

Alliance Clips and Retiree News: February 15, 2012

Alliance Mentions

St. Lucie County Commission Candidates' Differences Apparent during Forum
Lauri Blandford
February 14, 2012
TC Palm

A score of concerns were voiced during a forum for the county commission District 1 held in St. Lucie County Tuesday night. About 20 residents of the county were in attendance, including Mark Boston, Vice President of the Florida Alliance for Retired Americans. The two candidates participating in the forum are at opposite ends of the spectrum in determining how the mainland county and outlying islands should allot and disperse taxes and other funds.

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2012/feb/14/st-lucie-county-commission-candidates-apparent/>

Short-haul Truckers Heading Back to Work after Two Weeks Out
Bellamy Pailthorp
February 14, 2012
NPR – KPLU 88.5

After two weeks, some Seattle short-haul truck drivers have decided to return to work this week after protesting for having to work in unfair conditions. A press conference was called Tuesday announcing the end of the stoppage, but protestors vow to continue the fight. The new Seattle Port Trucker Association has been formed to work with other unions in order to fight the injustices legislatively. One of its supporters includes the Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans.

<http://www.kplu.org/post/short-haul-truckers-heading-back-work-after-two-weeks-out>

Forum Set Today for Seniors on Affordable Care Act
Herald Times Reporter
Feb 7, 2012
Htronnews.com

The Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans continued their statewide town hall meetings along with Know Your Care WI, educating seniors around the state about their rights as provided by the Affordable Care Act. On Feb. 7, the two organizations held an informational forum at noon in the Manitowoc Senior Center.

<http://www.htrnews.com/article/20120208/MAN0101/202080643/Lakeshore-update-Forum-set-today-seniors-Affordable-Care-Act>

Social Security and Medicare Reform Can't Wait
Kay Bailey Hutchison
February 15, 2012
CNN

Republican Senator Hutchison from Texas offers a conservative analysis of President Obama's budget and stances on Medicare and Social Security. A photo from an Alliance for Retired Americans rally is spotlighted as the lead photo in the story.

http://www.cnn.com/2012/02/15/opinion/hutchison-entitlement-reform/index.html?hpt=hp_t3

Elder Index: State Expensive for Those Over 65
Associated Press
February 14, 2012
Rocky Mount Telegram

North Carolina Alliance for Retired Americans President Jim Moore says that N.C. has become a state "where people can't afford to get old." A story told to him by a woman at a press conference outlined how she was forced to move out of her home and move in with her son and daughter-in-law. A recently released report has determined that a senior must have an income of at least \$21,000 to survive off of basic expenses. 98% of seniors living over 65 receive social security benefits and for at least 1/3, that is the sole source of income. Moore hopes that the report will open the eyes of state officials and make them realize that it's difficult living as a senior in North Carolina.

<http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/news/ncwire/elder-index-state-expensive-people-older-65-914149>

Health Care

Candidates Court Seniors on Medicare
Marilyn Werber Serafini
February 14, 2012
Kaiser Health News

As the campaign season wears on, Medicare continues to rise as a hot-button issue not only for the presidential race but also for the congressional elections. While Republican candidates Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich endorse the severely criticized health plan written by Rep Paul Ryan (R-WI), fellow candidate Mitt Romney has had more of a balancing act to play, sweet talking independent voters with vague stances while trying to maintain a strong conservative following. This week, President Obama has even come forward about Medicare, saying that he doesn't support turning the program into a voucher system.

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2012/February/14/candidates-seniors-medicare.aspx>

Opinion: The Health Care Law in Red and Blue
Larry Levitt, Drew Altman, and Gary Claxton
February 15, 2012
Politico

The three listed authors, who hold top positions within the Kaiser Family Foundation, have released a new outlook on populations that would benefit from the health care overhaul, categorized by congressional district. The map shows that although most Republican districts oppose the health care reform, especially the ACA, they have a much higher representation on the map. The states expected to benefit the most are California, Texas, and Florida, places with high vote counts and high numbers of uninsured people.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0212/72861.html>

Politics

Voter ID Laws Target the Most Vulnerable
Vanessa Cardenas
February 15, 2012
Center for Americans Progress

Columnist Vanessa Cardenas outlines how inconvenience and disadvantageous voter ID laws are to America. She effectively points out that voter ID laws are expensive to carry out, they affect specific groups disproportionately, and simply, voter fraud has not been and is not currently a problem in our nation.

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2012/02/voter_id_laws.html