

Association of Ameritech /SBC Retirees, Inc

Proudly representing 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



AASBCR Board of Directors

Carole Lovell President – Director of Membership
Tom Cotton Vice President – AT&T Relations
Chet Przybyslawski Vice President – Technology & CFO
Ray Sternot Vice President – Legislation
Richard Runge Secretary
James Kempe Attorney - Agent

Third Quarter Newsletter (Post Annual Meeting Newsletter) September, 2007

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK, AUGUST, 2007

This is my first message to you as your president. I want to take this opportunity to clearly state my AASBCR priorities and describe our approach to achieving our goals.

My number one priority is to: **Preserve our Retirement Benefits.**

To accomplish this we must be knowledgeable, strong and fully utilize all viable approaches. To this end we will:

- **Co-ordinate AASBCR efforts and initiatives with the three other retiree groups that call AT&T their former employer.** The presidents of the Pacific Telesis Bell/Nevada Bell retiree group, the Southern New England Telephone retiree group, and the original or legacy AT&T retiree group have been sharing information. We are all scheduled to have a conference call with AT&T in early September regarding the healthcare plan for 2008.



The presidents of the Pacific Telesis Bell/Nevada Bell retiree group, the Southern New England Telephone retiree group, and the original or legacy AT&T retiree group have been sharing information. We are all scheduled to have a conference call with AT&T in early September regarding the healthcare plan for 2008.

- **Work with the US Congress to promote retiree-friendly legislation.** AASBCR began working with the US Congress by making contacts with all candidates running for Congress and letting them know that we exist and can impact their election. We have joined forces with the National Retiree Legislative Network (NLRN). The NRLN will be sending computerized notices via email to AASBCR members when there is critical retiree legislation on the floor. We will have all the information about the particular piece of proposed legislation so we can immediately contact our House and Senate representatives and let them know what we think about the legislation before it is too late to comment.
- **Increase our AASBCR membership.** As you may know, membership is my special area of interest and concentration. Membership growth and retention are vital. The more members we have, the more “clout” we have – in our letter-writing campaigns with Congress and with AT&T. And the more money we have to service our membership and pursue Shareholder Proposals. AASBCR exists to serve its membership. Without YOU the

AASBCR State Representatives

Florida	Pat Reichard	Ohio	Don Conrad
Illinois	Don House	Ohio	Kathy Vihtelic
Illinois	Phil Schelinski	Wisconsin	Bob Ledvina
Michigan	Ron Rhodes		

P.O. Box 7477, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-7477

Page 1 of 10

Third Quarter Newsletter September, 2007

member, AASBCR would not exist. We are continuing our efforts to clarify and simplify AT&T benefit documentation so it is less confusing. AASBCR will continue to work with AT&T regarding escalation procedures for benefits. We collaborated with AT&T to provide the AT&T document "Where To Go For More Info." It is available on our website as well as on AT&T's Access website. For those of you without easy access to computers, see the one page version in this newsletter. AASBCR will inform you, in a timely manner, about benefit issues.

It is an awesome opportunity and responsibility to serve the AASBCR organization as your president and I pledge to you that I will always give this job my best efforts.

Yours in retirement;
Carole Lovell
AASBCR President and Membership Director
Member AT&T Retiree Coalition

THE TIMES, THEY ARE A-CHANGING.

BY: ART COMINGS

In early 2003, my friend Marvin invited me to a meeting to explore the interest in an Ameritech Retiree association. The organizers were Bruce Beckman, Gary Durochik, Ralph Kolderup, Chet Pryzbyslawski, and Bob Papierniak.

. They wouldn't let me join because I was still working. After I retired in 2004, Marvin told me about the next AASBCR Board meeting and I joined. The 2005 Annual Meeting saw Ralph Kolderup moving from President to Treasurer, Bruce Beckman from Vice President – Communications to President, and Chet Przybyslawski and Gary Durochik staying as VP – Technology and Secretary. Ray Sternot was VP – Legislative Affairs (either new to the Board or returning). Carole Lovell became Membership Chairman (later to become First Vice President, then President) and I became Communications Chairman.

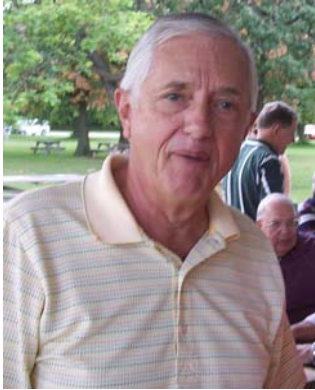


After 2 years as VP – Communications and 2 years as President, Bruce Beckman reluctantly stepped down as President at the 2007 Annual Meeting. Always active in his community (24 years on the Downers Grove School Board and a stint as a Director of Chicago PBS Station WTTW, Channel 11), Bruce didn't like the way his municipal government was going and, with like-minded citizens, sought and was elected to the Village Council. As a new Village Trustee, Bruce quickly realized he doesn't have the time it takes to effectively preside over the AASBCR AND serve as a Village Commissioner. We will miss his leadership (Blue Bulletins and Shareholder Proposal to name a few examples) but we will

continue to grow the good work he started and maintain the contacts he has made within the AT&T community and in the national legislative/retiree arena. Bruce said, "I wish I could have done both but it just wasn't possible. I spent a year seeking good candidates to run for local election. In the end, it was apparent that I should serve my community once again."

Third Quarter Newsletter September, 2007

We thank him for his service to the AASBCR and wish him well. He has a LOT of work in front of him. (And we still have his phone number if we need his expertise.)



Effective August 1, 2007, Ralph Kolderup resigned from the Board of AASBCR. A founding member, Ralph was our first President (2003 – 2005) and successfully guided us through our birth as an organization. He was then Treasurer (2005 – 2006), a usually thankless, but highly necessary job. In 2006 the AASBCR evolved and needed a full time contact with AT&T. So Ralph became our first Vice President – AT&T Relations. Here he conducted our first Membership Healthcare Survey, collating and reporting the results. He also persisted with AT&T HR until we finally had an in-place procedure for our members to escalate problems they were having with United Healthcare's handling of our claims.

At the AASBCR's first SBC Annual Shareholder meeting, Ralph was the 7th person from the floor to speak to Mr. Ed Whitacre, then CEO:

Representing thousands of Ameritech/SBC retirees, Ralph spoke to Mr. Whitacre in front of hundreds of shareholders and asked him if SBC would not discriminate against retirees and continue to protect their health care benefits. Mr. Whitacre responded that SBC would never discriminate and would continue to support health care benefits. It became apparent to Ralph and Bruce that the only way to make retiree views heard would be through a shareholder proposal. After that meeting Bruce and Ralph initiated the first shareholder proposal plans which resulted in the 2006 proposal.

Ralph is succeeded by Tom Cotton, newly approved Vice President – AT&T Relations. Ralph has worked with Tom to assure a smooth transition and insure nothing is lost. Good luck and God speed, Ralph. We appreciate all you have done to make the AASBCR what it is and to help guide it to what it is becoming – a powerful voice of thousands of retirees.

*I've sure gotten old! I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer, and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends.
But, thank God, I still have my driver's license.*

Third Quarter Newsletter September, 2007

FROM THE DESK OF RAY STERNOT – VP LEGISLATION

There are several items of interest on the legislative front that I want to share with membership in this bulletin.

NRLN CAPWIZ UPDATE - Due to the superb negotiating skills of our new President, Carole Lovell, AASBCR has successfully negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN) on the use of AASBCR member data. The MOU puts in place a safeguard of surrounding the use of membership information limiting its use to legislative purposes. That is, it cannot be used for marketing purposes for such items as insurance, etc. As a result and with this protection in place, we have begun loading AASBCR data into the CapWiz system.



CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES ON THE HORIZON - Significant issues are expected to come up for discussion in Congress this coming election year that will surely affect retirees. The focus will be on how to provide for and lower costs for Healthcare and prescription drug costs.

For example, recently in Congress, U.S. Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI) who is the Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, called the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2008 "austere" but noted increases in funding for national priorities like food and drug safety. The Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee unanimously approved the spending bill recently. The Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee addressed funding for drug safety and will help FDA approve drugs quickly. The bill also includes an increase of \$7.5 million **to speed up approval of generic drugs**. According to FDA, during the past six years, applications for generic drugs have increased by 158 percent. In 2008, FDA estimates it will receive 857 applications. This increase will allow FDA to hire approximately 18 additional reviewers. Clearly, this was a strategic funding issue taking aim at higher cost non-generic drugs.

NEW AASBCR LEGISLATION Yahoo Group Discussion Site - A new AASBCR_Legislation Yahoo group discussion board has been established for the purpose of sending out legislative updates to members on a more timely and focused basis. You can sign up for these updates by going to http://finance.groups.yahoo.com/group/AASBCR_Legislation/ and request to get on distribution. You can help by staying in tune with what is going on in Congress and talking to your Congressman/woman when legislation affecting retirees is introduced.

Thanks for participating in this important legislative process.

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffeemaker.

Third Quarter Newsletter September, 2007

REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

The AASBCR Annual Meeting was held June 7, 2007, at sites in the Cleveland and Chicago areas and with 3 call-ins. In Chicago were Bruce Beckman, Ralph Kolderup, Chet Przybyslawski, Dick Runge, Jim Kempe, Joel Brown, Art Comings, and one regular member. In Cleveland were Carole Lovell, Ray Sternot, and 15 regular members. There were 2 regular member call-ins from Michigan and one non-member retiree from Bell South.



This is a very brief review of the 2006-2007 AASBCR year.

Ralph Kolderup, Vice President – AT&T Relations reported:

- A survey of the membership's satisfaction with our health care. This led to an effort by Ralph and Ray and the whole board to create an escalation form to be used to communicate problems with AT&T HR. And this led to a UHC problem escalation procedure developed by AT&T, with a (as yet unfulfilled) promise for more such procedures for other problems.
- Ralph discovered a 40 page AT&T booklet describing all health plans and who and how to contact in case of problems. When asked if AT&T would send this to all members, they responded that they are rewriting this booklet for 2008. So we have e-mailed the booklet to all members with e-mail addresses and will send a printed copy to any member who does not have e-mail if that member mails a request to the AASBCR post office box. (Expect 6 weeks for processing.)

Ray Sternot, Vice President - Legislation reported:

- Using NRLN and other input, Ray developed a survey for all candidates for Congress in 2006. All candidates in the 5 Ameritech states (who had e-mail) were surveyed, with the responses posted to the web site for use by members.
- Working with the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), developed a legislative agenda for health care. Much of Ray's work was adopted by the NRLN.
- Work has begun to enter the AASBCR membership into the NRLN CapWiz program. This will afford our members the opportunity to easily contact their elected officials concerning legislation affecting retirees. When we add our collective voice to the voice of the rest of the NRLN membership, we can exert noticeable pressure toward our goals.

Know how to prevent sagging? Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

Third Quarter Newsletter September, 2007

Carole Lovell, Vice President - Membership reported:

- Membership rose approximately 11% in the 2006-2007 year. Retention was about 65%.
- Around the end of 2006, Carole ran a contest offering 3 free months of membership for each new member brought in by a current member. This brought in several new members.
- AASBCR's goals for the coming year are a 15% growth and 75% retention.

Chester Przybyslawski, CFO and Vice President – Technology reported:

- He purchased Quicken and inputted all AASBCR financial transactions since inception of the AASBCR – a big job! This allows easy access to past experience and allows for year-to-year comparisons.
- A new expense voucher has been created to make expense processing easier.
- All financial records have been removed from the cardboard box and properly filed in the AASBCR's new filing cabinet.
- The AASBCR now has credit cards (to facilitate travel and expense controls) and Chet is working to arrange an 800 number for Association use.

Advertisement:

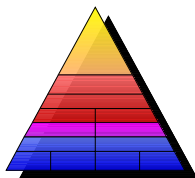
Robert F. Papierniak
Certified Financial Planner
(Retired Ameritech Finance Director)

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

Third Quarter Newsletter September, 2007

Bruce Beckman, (Outgoing) President observed:

- The growth of the AASBCR from 34 (somewhat) interested individuals in 2003 to a vibrant membership in 23 states in 2007.
 - Associations with NRLN and with our sister AT&T Retiree organizations. This swells our voice and influence – with AT&T and with Congress – to one that can make a difference. We MUST work together!
 - Bruce stressed we must continue to use “Legislation, Litigation, and Contract Management”. AT&T’s interests and ours are not aligned. We are another expense to them.
-

TO SERVE YOU BETTER -- STATE REPRESENTATIVES!

We have appointed State Member Representatives for the states where most AASBCR members reside. No surprise that includes the five original Ameritech states; Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin, as well as Florida. Members can still bring any concerns, questions, or suggestions to any Board member. Now most members can also contact their State Representative. Below is the slate of State Representatives. We will also post the State Reps on the AASBCR website. We still need another representative in Illinois and Ohio, and a representative in Indiana. Please contact Carole Lovell at Pres@asbcr.org or (440) 886-1575 to volunteer.

Florida

Pat Reichard	(239) 254-1700	p.reichard@att.net
--------------	----------------	--------------------

Illinois

Don House	(815) 653-0683	drhouse@mchsi.com
Phil Schelinski	(815) 806-0224	Phil10661@yahoo.com

Indiana

<i>Your Name Here?</i>	<i>Your Phone Number?</i>	<i>Your.email@address?</i>
------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------------

Michigan

Ron Rhodes	(586) 949-9623	rrhodes1@sbcglobal.net
------------	----------------	------------------------

Ohio

Don Conrad	(614) 882-6743	dconrad2@insight.rr.com
Kathy Vihtelic	(440) 951-3075	-- none --

Wisconsin

Bob Ledvina	(262) 633-6161	sledvina@milwpc.com
-------------	----------------	---------------------

The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs.

Third Quarter Newsletter September, 2007

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



NEWS ON THE AT&T FRONT

PROBLEMS CALCULATING UHC DEDUCTIBLE FOR PRESCRIPTIONS?

This website issue is only relevant to retirees in the AT&T Medical Plan (Consumer Driven Health Plan) with prescription drug expenses. In conjunction with UHC enhancements to the myuhc.com website implemented on June 27, all prescriptions processed on or after June 26 for the AT&T Medical Plan consumer-driven health plan do not display on monthly health statements. Although AT&T assures us that UHC is correctly tracking the costs towards your deductible, we have heard from members of UHC missing some Doctor/Hospital and prescription costs. Please take the time to check the totals yourself.

UHC is investigating when this can be resolved. For now, users may review the processed prescription drug claims online at Caremark.com or may contact Caremark to discuss the claims processed. We will follow this up with AT&T and UHC.

\$10 Per Month DSL .

AT&T, as part of the concessions they made to the FCC in order to merge with Bell South, is quietly offering \$10.00 per month DSL. You must order the DSL over the internet. You also must be a new DSL customer. It is very well hidden, so you will need to ask for all high speed

Third Quarter Newsletter September, 2007

internet offers to see the \$10.00 per month offer. A few of our members have been successful at ordering AT&T DSL at this price. You, as a retiree, may, or may not be able to get this offer. I tried over a 2 day period many times. Magically, when I requested the \$14.99 per month DSL, I was able to order that online. It might be worth a few minutes of your time to receive high speed internet at such a low price.
-Carole

U-VERSE IS COMING. FOR SOME CUSTOMERS. SOMEDAY

According to a U-Verse Service Representative, AT&T's new U-verse digital TV service is only available in parts of Detroit, Milwaukee, and Cleveland (plus multiple sites in Texas and California). The telephone number for the U-verse Service Representatives is 888-320-2167. The Service Rep also advised that there is a retiree discount. The Service Rep was not yet aware of which sections of the above cities have access to U-verse.

Note: For the last month or more, my 8 x 3 block neighborhood has been crawling with AT&T service trucks. I asked why and was told they are preparing for Project Lightspeed. But much of the telephone infrastructure is really old and they may have to re-string the whole neighborhood. Could U-Verse be far behind?
-Art (Editor)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES???

The following is an informational service and AASBCR assumes no liability for the accuracy of the information contained below. In addition, AASBCR suggests that the retiree interested in these jobs ask for a letter or some proof from the person offering the jobs that this will in no way affect the retirees' existing benefits from AT&T. Retirees interested would also need to consider their social security payments if they are receiving social security. You should check with your tax adviser.

Telecom Trainers Needed; including EPR retirees Telecom Trainers Needed; including EPR retirees:

My name is Bob Blasius and I retired from SBC in 2000. I was in Global Markets when I retired working out of Indianapolis. Since then I have been working part time for a small Contracting firm supporting SBC/ATT contractor requirements. Over the years, I have placed numerous retirees in part time and full time positions to help them supplement their income. Currently, ATT is in need of Trainers for all the new technicians they are bringing on line for their new U-Verse products. The Training positions required are:

Pole Climbing; Defensive Driving; Basic Repair; Basic Installation; Basic Splicing; DSL and U-Verse

If you know of anyone that might be interested in doing some Contract Training, please have them contact me. Some travel may be required depending on the location of the candidate and class schedule. If you have anyone interested, I can go through the details with them. The EPR qualification does not apply on these positions. EPR candidates are eligible for these training positions at ATT.

Many thanks, Bob Blasius (317) 888 0539

E-mail to: blasius@ameritraining.com Company website: www.ameritraining.com

Third Quarter Newsletter September, 2007

CONTACT INFORMATION

This is a one-step reference site for frequently called numbers and other important A. T. & T. Benefits contract information. Refer to this site anytime you need to know where to turn for more information about your benefits. For those of you with computers, the information below is taken from: <https://access1.sbc.com/benefits/WHERE/index.html>

ADOPTION REIMBURSEMENT.....	1-877-722-0020	ARPA
CARE PLUS.....	1-877-261-3340	UHC
DENTAL.....	1-888-722-5505	CIGNA
DISABIL. WORKER'S COMP JOB ACCOM.....	1-866-276-2278	ATT DISABIL. SVC
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PLAN.....	1-800-554-6701	VALUE OPTN SVC
EMP. CONCESSIONS/DISCOUNTS.....	1-888-746-4343	ECD
FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS	1-877-358-0302	SHPS
EXPATRIATE & IMPATRIATE BENEFITS INT....	1-800-441-2668	CIGNA INTN'L
LIFE INSURANCE.....	1-877-722-0020	AT&T HBEC
LONG TERM CARE.....	1-800-247-3020	JOHN HANCOCK
MEDICAL-1.....	1-800-621-7336	BCBC-OF-IL
MEDICAL-2.....	1-866-705-9767	UHC
MENTAL HEALTH, CHEM DEPENDENCY	1-800-554-6701	VALUE OPTIONS
PENSION.....	1-800-416-2363	FID.SVC CENTER
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.....	1-800-378-8851	CAREMARK
SAVINGS & SECURITY	1-800-416-2363	FID.SVC CENTER
STOCK OPTIONS.....	1-888-722-6767	MERRILL-LYNCH
VISION.....	1-866-221-8372	VISION SVC PLAN
VOLUNTARY BENEFITS.....	1-866-909-5149	MARSH VOL. BENE
WORK/LIFE PROGRAM.....	1-800-873-4636	LIFE CARE
