

Alliance Clips and Retiree News: February 9, 2012

Alliance Mentions

Area Groups Help Seniors Navigate Medicare Changes with Health Care Reform

Charles Evans

February 9, 2012

Green Bay Press Gazette

The Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans and Know Your Care WI conducted a town hall meeting Wednesday in Green Bay outlining the Medicare benefits provided by President Obama's health care overhaul. The meeting marks the 18th of this year 40th dating back to spring 2011 by the two groups. WIARA Executive Director Billy Feitlinger says that 1 out of 7 people in Brown County receive Medicare benefits, emphasizing the importance of these forums. The two groups will conduct town hall meetings and education sessions through April in various cities around the state.

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20120209/GPG0101/202090518/Seniors-navigate-health-care-reform?odyssey=nav/head>

Retirees Said to Flee State's Tax Burden

Paul Hammel

February 9, 2012

Omaha World-Herald

Nebraska is one of 5 states that fully taxes retire Social Security benefits, prompting many retirees to leave the state and live elsewhere. Nebraska Alliance for Retired Americans President Al Mumm believes that the state needs to realize the economic impact seniors have, especially on job creation and other economic benefits.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20120209/NEWS01/702099894>

Women Most Vulnerable to Poverty in Retirement

Callie Shanafelt

February 8, 2012

California Health Report

Statistics show that California has the highest number of seniors living below the federal poverty line. Women are especially at risk because they earn less over time and tend to live longer than men. Various workshops and task forces have been created to assist with tackling these issues all seniors, and some are specifically geared to the needs of women seniors. Diana Madoshi, a volunteer for the California Alliance for Retired Americans, is one of the many people fighting for economic protection for seniors.

<http://www.healthycal.org/archives/7216>

Voter ID Is Not About the Majority
February 9, 2012
ACLU – Pennsylvania Blog

Protect Our Vote is a coalition of organizations looking to fight against voter ID laws. The group includes the Alliance for Retired Americans and SeniorLAW Center. Regarding the debate on whether or not voter ID is appropriate, the author stresses that it is not a fight for the majority of individuals with state ID. Rather, the concern is with the disenfranchised populations that may not have government issued state IDs, namely “seniors, blacks, people living in poverty and people with disabilities.”

<http://aclupa.blogspot.com/2012/02/voter-id-is-not-about-majority.html>

Our Pension under Attack
February 8, 2012
AFT – Wisconsin

The American Federation of Teachers outlines an ongoing struggle with the state government in respect to threats against retirement funds and pensions. Included in this article is an excerpt of a letter submitted to government officials on behalf of various labor groups, including the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans.

http://www.aft-wisconsin.org/?zone=/unionactive/view_page.cfm&page=Our20Pension20Under20Attack

Health Care

Out-of-Network Costs Up As Insurers Tie Payment to Medicare
Julie Appleby
February 9, 2012
USA Today

Many consumers will have to fork over more money for medical services if they step outside of their insurance network. Insurers are starting to base their reimbursements from the basis of Medicare payments, which mean people who wish to go outside of their network may pay higher fees from doctors and hospitals. The “usual and customary” process of payment has been abused, and many insurance companies have begun to change their policies.

<http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/health/story/2012-01-27/medical-bills-out-of-network-surprises/53013494/1>

Politics

States Line Up To Challenge Stringent Section 5 Voting Rights Provision

Robert Barnes

February 9, 2012

Politico

Lawsuits ranging from Arizona to North Carolina are gearing up to challenge Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which requires states and localities with history of discrimination to seek federal approval of any changes in their voting laws. The proposed changes in laws – from redistricting to requiring a voter ID – are not sitting well with Democrats and minority populations who charge that minority rights will be diluted should they take effect.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/states-line-up-to-challenge-stringent-section-5-voting-rights-provision/2012/02/01/gIQA5aYE1Q_story.html

Arizona: Gabrielle Giffords' Aide Ron Barber to Run in Special

Abby Livingston

February 9, 2012

Roll Call

Former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords' (D-Ariz.) aide Ron Barber will run in the upcoming Arizona special election to replace her. He made his announcement via press release, stating his goals are to “balance the budget the right way by protecting Social Security and Medicare, create jobs, and secure our border.”

<http://atr.rollcall.com/arizona-giffords-aide-ron-barber-to-run-in-special/>