

Alliance Clips and Retiree News: January 31 – February 1, 2012

Alliance Mentions

Learn about Power of Positive Thinking
January 30, 2012
MyCentralJersey.com

During the next meeting of the New Jersey Alliance for Retired Americans, a talk about positive thinking power will be held with Terri Manes, a health educator with the Middlesex County Office of Public Health. The program will take place on Thursday, February 2 at the Highland Park Senior Center on 220 South Sixth Avenue. The event is open to the public and begins at 1pm.

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20120131/NJNEWS/301310011/Paintings-bring-healing-touch-to-patients>

Law Associations, Industry Groups Support Older Americans Act of 2011
Danielle Andrus
January 30, 2012
Advisor One

Various organizations, including the Alliance for Retired Americans have come out in support of the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 2011, which provides support for the elderly through community planning and social services. Passed originally in 1965, the law was reauthorized in 2006 and set to expire in 2011. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) introduced the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2012 last Thursday, January 26, which would amend the current law with changes such as an Experimental Price Index to better reflect future costs of seniors ages 62 and older. Also, “economic security” would be better defined, and improvements would be made to current senior assistance programs such as Meals on Wheels. In its support, ARA President Barbara Easterling states that OAA funding has not kept up with inflation while demand for the services have increased and will continue to grow.

<http://www.advisorone.com/2012/01/30/law-associations-industry-groups-support-older-ame>

Act Now Because Aging Affects Everyone
Carol Harrison
January 31, 2012
The Times-Standard

The California Alliance for Retired Americans is assisting in a special workshop dedicated to developing the skills of new volunteers for an up-and-coming task force. The Area 1 Agency in Aging (A1AA) Project for Senior Action is creating a Senior Action Coalition of 150 volunteers

who will make sure their voices are heard. Once the coalition is created, small groups of volunteers will then attend a Senior Leadership Academy sponsored by the CAARA where assorted skills will be assessed such as leadership styles, public speaking , and social media use. The academy workshop will be held at the Humboldt Area Foundation and is scheduled for May 1–2. More information about the Senior Action Coalition will be discussed at a callout meeting on March 22 from 10am – 12pm at the Alzheimer’s Resource Center in Eureka, CA.

http://www.times-standard.com/lifestyle/ci_19857858

garyro soar log
January 31, 2012

Here is a blog by Missouri ARA member Gary Roller outlining news about labor efforts and politics in St. Louis and the surrounding areas. Be sure to show your support!

<http://soarstlouis.blogspot.com/>

Making a Federal Case Out Of It
Jerry Waxman
January 30, 2012
Daily Kos

Here is a firsthand account of the Democratic rally in Tampa, FL last Friday, January 27 as told by Waxman. He includes links to many of the rally speakers, including Florida Alliance for Retired Americans President Tony Fransetta.

http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/01/30/1060084/-Making-A-Federal-Case-Out-Of-It?via=blog_3

Statewide Event List: January 31, 2012
Citizen Action of Wisconsin

On Wednesday, February 15th, 2012, the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans along with Know Your Care WI will be sponsoring an event: Medicare and Social Security: What cuts is Congress considering? There will be two sessions beginning at 9:30am and 11:00am respectively.

<http://citizenactionwi.org/no-sacred-cows-blog/573-statewide-event-list-tuesday-january-31st.html>

‘Medicare for All’ Would Solve California’s Budget Deficit: Single-payer Bill on the Line Today

Jennifer Epps
January 31, 2012
The Smirking Chimp

State Senator Mark Leno along with 44 co-sponsors are currently campaigning for support for SB810, a California universal health care bill that advocates a ‘Medicare for All’ approach toward the issue. The proposed system would eliminate health insurance companies in California and set up a state-run California health care system that would collect federal, state, employer, and taxpayer funds. This money would be used then to pay for the services of health care professionals and their facilities. The delivery of health care is not changed, only the payment mechanism. January 31 is the last day for the state Senate members to rally for support from the other Senators who abstained from voting on SB810 prior. The California Alliance for Retired Americans is listed as one of its primary supporters.

<http://www.smirkingchimp.com/thread/jennifer-epps/41105/medicare-for-all-would-solve-california-s-budget-deficit-single-payer-bill-on-the-line-today>

Here is a link for more information on SB810 from the California Alliance for Retired Americans.

<http://www.californiaalliance.org/pdf/2739.2012-01-19-ml- SB 810 one pager.pdf>

Health Care

Medicare Advantage’s Enrollment Is Up; Premiums Are Down
Kelly Kennedy
January 31, 2012
USA Today

Statistics show that premiums for Medicare Advantage have dropped an average of 7% and enrollment has grown by 10%, thanks to the Affordable Care Act of the 2010 health care overhaul. This trend counters opposing arguments that predicted a drop in enrollment and a rise in premiums.

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/story/2012-01-31/medicare-advantage-enrollment-premiums/52906712/1>

Nursing Home Industry Proposes Alternative to Funding Cuts
Julian Pecquet
January 30, 2012
The Hill

The American Health Care Association seeks to create its own savings plan in an effort to decrease the necessity for health care cuts from lawmakers. The principal goal of the AHCA is to

make sure that discharged patients remain healthy with little or no need for readmission. Hospital readmissions within 30 days cost Medicare \$17.4 billion in 2010. Within this new plan, the ACHA hopes to save \$2 billion on their own, rather than receiving cuts from policymakers due to “bad debt.”

<http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/medicare/207403-nursing-home-industry-proposes-alternative-to-funding-cuts>

Social Security

Obama’s Secret Weapon with Hispanics: Social Security?
Glenn Thrush
January 30, 2012
Politico

Supporters of President Obama say that the key to motivating Hispanic voters is Social Security, which could be potentially affected by the Cut, Cap, and Balance pledge supported by conservatives – including GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Although the pledge only indicated benchmarks, Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA) is certain that the cuts will come at the expense of government entitlement programs: Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. The reelection team for Obama plans to air a slew of general Social Security ads to target the older, more conservative Hispanic crowd to bring awareness of the proposed policies.

<http://www.politico.com/politico44/2012/01/obamas-secret-weapon-with-hispanics-social-security-112810.html>

Politics

Voter ID Bills Advance Following Protest at Capitol
Wesley P. Hester and Jim Nolan
February 1, 2012
Richmond Times-Dispatch

A passionate protest at the state capitol in Richmond, VA was not enough to hinder the advancement of a bill requiring voters to have proper identification. According to Republicans advocating the bill, these bills will prevent voter fraud. However, records show that no voter fraud took place last year and only 52 cases were documented nationwide. Many Democrats say the bill will disproportionately affect seniors, students, ethnic populations and the poor.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/virginia-politics/2012/feb/01/tdmain01-voter-id-bills-advance-following-protest--ar-1654326/>

Newt Gingrich: Mitt Romney Nixed Kosher Food Funding for Medicare Recipients

Jim Galloway
January 30, 2012
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

GOP presidential candidate Newt Gingrich has revealed a report concerning votes cast by fellow candidate Mitt Romney in 2003. As governor in Massachusetts, Romney voted to reject \$600,000 in funds for poor Jewish nursing-home residents to buy kosher foods on Medicare.

<http://blogs.ajc.com/political-insider-jim-galloway/2012/01/30/newt-gingrich-mitt-romney-nixed-kosher-food-funding-for-medicare-recipients/>