the new Carrier Access Billing System – a product of divestiture, I'd been generally happy with the way Ameritech had been run. But I didn't trust those SBC people who were now running my company, so I thought such a group was needed and I called my friend, Joel, and we attended that meeting. They wouldn't let us join, though – we were still working. When I retired in '04, Marvin forwarded an announcement of the next AASBCR board meeting. I called Joel (also retired) again and we went. We joined that night, and kept attending meetings (it was lonely in the 'peanut gallery'). Now we are "The Communications Committee".

When I joined, the AASBCR Board of Directors seemed to be pretty much the people who helped organize the AASBCR. Since then the Association has seen some change: Ray, from Ohio, was a welcome addition. But the Board was one Vice President short. Since I've been active, Carole was 'promoted' from Membership Chairman to Vice President (giving us a full board), and Rich replaced Gary as the Board Secretary as Gary moved as his life-interests took more and more of his time.

This small group has made prodigious strides! The AASBCR accomplishments in the last 2 years have been many and varied. (Come to the annual meeting to hear about them!) But this is just a start. Think what we could do with more volunteers!

But we need help from the membership! For the last two years, we've e-mailed requests for hosts for the Annual Meeting. Last year we had one host, but no-one else in the Columbus, Ohio area was interested enough to join him. This is the 7th newsletter I've published. Our first Blue Bulletin was September 7, 2006 – followed by 8 more that year and 7 so far this year. Plus a few other communications to the membership. I've received several 'Thank You' and 'Keep up the Good Work' e-mails. Our Questionnaires and Healthcare Survey generated a response from 10% to 20% of the membership.

We are dealing with our Quality of Life as Senior Citizens and Ameritech Retirees. Our financial and physical futures. Our ability to ENJOY the leisure we worked so long and so hard for. And I get the impression that very few people actually give a damn! If the AASBCR doesn't receive more active support from our membership, there may not BE an AASBCR in the future. Do you really want to roll over and allow the NEW AT&T to have its way with us? And be certain that there is absolutely NO similarity between this bunch and the old Ma Bell we loved and nurtured – and were loved and nurtured in return. This bunch will dump us all in a heartbeat if it will add a point to the stock – or another several thousand dollars to the executive bonus package.

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In the words of an old song – maybe the Beatles:


*”Is anybody there?
Does anybody care?”*

Art Comings

AASBCR Communications Chairman


Advertisement

From Your Real Estate Professional





Hi;
My name is Tom Lovell. I retired from Ameritech in 1994 after 35 plus years of service in Ohio. After I retired, I attended classes and retrained as a Realtor. I have been working in the real estate field ever since. I work at Coldwell Banker Hunter Realty.

Please contact me if I can be of service to you in either buying or selling a home. My home area is Northeast Ohio. However, I can connect you with a Coldwell Banker agent anywhere. I can be reached by email at: tomrealtor@prodigy.net My cell phone and voice mail is 216-798-8686.



HUNTER REALTY
Making Real Estate Real Easy



Two patients limp into two different medical clinics with the same complaint. Both have trouble walking and appear to require a hip replacement.

The first patient is examined within the hour, is x-rayed the same day and has a time booked for surgery the following week.

The second sees his family doctor after waiting a week for an appointment, then waits eight weeks to see a specialist, then gets an x-ray, which isn't reviewed for another week, and finally has his surgery scheduled for six weeks from then.

Why the different treatment for the two patients?

The first is a Golden Retriever; the second is a Senior Citizen.

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May, 2007

AT&T/UHC MEDICAL PROBLEM RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Our AASBCR Vice President of AT&T Relations has been working with AT&T HR people to create an escalation process to satisfactorily resolve Healthcare problems. The first step is a procedure to resolve problems with United Health Care claims.

But first, the Retiree MUST escalate his/her problem to an UHC supervisor. If s/he still cannot get satisfaction, THEN follow the procedure, which includes filling out a form. The procedure and the form are at the end of this newsletter. Or you may go to the AASBCR web site (www.aasbcr.org) to print the procedure and form.

This is an interim procedure. We still have no address to mail (US Postal Service) information. And this is ONLY for problems with United Health Care. We will notify our membership as other issues are resolved.

Ralph Kolderup
AASBCR VP-AT&T Relations

Phone a Friend

One of the problems of a long life is that we tend to outlive our friends. If we don't find new friends, life can get lonely. Many of us miss the conversations we had with our fellow Bell employees.

A lot of AASBCR members feel disconnected from the Association. There is little one-on-one personal contact. Nor can there be from the Board to our growing membership.

If you see yourself in the first paragraph – and you have unlimited long distance or excess minutes on your cell phone – you can help both yourself and the AASBCR. Join the Calling Tree Sub-Committee of the Communications Committee. We'll supply you with a (small) list of members and with frequent write-ups about Association goings-on. You call the people on your list and chat a while with them. You find new friends among your fellow retirees and the AASBCR has a more active membership.

If you are interested, please e-mail newsletter@asbcr.org

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO AFFORDABLE DRUGS:

To All Members,

Below is a summary of main points from the NRLN's Jim Norby on the recent Dorgan-Snowe Amendment calling for the importation of safe and lower priced prescription drugs into the U.S.

“In the U.S. Senate on May 7, supporters of the Dorgan-Snowe Amendment for the importation of safe and lower priced prescription drugs came within a few votes of advancing the interests of American consumers over the self-interests of the pharmaceutical lobby. However, on a 49-40 vote, Senators

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approved the Cochran Amendment that prohibits importation of prescription drugs unless the Secretary of Health and Human Services can certify that the drugs are safe. The government has stated it cannot do this.”

“... the pharmaceutical industry had vehemently opposed the Dorgan-Snow Amendment allowing drug imports. In addition, the Bush administration was threatening a veto of any legislation authorizing the importation of prescription drugs. Given these circumstances, I consider it significant that we came as close as we did to defeating the roadblock introduced by Senator Cochran.”

Norby additionally requests that, “I encourage you to see how the Senators from your state voted on the Cochran Amendment by going to http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=110&session=1&vote=00151#state

You are invited to use the Capwiz message system to write your own letter to your Senators. Go to the NRLN website at <http://www.nrln.org> and type your zip code in the “WRITE TO CONGRESS” box at the top of the Home Page. Then click on “e-mail” beneath your Senator’s name and photo. On the next screen select “Compose Your Own Letter.” Say “thank you” to your Senator if he/she voted “Nay” on the Cochran Amendment. If your Senator voted “Yea” for the Cochran Amendment, tell him/her you are disappointed by his/her action against the interests of retirees.”

The AASBCR is attempting to contact the NRLN Legislative VP to determine the plan of action for following up on this important issue to retirees. We all know that safe drugs are a necessity, many of us have difficulty why some drugs can be manufactured overseas (e.g., Lipitor) and allowed into the country while others cannot be. Could it be that the Pharmaceutical industry is keeping drugs from coming into the U.S. under the guise of safety? Stay tuned.

Ray Sternot
AASBCR VP-Legislation

The 11 Senators who did not vote are:

Allard (R-CO)	Ensign (R-NV)	Obama (D-IL)
Biden (D-DE)	Inhofe (R-OK)	Reed (D-RI)
Brownback (R-KS)	Johnson (D-SD)	Tester (D-MT)
Dodd (D-CT)	McCain (R-AZ)	

I guess they were busy applying for a promotion? -Editor

NATIONAL RETIREE LEGISLATIVE NETWORK

‘Retiree Health Care: next financial tidal wave’ – *The Desert Sun*
‘RIP: Retiree Health Plans’ – *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance Magazine*
‘Employers Chip Away at Retiree Health Benefits’ – *The Los Angeles Times*

If headlines like these send your blood pressure rising, stop and take a deep breath. You probably can’t afford your prescription blood pressure medication due to current laws favoring the big pharmaceutical companies. Under the current system, the same drugs, manufactured in the same factory, routinely sell for nearly two times as much in the U.S. as they do in other countries.

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Thus begins the NRLN's annual membership appeal letter. The AASBCR is a group member of the NRLN. Many of our members are also individual members. With 2 million members, the NRLN can bring pressure to bear in Congress. Last year they (we) were instrumental in passing a significant Pension Reform bill – not perfect, but a long way from where we were!

This year's focus is on Healthcare and Prescription Reform (including negotiation for Medicare D prescription prices and reimportation of drugs). The membership appeal letter ends as follows:

THE NRLN ENTERS 2007 with a very educated activist membership and professional staff. Our grassroots organization of volunteers is trained and ready to respond to key legislative issues with a barrage of letters, e-mails and telephone calls to elected delegates from their districts. Our Washington staff is on Capitol Hill participating in hearings and one-on-one meetings with Senate and House members and their staffs. And we continue with our aggressive media relations campaign in support of our issues. All of these strategies have enhanced the NRLN's perception as a reliable source of information among key congressional members.

The coming months will be critical, as NRLN volunteers and staff members work to educate the new and existing members of Congress and their staffs on the urgent need for health care reform to protect medical coverage for millions of retired Americans. Please help us in this important effort by mailing in a contribution of \$15, \$35, \$75 or more along with the Membership Donation form attached to this letter. Your generosity will ensure that we continue to make our views known on Capitol Hill, where key issues affecting your future health care and retirement security will ultimately be decided.

Recent conversations with congressional staff members who are involved with key legislative committees have left me convinced that meaningful health care reform for retirees is achievable in 2007. With your help and financial support, we can make our voice heard where it matters and over time we will succeed.

The NRLN is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Contributions are not tax deductible. To join, go to their web site, <http://nrln.org/JoinUs.htm> and follow the instructions. Or mail in the following form:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-Mail(if available) _____
Retired from _____

Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash please) for \$15, \$35, \$75 (or more if you can) to:

NRLN, Inc., P.O. Box 18757, Washington, D.C., 20036-8757

LUCENT RETIREES LOSE LIFE INSURANCE – NRLN SUPPORTS THEIR LEGAL EFFORTS

A couple of years ago, Lucent cancelled the Death Benefits (Life Insurance) of current retirees. The Lucent Retiree Organization (LRO) lost the ensuing lawsuit and is appealing. The NRLN has filed an Amicus ("friend of the court") brief in support of the LRO. To quote from their web site (www.nrln.org):

“The National Retiree Legislative Network has filed an Amicus Brief in support of Lucent Retiree Plaintiffs-Appellants in the Lucent Death Benefits ERISA Litigation. The brief was filed on April 26, 2007 with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia and urges reversal of the U.S.

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District Court's Order of Dismissal.

An Amicus Brief—often called a “friend of the court” brief—is a document filed in a legal proceeding by an interested party who is not directly part of the case, but who believes that the court's decision may affect its interest.”

Realizing this could happen to us, the AASBCR supports and applauds the LRO's stand and the NRLN's action.

Attention AASBCR Members

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

We need enthused members to help with Membership, Legislation, Communications. Please write to newsletter@aabccr.org and express your interests and talents.

The AASBCR Newsletter has begun accepting advertising to help defray the printing and postage costs of the newsletter. Like everyone else, the Board feels the Association could do a lot more with more money. Thus, we are accepting ads. Each ad will pay much of the postage for one mailing. Currently we are only accepting ads from members, and we are limiting total paid ad space to two pages.

Attention AASBCR Members

YOUR AD HERE

Newsletter advertisements are only accepted from AASBCR member retirees at this time.

Request for Advertisements should be sent to
newsletter@aabccr.org

AASBCR Second Quarter Newsletter
May, 2007

AT&T Medical Plan Problem Resolution Procedures

As of May 6, 2007

The AASBCR urges each member to use the process AT&T has introduced so that your complaints, or problems with the plan, are resolved and AT&T will be aware of your issues.

AT&T has established an escalation process for retirees who are unable to resolve their issue for an AT&T medical plan as administered by UHC (United Health Care).

“You are required to contact UHC and attempt to resolve the issue yourself before using the Escalation Procedure as follows”

- 1. Call and talk to a UHC service representative. If the UHC service representative cannot resolve your problem satisfactorily, then ask to speak to a Supervisor.**
- 2. If the Supervisor cannot resolve your problem to your satisfaction then follow the escalation procedure below:**

Escalation Procedure

Print the [Member Service Request Form](#) below along with these instructions

Complete the [Member Service Request Form](#)

FAX the completed form to the [UHC Escalation Group](#). The Fax number is: [262 953 9129](#)

Mail a copy of the Faxed Member Service Request Form to
AASBCR
VP ATT Relations
P. O. Box 7477
Buffalo Grove IL 60089-7477

AT&T Human Resources will monitor each complaint forwarded to the Escalation Group.

The toll free telephone number for the Escalation Group is [866 365 9146](#).



Date Faxed ____/____/____

Member Service Request Form

Section I: Member Information

Retiree's Full Name: _____

Patient's Full Name: _____

Patient's Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Subscriber ID Number: _____

What is your relationship to the patient? (Check one) Retiree _____ Spouse _____

If you are not the patient, do you have permission to discuss the patient's medical information? __ (Y/N)

Daytime Telephone Number that you can be reached at, including area code: ____-____-____

Best time of day to contact you at: _____ AM or PM?

Fax Number that we can respond to if you can not be reached by telephone: ____-____-____

Section II Claim Information

Date of Service: ____/____/____ Provider of Service: _____

Claim Number: _____

Section III Reason for Request

Section IV: Submitting your Request

1. This fax line and form can only be used after you have spoken with United Healthcare's Customer Care unit, and are dissatisfied with the resolution of your issue. If you have not previously spoken with United HealthCare about this issue, this form will be returned to you unanswered.
2. Please complete all questions on this form.
3. Fax this form to United HealthCare at 262-953-9129
4. Receipt of your fax will be acknowledged to the retiree by telephone, by the close of the next business day.
5. If United Healthcare is unable to contact you by telephone, we will fax you a request to contact us at your convenience to discuss your issue.
6. As an alternative, you may call us at 1-866-365-9146 for assistance with your issue, or email us at : ATT_Escalation@uhc.com