

Alliance Clips and Retiree News: February 21, 2012

Alliance Mentions

Study Suggests Seniors Struggle with Expenses
Julie N. Chang
February 16, 2012
The News Herald

North Carolina Alliance for Retired Americans President Jim Moore speaks out about the new study that shows how most seniors are struggling to make ends meet in North Carolina. The Elder Economic Security Standard Index measures how much income seniors need in order to survive off of basic expenses at minimum cost. The average income for an elderly person is a little over \$13,000 while an elderly couple needs an average around \$22,000. Meanwhile, 98% of seniors over 65 receive their Social Security benefit, and it is the sole source of income for at least one-third of recipients.

<http://www2.morganton.com/news/2012/feb/16/study-suggests-seniors-struggle-expenses-ar-1939062/>

Valentine's for Veterans
Gail Deitrich
February 10, 2012
NevadaLabor.com

The Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans held a special Valentine's Day event at the Ioannis A. Lougaris Veterans Medical Center. They along with the reigning Miss Reno/Sparks and Miss University of Nevada accompanied the group and together, they passed out around 100 valentines for the patients. The event report was compiled by NARA Event Coordinator Gail Deitrich, and the top photo includes a few NARA members.

<http://nevadalabor.com/bull11/bullxi.html#valentines>

Labor Exchange
February 20, 2012
KGNU Radio

Host Dennis Creese hosts a talk about voter suppression and voter ID laws with Joan Fitz-Gerald, President of *America Votes* and former Colorado State Senate President. In the interview, Creese asks Fitz-Gerald about her thoughts on comments stated by Alliance for Retired Americans President Barbara J. Easterling.

<http://kgnu.org/shows.php>

Health Care

The Burr/Coburn Medicare Plan Deceptions – and a Free Market “Death Panel”
Richard J. Eskow
February 17, 2012
Huffington Post

In this opinion article, Eskow breaks down the proposed plan by Republican Sens. Tom Coburn and Richard Burr, exposing some underlying truths that intend to eliminate what is presently known as Medicare. He also offers insight into the “Death Panel,” its relation to health care and how Coburn and Burr are dressing it up.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rj-eskow/the-burrcoburn-medicare-p_b_1283721.html

Politics

Obama Struggling in Iowa, Poll Says
David Jackson
February 19, 2012
USA Today

President Obama is struggling a bit in the Iowa polls, currently losing to three of the four GOP candidates still in the race. Ron Paul currently has the bigger lead over him with a 49% - 42% advantage. Rick Santorum and Mitt Romney have smaller yet equally significant leads over Obama as well.

<http://content.usatoday.com/communities/theoval/post/2012/02/obama-struggling-in-iowa-poll-says/1#.TOPw7FEhNU>

John Boehner Upset That the Payroll Tax Cut Extension Means Ordinary Americans Will Have More Money
Jason Linkins
February 17, 2012
Huffington Post

As talks of the payroll tax extension have dwindled down post-compromise, Speaker John Boehner has offered some interesting thoughts about the result. In not-so-straightforward speech, he expressed his view of the compromise as an economic relief plan and not as a jobs bill, instead opting for a view that would have given more money to big business or the “job

creators.” According to Linkins, what the compromise really does is keep money in the pockets of the middle class so it can keep big business profitable, spurring job growth.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/17/john-boehner-payroll-tax-cut-extension_n_1285514.html?ref=barack-obama

Labor

Unions Return to Democratic Fold for 2012 Elections

Matea Gold and Melanie Mason

February 19, 2012

LA Times

Union soldiers are back in action on the pro-Democrat side of politics after the massive Republican attack on unions and interests of the working class this past election season. Thanks to right-to-work movements in Wisconsin, Michigan, and unsuccessfully in Indiana, unions are gearing up for campaigns that look to oust anti-labor candidates.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-labor-politics-20120220,0,623271,full.story>

Wisconsin Recall Race: AFSCME Endorses Kathleen Falk

Mackenzie Weinger

February 21, 2012

Politico

The 2nd largest union in Wisconsin has officially endorsed Dem. Kathleen Falk in the gubernatorial recall election later this year. The AFSCME spent much time interviewing different candidates that would be able to compete with current Republican Governor Scott Walker. The special election is expected to be in June of this year.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0212/73114.html>