

Retirees & Employee Assistance Program Newsletter

Democratic National Committee's Seniors Coordinating Council (DNCSCC)



Front and center, IAM International President Martinez, DNCSCC's Executive Vice –Chair Maria Cordone and Midwest Territory General Vice President Philip Gruber accompanied more than 30 IAM members and retirees joined Machinists Union leadership for a rally to protect Social Security and Medicare.

IAM Retirees and members rallied in Philadelphia on July 28th, 2016 to voice their concerns about the attacks on Pensions, Social Security, Medicare and Labor. There was a packed house of retirees and union members inside the room where several distinguished speakers addressed the group to prepare for upcoming battles against an anti-senior and anti-union agenda lurking in right wing of the U.S. House and Senate.

The talk of this year's presidential race had everyone in agreement that this is the most critical election in our known history. There is an anti-senior agenda in the U.S. House and Senate seeking to privatize Social Security and promoting reductions in Medicare benefits rather than expanding coverages. Amazingly, this is occurring during a period of time when the largest amount of workers ever in our history, are leaving employment and entering into their retirement years. The current rate of retiring workers is 10,000 per day. The senior population is growing exponentially and will continue until around 2030. Some estimates place the number of retired boomers at around 75 Million or more.

There is also an anti-labor agenda. They have their sights set on pushing "right – to-work for less" into a National RTW, for all 50 states. It's not a question of what law makers are thinking or why they are doing it. We know this too well. The question is, and remains; **Are we going to let them keep taking away from us?** The US Senate and Congress easily found \$700 BILLION to bail-out the "too big to fail" banks. That proves they can come up with the funding to guarantee solvency for Social Security and Medicare.

For Local 1776 member Sandra Niedermair, this year's presidential election is a choice between preserving unions or allowing making them a relic of history. Hillary Clinton is her candidate, and she's not shy about it. "She's for women, she's for our children, she's for unions," said Niedermair, a stock clerk at Philadelphia International Airport.

Click [here](#) to read entire article.

August 2016

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

National Immunization Month

National Health Center Week: August 7-13, 2016

New EAP Telephone Number

We ask all IAM Retirees to remain active and involved in their union.

Please join existing clubs and recruit new retiree members and assist fellow IAM retirees to establish and maintain active IAM Retirees clubs in their Local and District Lodges.

<http://www.goiam.org/index.php/headquarters/departments/retirees-a-employee-assistance-programs>

Do you have a story to share?

Send your activities and photos to us so we can highlight your event and encourage others to do the same.

- Email your stories to us at emanhart@iamaw.org

Atomic Lodge 480 Retiree Activists' Meeting



Front Row left to right: Gordon Worley, Dan Skidmore, Bob Hood, Jim Ward, Jim Garrett, Pau Owens, Jesse Braden, Gary Wiseman, Jim Ball WWII Veteran, Leon Jaquet (Veterans Service Director), Bob Keil (Korean War veteran), Gerald Carden, Ben Rankin, Bernie West, Harold Dye. **Back row left to right:** Jim Harvey, Larry Washam, Bill Cox, Harold Soard, Wayne Irwin, Tom Kelly, Ken Baker.

It was a good turnout and a great meeting as usual in Oak Ridge, TN at the monthly Retiree's meeting on July 19, 2016 in the Atomic Lodge 480 union hall. Retired Director of Organizing, Larry Washam opened the well-attended meeting by thanking everyone for attending and their ongoing support in keeping the Club functional over the years. Larry also solicited the group for interest in attending the IAM retirees rally in Philadelphia, PA on July 28th, 2016. He gave a report on the planned event and the details of how to attend. They discussed the importance of the upcoming election and what was at stake for seniors. He stressed the need for seniors to stay active and motivated to make sure that we keep social security and Medicare out of the hands of greedy corporate interests that seek to privatize and eventually eliminate these vital programs.

Larry went on to introduce guest visitor; Leon Jaquet. Leon is the Veterans Service Director of

Anderson County, TN. His opening remarks addressed fellow Veterans. He recognized them for their dedication and service to our country. Leon also interacted with the group by taking questions, listening to concerns about issues and informed them of benefits available to US Military Veterans. A group picture of twenty one veteran's in attendance was taken with Leon after the meeting.

In addition to the regulars, there were two very familiar faces in the crowd. Both are distinguished long time Atomic Lodge 480 members. IAMAW Brothers; Jim Ball, WWII Veteran and Bob Keil, Korean War Veteran were in the lineup. "We all owe great thanks to our veterans," said Larry Washam. He added, "if not for their service we would not have the country we have today." As usual, Bill Cox served up one of his famous lunches and of course everybody gave their compliments to the chef.



Union Pride on Display as 1,000 Attend Local 1943 Picnic

Nearly 1,000 IAM members and their families donned their Machinists shirts and braved the heat to ascend on King's Island Amusement Park for their ninth annual IAM Local 1943 summer picnic.

"It's amazing to see this many of our members out here together enjoying time with their families and displaying their union pride," said IAM Local 1943 President Directing Business Representative Neil Douglas.

The picnic is not only a great time for the members and their families to come together and enjoy each other's company, but with 1000 Machinist Union shirts roaming around the park, it's great advertising.

Click [here](#) to read entire article.



Recognizing National Immunization Awareness Month

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages.

NIAM was established to encourage people of all ages to make sure they are up to date on the vaccines recommended for them.

Communities have continued to use the month each year to raise awareness about the important role vaccines play in preventing serious, sometimes deadly, diseases.

NIAM is sponsored by the National Public Health Information Coalition (NPHIC). For more information on the observance, visit NPHIC's

Click [here](#) to read entire article.



New Phone Number for IAM Member/Employee Assistance Hotline

The IAM's confidential service to help members and staff going through a crisis – from mental health to substance abuse to financial hardship – has a new phone number.

Effective immediately, you may reach the confidential IAM Member/Employee Assistance Program by calling 301-335-0735. The old 800 number is no longer operational.

National Health Center Week



Our theme for National Health Center Week 2016 (NHCW) is "Celebrating America's Health Centers: Innovators in Community Health."

As local community owned and operated businesses, Health Centers serve over 24 million Americans at more than 9,000 delivery sites in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. territories.

One in every fifteen people living in the United States depends on their services. Health Centers deliver high quality, cost effective, accessible care while service as critical economic engines helping to power local economies.

Click [here](#) to find out more information.

As before, the IAM Helpline assists those in need by helping to identify the best possible professional providers to address their specific problems.

Please encourage your District and Local to participate in the MAP/EAP program. This service is available to all IAM members, staff or family members.

Click [here](#) to read entire article.



2016 Social Security and Medicare Trustees Reports Highlight Need to Expand Social Security and Rein in Out of Control Pharmaceutical Corporations

“The Social Security Trustees reaffirmed that Social Security can pay full benefits until 2034. After that, it can pay three-quarters of benefits. This is unchanged from last year’s report.

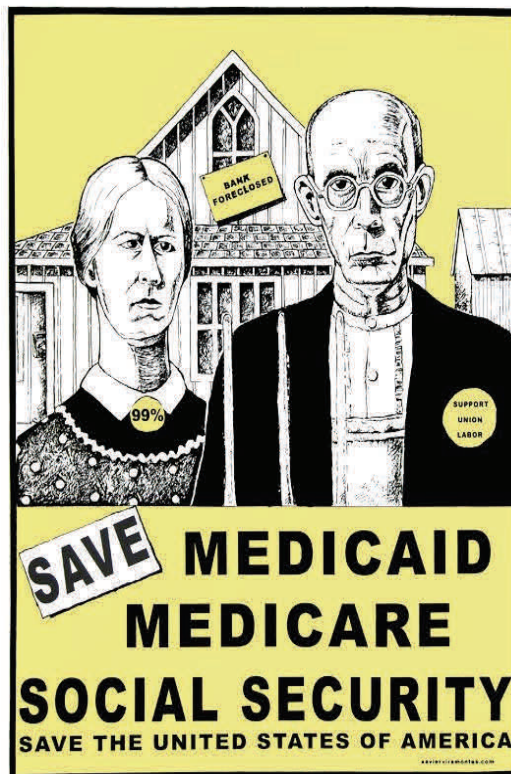
“The Medicare Trust Fund for hospital care has sufficient funds to cover its obligations until 2028, two years sooner than projected last year.

“The message we must take is that it’s time to expand Social Security. There are several bills already pending in Congress that would expand Social Security benefits and adopt a more accurate formula for determining cost-of-living increases.

Economists, public opinion surveys and our members’ own experiences all indicate that Social Security benefits are becoming a larger portion of Americans’ retirement income.

The minimum benefit will need to be increased to keep most retirees out of poverty.

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Social Security & Medicare Current Facts & Figures 2016



The Many Faces of Social Security Nearly 165 million workers contribute to Social Security through payroll taxes. Nearly 59 million people receive monthly Social Security benefits, including: 42.5 million receive retirement benefits, 6.1 million receive survivors’ benefits, 11 million receive disability benefits.

Average 2016 Monthly Social Security Benefit: A retired worker \$1,341, a retired couple \$2,212, disabled worker \$1,166

Click [here](#) to read entire article.



PBGC Proposes Rule to Facilitate Mergers of Multiemployer Pension Plans

WASHINGTON - The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is proposing a rule to facilitate mergers of multiemployer pension plans. Mergers are a way some plans can preserve and protect the benefits earned by workers and retirees.

The proposed rule will be published in the Federal Register on Monday. It implements changes under the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014 (MPRA). PBGC has authority to facilitate plan mergers by providing technical assistance, or financial assistance if necessary to avoid plan insolvency.

"Plan mergers can make multiemployer pensions more stable and secure," said PBGC Director Tom Reeder. "PBGC can help save troubled multiemployer plans before they fail. That helps plan participants and reduces the long-term costs of the pension insurance program." Mergers can stabilize or increase the base of contributing employers, combine plan assets for more efficient investing, and reduce plan administrative costs.



Click [here](#) to read entire article.

PBGC Selects Firms for Smaller Asset Manager Pilot Program

WASHINGTON - The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation selected five investment management firms to participate in its pilot program for Smaller Asset Managers.

The Smaller Asset Managers Pilot Program, announced last year, was created to reduce barriers that smaller investment firms face when competing for the agency's business. Before the pilot program, these contracts were out of reach because the minimum required assets under management, often in the billions, were too large for small firms to qualify.

"We're pleased that after a rigorous competition, five firms stood out and were selected to participate in the program," said PBGC Director Tom Reeder. "We look forward to working with this new group of investment professionals."

PBGC selected US core fixed income as the initial asset class for the pilot because research indicates that smaller asset managers are likely to add value relative to the benchmark with these assets. Additionally, the majority of PBGC's assets are invested in fixed income.

Click [here](#) to read entire article.



Retiree organization warns that prescription drug costs may increase under the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

"This is a fast track to higher drug prices. Americans pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world, and the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal could make drugs even more expensive for seniors.

"Retirees are deeply concerned about the TPP and the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation. Unfortunately, the fast track procedures of TPA would enable changes to prescription drug prices to occur without open and full debate.

Click [here](#) to read entire article.

