

MiARA

Newsletter

March, 2016
December 2015

MiARA Officer's Election To be Held March 31, 2016, At the Biannual Convention

The Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans will hold its Biannual Convention on March 31, 2016, starting at 10:00 a.m., at UAW Region 1, 27800 George Merrell Drive, Warren MI 48092.

The purpose of the Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans is to create a powerful statewide network of union retirees and community-based organizations to educate and inform the membership, the public and elected officials about issues that affect the well-being of retirees.

By coming together at the Biannual Convention, delegates and participants have the opportunity to share ideas on solving serious issues affecting the lives of retirees as they begin to chart the course that MiARA will pursue in the critical years ahead.

Delegates attending the Biannual Convention will be briefed on a series of state and federal legislative issues impacting retirement security, MiARA legislative advocacy and political programs, and other top aging issues. These concerns will be addressed by an array of knowledgeable speakers.

The Biannual Convention will include a general election for the top five officers of MiARA: President, Executive Vice-President, First Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer,

The Nominations Committee will present a slate for the delegate's consideration. In addition, nominations may be made from the floor. Each delegate will have one vote.

An official REGISTRATION FORM and instructions will be found at the end of this newsletter. Your registration cost includes all convention materials, and a full lunch and snack and beverage service throughout the convention.

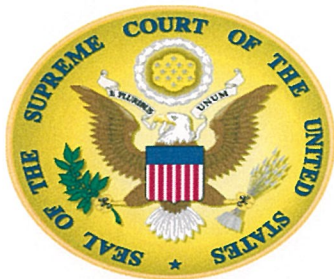
Registration can be made at the door on the day of the convention, however, advanced registration helps the committee to plan the number of meals needed.



Never judge Presidential timber by its bark!

United Steelworkers International President Urges Immediate Action On President Obama's Supreme Court Nomination

USW President Leo W. Gerard urged Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and the U.S. Senate to hold a confirmation hearing as required by the Constitution. His March 16, 2016, statement reads as follows:



"We commend the nomination by President Obama of Merrick Garland for the U. S. Supreme Court. Chief Judge Garland of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia is eminently qualified with a long career as a prosecutor and a judge with fidelity to the Constitution and law.

"The nominee deserves and is entitled to an immediate fair hearing by the U. S. Senate. President Obama did his job. Now the Senate leadership should do their jobs, hold a hearing and an up-or-down vote. Republican leaders cannot play a game of partisan politics that undermines the American constitutional democracy.

"Judge Garland is widely recognized as a serious and exemplary appeals court judge with a sterling record as one of America's sharpest legal minds. He is someone who brings to his work a spirit of decency and public service admired by all who know him.

"This nomination process should be about upholding American values for a Supreme Court that serves all of us in these challenging times.

"The Republican leadership cannot play roughshod short term politics. The Constitution created a government of checks and balances. We must all work to honor this principle.

"Judge Merrick deserves a hearing for his nomination to the Supreme Court. President Obama did his job, now the U.S. Senate must do theirs"

The USW represents 850,000 workers in North America employed in many industries that include metals, rubber, chemicals, paper, oil, refining and the service and public sectors. For more information, go to: <http://www.usw.org/>.

MiARA Executive Board

Dick Long, President (UAW)
Henry Lykes, Executive Vice-President (AFSCME)
Judy Foster, 1st Vice-President (MEA)
Charlie Robinson, Treasurer (AFT-Michigan)
Richard McInerney, Secretary (USW)

Board Members from the State Sustaining Organizations

Warren Danford, (UAW)
Arthur Kroll, (USW)
Jack Schneider, (MEA)

Editors: Jack and Merylene Schneider



"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have little."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Poor Dental Practice Can Lead to Serious Health Problems

By Joan L. March, DDS

Dental patients should take note of their oral health and ask themselves the following questions: Do your gums bleed during brushing? Are your gums swollen or tender? Have your gums pulled away from your teeth? Do you have consistently bad breath? Do you have pus between your teeth and gums? Do you have teeth that are separating? Has there been a change in the way your teeth fit together when you bite? Is there a change in the fit of your partial or dentures?

Be aware that these are signs of periodontal disease, inflammation in the mouth that is often painless. Bad bacteria in the mouth mean bad bacteria moving to the rest of your body.



Ask your dentist to discuss the results of your most recent periodontal chart. Periodontal charting should be done annually. If your dentist diagnoses “pockets” between your tooth and your gum, ask if you are a candidate for Arestin placement. Arestin is a packet of antibiotics placed directly into those pockets, targeting the inflammation and infection. Know the condition of your teeth and gums.

You might want to consider oral DNA testing; a simple swish and spit test that can be done in a few minutes in the dentist’s office. The sample is sent to a lab where your oral bacterial types and levels are measured, and, if necessary, a specific antibiotic cocktail is recommended to address your corresponding needs. Keep in mind: if you have a family history of periodontal disease, you

are at a higher risk for having periodontal disease as well.

Finally, pay attention to your diet. Eat foods that help combat inflammation; foods rich in Omega 3, Calcium, and vitamin D. Remember, your mouth is the gateway to your body. Use your connections.

The above selection was abstracted from an article written by Dr. Joan L. March which appeared in the Milford Times. Dr. March has more than thirty years as a dental professional. March Dentistry is located in Milford, Michigan.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Will Hurt America

The TPP is often referred to as “NAFTA on Steroids,” because of the harm it will do to the American worker if it is approved by Congress.

If passed, TPP would:

Make it easier for big corporations to ship our jobs overseas.

Push down American wages and increase income equality.

Flood our country with unsafe imported food.

Increase the cost of medicines by giving big pharmaceutical corporations new monopoly rights to keep lower price generic drugs off the market.

Empower corporations to attack our environmental and health safeguards.

Ban buy American policies needed to create green jobs.

Roll back Wall Street reforms.

Opposition is increasing to TPP as more Americans learn about the disaster this treaty will bring if approved. Let the 2016 presidential candidates know your thoughts about TPP. Also, let your U.S. Representatives know your opinion.

Attached to this newsletter is a listing of how Michigan's Congressional Delegation voted on key issues. Check out your Representatives and let them know with which votes you agree and disagree.

HOUSE VOTES

The following is a list of ten key votes selected as representative of the votes of critical importance to retirees taken by the U.S. House of Representatives:

1 House Rules

The House passed its procedural rules which contained a provision that would not allow Congress to reallocate funds to the Social Security disability insurance trust fund unless changes were made to the program making it more difficult for workers to obtain disability benefits. The rule passed 234-172. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Res. 5, Roll Call No. 6, January 6, 2015.

2 Health Care Repeal I

Representative Byrne, R-AL, introduced a bill that would repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Repeal would negatively impact America's seniors by revoking significant drug discounts for Medicare beneficiaries who fall into the Part D doughnut hole; revoking free wellness and preventive screenings; and revoking Medicaid options that allow older Americans with chronic conditions to live at home rather than in institutions. The bill passed 239-186. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 596, Roll Call No. 58, February 3, 2015.

3 Pro-Retiree Budget

Representative Van Hollen, D-MD, offered a substitute to the House budget resolution that protects Medicare and Medicaid, reallocates funding for the Social Security disability insurance program. The amendment failed 160-264. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 27, Roll Call No. 139, March 25, 2015.

4 House Budget Resolution

Representative Price, R-GA, introduced the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Resolution that makes \$5.5 trillion in cuts to many domestic programs important to seniors. It also turns Medicare into a voucher program, severely cuts Medicaid, and repeals the Affordable Care Act. The resolution passed 228-199. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H. Con. Res. 27, Roll Call No. 142, March 25, 2015.

5 Estate Tax Repeal

The House passed a bill introduced by Representative Brady, R-TX, to repeal the federal estate tax. Repeal of the estate tax disproportionately benefits the wealthiest Americans. The loss of estate tax revenues further skews income inequality and adds to the national debt. The legislation passed 240-179. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1105, Roll Call No. 161, April 16, 2015.

6 Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA)

The House voted to extend TAA, which provides aid for workers who have been adversely affected by trade deals by providing job training, economic assistance and health benefits assistance. However, the extension would be paid for by cutting \$950 million from Medicare, which the Alliance opposes. The bill failed 126-302. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1314, Roll Call No. 361, June 12, 2015.

7 Trade Fast Track

This bill provides the President more authority to negotiate trade agreements. It also subjects Congress only to an up-or-down vote when considering the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and other trade agreements, without the possibility of amendments. The bill passed 218-208. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2146, Roll Call No. 374, June 18, 2015.

8 Health Care Repeal II

The House passed budget reconciliation legislation that repeals parts of the Affordable Care Act, including the individual and employer mandates and subsidies for individuals to purchase insurance. The repeal would result in 10 million people losing their health insurance. The bill passed 240-189. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3762, Roll Call No. 568, October 23, 2015.

9 Retirement Advice Repeal

Representative Wagner, R-MO, introduced legislation to delay implementation of the Department of Labor (DOL) fiduciary rule, which requires that financial advisers provide advice that is in the best interest of their clients. DOL estimates that consumers lose \$17 billion a year due to advice that is not in their best interest. The legislation passed 245-186. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1090, Roll Call No. 575, October 27, 2015.

10 2016 Spending Agreement

This agreement lifts sequester levels for two years, increasing funding for defense and non-defense discretionary spending by \$80 billion, and lifts the debt-ceiling until 2017. The bill also reallocates funding to the Social Security disability program until 2022. It reduces increases in Medicare Part B premiums for 16 million Medicare beneficiaries who would have been subjected to a 52% increase in 2016. The bill passed 266-167. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1314, Roll Call No. 579, October 28, 2015.

SENATE VOTES

The following is a list of ten key votes selected as representative of the votes of critical importance to retirees taken by the U.S. Senate:

1 Stop Social Security Privatization

Senator Wyden, D-OR, offered an amendment to the Senate budget resolution to create a point of order against legislation that would cut benefits, raise the retirement age, or privatize Social Security. The amendment needing 60 votes failed 51-48. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Con.Res. 11, Roll Call No. 84, March 24, 2015.

2 Stop Medicare Privatization

Senator Bennet, D-CO, offered an amendment to the Senate budget resolution to create a point of order against legislation that would privatize Medicare, cut guaranteed benefits, increase out-of-pocket spending, or turn Medicare into a premium support plan. The amendment failed 46-53. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Con.Res. 11, Roll Call No. 90, March 24, 2015.

3 Reverse Sequestration Cuts

Senator Murray, D-WA, offered an amendment to the Senate budget resolution to restore a below-sequester level cut of \$9 billion to nondefense discretionary spending in 2017, replacing sequestration in 2016 and 2017 and increasing funding above sequester levels by a total of \$148 billion for the 2 years, increasing defense and nondefense discretionary spending by equal amounts. The measure would be paid for by closing tax loopholes. The amendment failed 46-53. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Con.Res. 11, Roll Call No. 91, March 25, 2015.

4 Stop Medicaid Cuts

Senator Wyden, D-OR, offered an amendment to the Senate budget resolution that would strike more than \$1.2 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, preserving a critical source of comprehensive, affordable health and long-term care coverage for millions of otherwise uninsured low-income adults, parents and seniors. The amendment failed 47-53. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Con.Res. 11, Roll Call No. 95, March 26, 2015.

5 Stop Medicare Cuts

Senator Stabenow, D-MI, offered an amendment to the Senate budget resolution to reject the proposed \$435 billion in cuts to Medicare. The amendment failed 46-54. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Con.Res. 11, Roll Call No. 111, March 26, 2015.

6 Social Security Expansion

Senators Warren, D-MA, and Manchin, D-WV, introduced an amendment to the Senate budget resolution to expand Social Security. It requires that the Senate budget support the sustainable expansion of benefits, make the Social Security Trust Fund permanently solvent and accomplish these changes in a paid-for, deficit neutral way. The amendment failed 42-56. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S.Con.Res. 11, Roll Call No. 131, March 27, 2015.

7 Anti-Retiree Budget

Senator Enzi, R-WY, introduced the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Resolution. The budget transforms Medicaid into a block-grant system with \$400 billion in additional cuts over 10 years and cuts \$435 billion from Medicare. The budget also preserves sequester-level spending for all non-defense discretionary spending in addition to cutting spending further by \$236 billion over the next decade and impacting programs important to older and lower income Americans. The resolution passed by 52-46. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. Con. Res 11, Roll Call No. 135, March 27, 2015.

8 Trade Fast Track

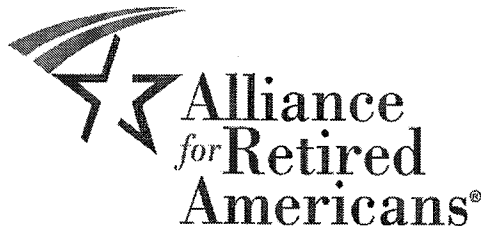
This bill provides the President more authority to negotiate trade agreements. It also subjects Congress to only an up-or-down vote when considering the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and other trade agreements, without the possibility of amendments. The bill passed 60-38. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2146, Roll Call No. 219, June 24, 2014.

9 2016 Spending Agreement

This agreement lifts sequester levels for two years, increasing funding for defense and non-defense discretionary spending by \$80 billion, and lifts the debt-ceiling until 2017. The bill also reallocates funding to the Social Security disability program until 2022. It reduces increases in Medicare Part B premiums for 16 million Medicare beneficiaries who would have been subjected to a 52% increase in 2016. The bill passed 64-35. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1314, Roll Call No. 294, October 30, 2015.

10 Health Care Repeal

The Senate passed a budget reconciliation bill that repeals parts of the Affordable Care Act, including the individual and employer mandates, subsidies for individuals to purchase insurance, and Medicaid expansion. The repeal would result in more than 10 million people losing their health insurance. The bill passed 52-47. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3762, Roll Call No. 329, December 3, 2015.



2015 VOTING RECORD

MICHIGAN DELEGATION

114th Congress, 1st Session

Senate Votes

Vote Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2015	Lifetime
Alliance Position	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	%	%
Stabenow (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	99
Peters (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100

House Votes

Vote Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2015	Lifetime
Alliance Position	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	%	%
1 Benishek (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	10	6
2 Huizenga (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0
3 Amash (R)	X	X	X	✓	X	✓	✓	X	X	X	30	18
4 Moolenaar (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0
5 Kildee (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
6 Upton (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	10	15
7 Walberg (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	7
8 Bishop (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0
9 Levin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
10 Miller (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	✓	10	15
11 Trott (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0
12 Dingell (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
13 Conyers (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100
14 Lawrence (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	100





Urgent Reply Requested
***Michigan Alliance for
Retired Americans Biannual Convention***
March 31, 2016~ Convention Call

YOU'RE INVITED!

The Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans invites all union and community based retirees, members, affiliates, and guests to attend its **Biannual Convention** in the Metro Detroit Area on Thursday, March 31, 2016 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the UAW Region 1, 27800 George Merrelli Dr., Warren, MI 48092. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The MiARA is an organization that is active and ready for the legislative and political challenges that lie ahead. The **purpose** of the Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans (MiARA) is to create a powerful statewide network of union retiree and community based organizations to educate and inform the membership, the public, and elected officials about issues that affect the well being of retirees.

By coming together at the Biannual Convention, delegates and participants have the opportunity to share ideas on solving serious issues affecting the lives of retirees as they began to chart the course that MiARA will pursue in the critical years ahead.

Delegates attending the MiARA Biannual Convention will be **briefed on a series of state and federal legislative initiatives impacting retirement security**, MiARA legislative advocacy and political programs, and top aging issues. Delegates will be addressed by an array of speakers from the Alliance for Retired Americans, MI AFL-CIO, MI State Legislature and statewide Senior Advocates and Community Leaders.

The Biannual Convention will open with general elections for the five top officers - President, Executive Vice President, 1st Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The MiARA Nominations Committee will present a slate. Each registered delegate shall receive one vote for the acceptance of by-laws and the election of officers. Nominations for office will also be accepted from the floor.

OVER PLEASE—————→

REGISTRATION

An official Biannual Convention Registration form must be completed and mailed to:

MiARA
ATT: Retired Workers Department
8000 E. Jefferson
Detroit, MI 48214

When registering several delegates, please copy the registration form and a fill *out one per delegate*. Registration fees may be combined into one check. Upon MiARA receiving and processing your registration, you will receive a receipt and confirmation letter.

REGISTRATION FEE

Registration postmarked by **March 14th** shall be **\$15.00**. After **March 14th**, late registration shall be **\$20.00**. Delegates will also be able to **register at the door** for **\$20.00**.

Your registration cost includes a full lunch and snack and beverage service throughout the convention, and all convention materials. Payment for registration must accompany the official registration form. Checks and money orders will be accepted and shall be made payable to the *Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans or MiARA*.

LOCATION

The MiARA Biannual Convention will be held at:
UAW Region 1
27800 George Merrelli Dr., Warren, MI 48092



Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans Biannual Convention

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM - PLEASE RETURN BY MARCH 14TH

OFFICIAL DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

Check one of the following:

PLEASE REGISTER ME TO ATTEND

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

County: _____

Phone: () _____

Fax () _____

Email: _____

Union or Community Organization (if applicable):

() \$15.00 Registration
BY March 14, 2016
OR

() \$20.00 Registration
After March 14, 2016

Mail Completed Registration

To: MiARA

Attn: Retired Workers Department
8000 E. Jefferson
Detroit, MI 48214

*For More information
contact **Dick Long, President**
MiARA Advisory Board
at (313) 510-4727 or at
long.richard64@gmail.com*

I am an individual member of the MiARA:

___ YES or ___ NO

Michigan Alliance for Retired Americans

8000 E. Jefferson

Detroit, MI 48214

(313) 510-4727

www.michiganretiredamericans.org