

HELLO

to both New and Continuing Retiree Chapter Members-We are

so glad you are with us! **More on this below, but please send us your email addresses ASAP so we can keep you up-to-date through our new email service- actionnetwork.com**

Please-Send your email address to:

Afscmeretirees4041@gmail.com

Because of your hard work on the 2016 Election the 2017 Nevada Legislature had a great pro-public worker and public retiree majority in both houses-Assembly and Senate. These Democratic caucus Senate and Assembly legislators, both new and returning elected officials, are dedicated to protecting our issues.

Nevada got glowing mentions last year for its election strategy and ground game execution from many media commentators from publications and sources that ranged from news media powerhouses such as MSNBC to the Wall Street Journal. You can be proud to know that your hard work last year resulted in retired public employee friendly candidates for the most part carrying the day in the Nevada state election.

As a result we went into this Legislative Session in a much stronger position than in the 2015 session. However this was no time to be complacent or relaxed about potential attacks on



Nevada Public Employee Retirement System (NV PERS) or on our Public Employee Benefits Program healthcare system (PEBP). We had several bills of concern to us. AB71 was another attempt to create a so-called hybrid PERS system; initiated by the State Controller and we believe was being pushed by our old friend, conservative think tank "Nevada Policy Research Institute" (NPRI). And after a well-publicized power struggle with the Senate Majority Leader Aaron Ford early in the session in February,

the Senate Minority Leader Michael Roberson (R-Henderson) introduced two BDRs (Bill Draft Requests), that later were introduced as SB 217 and SB 297 that would re-hash two failed bills from the 2015 Session-AB 190 (Randy Kirner-R Incline Village) (creates a Hybrid) and AB 3 (Also Kirner's) (reconfigure the PERS Board) attacking the PERS System. Luckily, we caught this early and lobbied hard that there was no good reason to entertain more attacks on NV PERS, leading the Senate and Assembly Majority leaders to vow in a press conference early in the session that there would "absolutely not" be any attacks on NV PERS this session:

<http://www.nevadaappeal.com/news/government/democrats-roll-out-blueprint-for-nevada/>

Highlights from the Session:

SB502 was a bill from the Department of Administration (Governor's Bill) originating from the language in a version of an earlier pre-filed bill, SB 80, which would have completely reconfigured the current structure of how our state-run health insurance program (PEBP) is run. It would have removed the regulatory nature of the role of its existing Board and put all the real power in one individual who would serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Working closely with the RPEN organization and the Nevada Faculty Alliance we were able to work with the Administration in a bipartisan manner and everyone got something they wanted. We are proud to say that the bill was signed by the Governor and we were able to keep PEBP autonomous, with an empowered (not merely advisory) board as well as some other productive changes to the vendor contracting process.

There were also other bill draft requests (BDRs) on PERS and PEBP that we followed closely, as well as budgetary matters, as well as tracking dozens of other bills on issues dear to our membership such as voting rights and election procedures. Needless

to say, we worked closely with the new crop of legislators as well as meeting weekly with our old friends and allies, and community partners such as the AFL-CIO affiliates, Nevada State Education Association, police and fire and RPEN. We geared up for fights the bills that help our coalition partners who lost plenty of ground unfortunately in the 2015 session in attacks on collective bargaining, prevailing wage, project labor agreements and the like. Some labor fights we joined in we won; some we lost. Notably, while the Governor vetoed a near-record 41 bills (for any other two-term Governor) including all but one collective bargaining bill for public employees that hit his desk, prevailing wage restoration bills, project labor agreement bills as well as minimum wage bills, some historic gains were made in the Nevada healthcare and renewable energy arena. The active members of AFSCME Local 4041 also got a “surprise” one % increase in the Governor’s budget- recommended 2 % COLA in the final hours of the session thanks to the Democratic Leadership and after an ugly last-minute showdown over the budget: WE DEFEATED SCHOOL VOUCHERS!!

A big part of our commitment to keep you “in the know” as to what is going on in Carson City during the months ahead beyond the session will involve new communications avenues. We will be prioritizing creating a website later this summer for the Retirees and have already created a new email program to keep you posted on goings on- so look for emails from our new email alert system: actionnetwork.org We have sent out over a dozen weekly updates already!

IF YOU HAVEN’T GIVEN US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ALREADY-YOU’RE OUT OF THE LOOP!! Please send us your email address to: Afscmeretirees4041@gmail.com ASAP so we can put you on our alert list!

We plan on emailing a monthly Legislative Interim update to you so check your inboxes. We are also building a new website as we stated above, which will have the monthly updates posted on the new website once it’s rolled out later this summer- we will send a special email alert to our

membership once it is up and running. In the meantime, know that we are working for you every day to protect your retirement security and post-retirement healthcare rights!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Walter Reuther, former President of the United Auto Workers, said "There is no greater calling than to serve your brother and no greater satisfaction than to have done it well".

Those words ring true today and we are trying to continue to adhere to that tradition within the AFSCME Retirees Chapter 4041. Our Board of Directors continues to look for ways to help our members. We are fortunate that we have an International that helps us over the rough spots and is always there if we need help.

Our number one goal is to insure that our members stay informed of the issues of the day regarding Retirees. We accomplish this by ensuring that our voices are heard in our State Legislature. Our full time Lobbyist works tirelessly along with our Coalition Partners to ensure that the benefits that Retirees worked and paid for are not taken from us. Our Lobbyist e-mails regular updates during the Nevada Legislature regarding our concerns. This is a good reason to give us your e-mail address. We do not share that information.

We are also beginning the process of opening our membership to all Nevada Public Retired Employees. This unity gives all of us more influence in the political arena as well as allowing us to offer some benefits that we presently are not big enough to do. You will soon be asked for your vote to change our Constitution to allow this expansion of the membership.

As you all know, we are all members of the Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans, (NARA). We work very closely with NARA as their goals are consistently the same as ours. They are a very active organization who also lobby for Retirees. Summer is close at hand. Our wish is for everyone to enjoy

every moment with Family, Friends or travels. Just
be safe.

Charlie