



Our MISSION:
"To maintain a point of contact and information for telephone retirees on health care and other benefit issues."

2017 Issue 2

— AUSWR CO/WY

THE RETIREE GUARDIAN

Newsletter of the retirees of CenturyLink, Qwest, U S WEST and their predecessor companies. www.AUSWR.org

President's Message



**by John Rommelfanger,
 Colorado/Wyoming
 Co-President**

The Board of Directors of the AUSWR CO/WY association has been discussing the future of the organization for some time now.

Due to a continuing decline in membership and revenues, planning is now taking place for dissolution of the AUSWR CO/WY organization, sometime in 2018.

The process requires us to consider the components of the association: the *Retiree Guardian* newsletter, the Medicare courses in the Denver metro area, the Retiree Advocacy program, the website services and information, the legal services we underwrite and the financial condition of the organization.

We also must consider the age of board members, and the inability to fill the board positions from the membership.

Our AUSWR CO/WY organization has aged gracefully and provided substantial support to the membership through the dissemination of information in quarterly newsletters and weekly emails managed by Bill Alsdorf.

AUSWR CO/WY organization has, over the years, provided its share of significant legal

representation to pursue the maintenance of earned benefits. The Retiree Advocacy program, headed by Jim Heinze, helps many of our retirees resolve their various benefit issues.

The information and assistance provided in the area of health care by Barbara Wilcox and Jim Heinze have aided scores of our people.

Our present financial situation indicates that funds would be depleted sometime in 2018. At one point, it was thought that dissolution might occur as early as 2016, and membership dues were reduced in past years, anticipating this.

Reassessment in 2016 led to raising dues to \$10 this year to assure continuation through 2017.

We feel that the mission statement of the board has been faithfully discharged. All of this is making decisions for the future difficult.

The board will be making decisions regarding the date of dissolution in the coming months, and will keep you advised. If any member is willing to step forward and be part of this process, please contact me.

Plans are under way to conduct our next annual meeting on October 7, 2017. It will again be a luncheon meeting. The board has determined that a charge of \$12.50 will be required from each person to help cover the luncheon cost.

Details about the meeting will be sent to you in September.

Your thoughts and responses to this message are welcomed by me and other members of the board. (List of board member contacts on page 11).

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What's important to preserve for seniors in ACA

**By Bill Kadereit, President,
National Retiree Legislative Network**

As most Americans know, on March 24, 2017, U. S. House of Representatives' Speaker Paul Ryan went to the White House to inform President Trump that a vote would not take place on the American Health Care Act (AHCA) to repeal/replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA, also known as Obamacare) because there were not enough votes to pass it.

During the week before the scheduled vote, 30 leaders of the National Retiree Legislative Network (NRLN), its retiree associations and chapters were in Washington, D.C., meeting with Representatives, Senators and members of their staffs, lobbying for retirement issues, including preserving ACA features beneficial to seniors. Loren Fritz represented the NWB-USW-Qwest Retiree Association.

When the current ACA law was originally debated in Congress in 2010, the NRLN did not take a position on the entire bill, but supported provisions in the bill favorable to retirees, and opposed provisions unfavorable to retirees. Likewise, the NRLN advocates on Capitol Hill in favor of preserving what has been good for Medicare beneficiaries.

It is expected that at some point in the future, President Trump or the House or the Senate will make other attempts to repeal/replace the ACA. When that happens, the NRLN will lobby for the preservation of the following:

- **Medicare beneficiaries' preventive screenings** such as mammography, prostate screenings, colonoscopies and more. Most of these services are covered 100 per cent by Medicare. We know of situations where serious health conditions were identified early through the annual wellness exam. Not only has early detection of health problems saved lives, but also reduced the cost of care to Medicare.
- **Closing the Medicare Part D 'donut hole,'** which is the difference between what a beneficiary has to pay for after reaching the initial coverage limit and

the amount the government pays for 'catastrophic' drug coverage. According to the AARP, since the enactment of the ACA in 2010, more than 11.8 million Medicare beneficiaries have saved more than \$26.8 billion on prescription drugs.

- **Rewarding performance** by health plans, doctors and other medical-care providers when they improve health outcomes. The budget that supports the Department of Health and Human Services Innovation Center's trials to improve health outcomes and quality are not included in the proposed AHCA repeal/replace legislation.
- **Retaining the 0.9% Medicare Part A tax** on earnings over \$200,000. Enacting the proposed AHCA would have repealed this tax, leading to a loss of \$117 billion in revenue by 2026. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Congressional Budget Office estimated the repeal would speed up the Medicare Trust Fund's insolvency dates from between 2026 and 2028 (under current ACA law), to 2024 or 2025. After the insolvency date, the Medicare Trust Fund would only be able to pay for 87 per cent of Medicare Part A (mostly hospital) benefits.
- **Preserve the ACA's reduction of 14 per cent subsidies to Medicare Advantage Plans.** Repeal of these current ACA subsidies reduction provision would deplete the Medicare Trust Fund even faster.

When the current ACA law was enacted, the NRLN believed there was a major omission for Medicare beneficiaries. While the ACA provided provisions for catastrophic coverage (limits on out-of-pocket expenses) for Americans under age 65, it was not provided for seniors age 65 and older.

The NRLN continues to urge Congress to retain the provisions for catastrophic coverage provided by the ACA, but also to include Americans age 65 and older.

The NRLN will continue to keep an 'eye out' for potential legislation to repeal/replace the ACA, and maintain our efforts to preserve what is beneficial in the law for America's seniors.



Medicare SHIP ‘voices’ at risk

**Barbara Wilcox, AUSWR CO/
WY Health Care Specialist,**

Email: bmw80205@gmail.com

Have you ever gone to a Medicare 101 class? Have you discussed your Medicare insurance choices with a SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) counselor? Have you called your state’s SHIP office to get help understanding what Medicare does and doesn’t cover?

As many CenturyLink retirees know, state SHIP offices are present throughout the country, staffed by volunteers who are dedicated to educating people about Medicare, and helping them find their way through the Medicare system and the related insurance programs.

I recently learned from the Medicare Rights Center that funding for SHIP is in danger of being cut—or eliminated. The budget that the White House sent to Congress in March contains no money for the SHIP grants to the states. This is an alarming development.

SHIP’s mission is “to empower, educate, and assist Medicare-eligible individuals, their families and caregivers through objective outreach, counseling and training to make informed health insurance decisions that optimize access to care and benefits.”

Each state does this by recruiting and training volunteers. The volunteers talk with clients in one-on-one counseling sessions, teach classes and speak to community groups. All services are free of charge.

The SHIP program began in 2009. The federal government gives grants to the states, each of which administers its own program. The annual SHIP budget for all states over the last three years was \$52 million — a drop in the bucket when you consider the size of the federal budget. In 2015, SHIP helped seven million people with their Medicare, which means it cost the federal government about \$7.50 for each person. Imagine what it would cost if the government had to hire people to perform this service!

My personal journey that led me to SHIP began in the fall of 2011, when CenturyLink announced that Post-90 management retirees would no longer have company health insurance to supplement Medicare. These retirees

(me included) had no reason to educate themselves about the details of how Medicare worked, because the connection between Medicare and our Company health care insurance had been working smoothly for years.

Suddenly, Post-90 management retirees (and spouses) on Medicare had to make decisions about what insurance was needed to replace the supplemental and prescription drug insurance that the Company had been providing. CenturyLink created Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRA) to help us pay for the insurance we needed. But, there are many options of market-place insurance, and many insurance companies offering Medicare-related insurance. Many of us were flailing around, trying to educate ourselves and make good decisions.

Q. How do I call my member of Congress and my Senators?

A. Dial **202-224-3121** to reach the Capitol switchboard. You can reach both Senators and Representatives through this number. You will need to give your zip code.

Q. How do I find the SHIP office where I live?

A. Each state has a toll-free number you can call to get connected with your local SHIP. This phone number is printed on the back of the *Medicare & You* book that you receive every year in the fall. Or, you can go to Medicare.gov on the Internet. Look on the right-hand side of the home page for “Find someone to talk to,” and find your state in the pull-down menu. Some states have different names for their SHIP programs. For example, in Colorado it’s called SHIP, but in Wyoming it’s called WSHIP.

I learned about SHIP from Jean Waid, another CenturyLink retiree, who is a SHIP volunteer counselor in Grand Junction, Colorado. Jean was busy helping affected retirees in her area, and she suggested that I should contact the SHIP program in Denver, where I live. I did, and the Denver SHIP immediately offered Medicare 101 classes for CenturyLink retirees in the Denver area. From this, I learned how much SHIP can help us. I became a SHIP volunteer. I received excellent training from Medicare and SHIP personnel. I receive Medicare updates each year. I am pleased to be able to help people on Medicare, whether CenturyLink retirees or others.

Many CenturyLink retirees attend classes when they are approaching their 65th birthday. I counsel innumerable retirees who contact me about their individual problems or questions about Medicare. I write articles about Medicare for the *Retiree Guardian*. The training and regular updates I receive from SHIP enable me and other SHIP volunteers to

do all of these helpful things for you.

You can help the effort to keep the SHIP program going by **calling your members of Congress and Senators**. Let them know you have benefited from SHIP, and you want the program to continue.

Sources for this article include HHS.gov and blog.medicarerights.org/presidents-budget-dramatically-cut-funding-medicare-counseling/

Heroes: the blizzard of '49, Vail medals — and the 'snow buggy'

Don Warsavage, Phone: 303-776-7782
Email: oldsavage14@gmail.com

For this story, you need some background. First, let me tell you about Vail medals, which were awarded for outstanding service. And let me quote from the Cambridge Library, which tracked all medals awarded from 1920 on:

The Vail Medal awards were made as a memorial to Theodore X. Vail, an early president of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, who was recognized as one of the world's great business leaders because of his leadership in the expansion of the Bell System and the development of the art of telephony. Vail medals, bronze, silver and gold, were awarded to members of the Bell telephone organization throughout the United States, for acts of services which conspicuously illustrated ideals of public service. The Vail medals were not awarded merely for acts of heroism or spectacular deeds, although

noteworthy heroism often characterized the service performed, nor as a reward for faithfulness in the prurience of daily tasks, but rather as special recognition of a few of the most conspicuous examples of noteworthy service that were daily challenges among telephone employees who perform the characteristics of the spirit of service throughout the Bell Telephone System.

Now let me tell you about three men who were awarded Vail medals because of their "outstanding

acts," aka 'heroism,' in the blizzard of 1949 in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Back in the '40s, millions of people settled down in their living rooms at 7:00 p.m. each Monday night to listen to the popular *Bell Telephone Hour*, a national NBC radio program dedicated to live classical music. It usually started with a monologue advertising telephone service. On February 21, 1949, however, the program's unusual opening started as follows:

Announcer: "Down from the North it screamed . . . one of the worst blizzards in the history of the West . . . tons of snow across roads and highways . . . residents of Cheyenne, Wyoming, were warned to stay in their homes. Calls of distress flooded the telephone lines."

Woman (anxiously): ". . . Operator, our little Michael is awfully sick. We can't bring our baby to town. What are we going to do?"

Announcer: "For four days and nights, a telephone crew took their snow buggy through the wilderness of snow, cold and howling wind—over fields and fences..." to rescue neighbors and strangers who needed help.

That legendary blizzard started Sunday afternoon, January 2, 1949. *The Wyoming Eagle*, on January 5th, headlined: "GIANT RESCUE BEGUN FOR 2,000 MAROONED," and went on to state "the howling storm lasted for over 60 hours." The front page featured a photo that showed a drift over 10 feet deep in downtown Cheyenne, and stated that some drifts outside of town reached over 20 feet deep.

The same day, *The Wyoming Tribune*, the other Cheyenne newspaper, reported that 14 intercontinental trains had stalled in the deep snow in eastern Wyoming, with passengers on board.

On February 6th, *The Wyoming Tribune* ran an article headlined: "BLIZZARD UNABLE TO STOP SNOW

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BUGGY IN RESCUE MISSIONS." Four men, three telephone company employees and their supervisor, were singled out for their heroic efforts. The article highlighted the virtues of the snow buggy, the telephone company's machine with a cab mounted on tracks and two skis in front, designed to carry two passengers over the snow.

The snow buggy was indeed critical to the rescues performed, but the real story is about the men —our heroes -- who made it all happen. Their amazing exploits were detailed in a memorandum written by J. H. Christensen, Wyoming Plant Superintendent.

The following story was put together from Christensen's memorandum, the Cheyenne newspapers mentioned above and several issues of *The Monitor*, a monthly magazine published for employees by Mountain States Telephone Company back in the '40s and '50s.

Our heroes' saga starts Monday, January 3, 1949, when the snow descended, and the wind raged on Cheyenne and the plains to the East. Hotel rooms, lobbies and depots filled with stranded travelers. Employees couldn't get to work, and once there couldn't get home.

Next day, Tuesday, was no better as howling winds and blinding, heavy snow continued. Enter the telephone company snow buggy into our story. It was used to deliver 'stranded-people' from danger, but it frequently stalled because the drifts were overwhelming.

When Keith Hough, a combinationman, got ready to

leave for work, he saw that there was no way his car could make it. But, he was needed to help with the snow buggy, so he donned his winter gear and set out on foot, pushing through the snow for 15 blocks to the company garage.

Hough's partner, Bill Edmunds, a cable splicer, lived in the same area, but found he couldn't budge any of the doors of his home. He found a window he could open and clear the snow. He scrambled through, dropped into the drift and began his long slog to work.



These men of the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, and others not pictured, used their "snow buggy" to save several lives in the Cheyenne, Wyo., area

This photo appeared in the Bell Tel Magazine, Spring 1949. We have no way of knowing if these men are our heroes of this story, but it's very likely that they are Hough, Edmunds and Payne. In any case, this is a — or maybe 'the' snow buggy in our story.

Once Hough and Edmunds got to the garage, the snow buggy refused to start. They set about cleaning the carburetor, the gas line and gas tank. They had just finished putting it together when the garage phone rang. It was the Wyoming State Patrol. An expectant mother needed to get to the hospital immediately.

They had to leave the regular streets and drive the snow buggy through back yards to get to the address. They loaded Mr. and Mrs. Hansen into the cab with them, a cozy fit in the small cab (and not the last time they'd need

to overload the snow buggy).

The four of them, jammed together, started off to the hospital. The storm intensified, reducing visibility. They couldn't tell where the streets were. They drove to one side far enough to see a house, tree or buried car then veer back the opposite way, using this method, they zigzagged their way to the hospital. Mrs. Hansen gave birth to a boy. Rescue successful!

On the way back, the engine on the snow buggy started coughing and sputtering. They nursed it into a Firestone filling station and garage -- the only one open in the city. They had to remove the drive shaft, clean the carburetor, gas tank and gas line again, then put it all back together. It is easy to believe, as they had

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taken off their heavy coats, had tools and parts scattered all over the floor, that their descriptions of the snow buggy would not have been printable in either *The Tribune* or *The Eagle*.

They got the snow buggy running again, and it was used heavily until 11:00 that night. The Wire Chief at the phone company, C. B. Webb, made an arrangement with the local Cheyenne Fire Chief to house the snow buggy in the fire station to keep it ready for possible night-time emergencies. Hough and Edmunds stayed in a local hotel.

At 2:00 a.m., Hough's phone woke him up. The Red Cross was on the line. Mrs. Merrill, expecting a baby, needed hospitalization. She lived more than six miles east of town.

When Hough reached the fire station, he found that Edmunds hadn't been called and was not there. A local Cheyenne fireman volunteered to join Hough. The wind was driving at 50 to 70 miles-per-hour; the temperature was recorded at 5 below zero.

The driven snow, amplified by the lights of the snow buggy, made it nearly impossible to see the way ahead. They found that by looking up they could make slow progress by following the street lights. Hough used the zigzagging method he'd discovered earlier.

At the edge of town, they ran out of street lights and could not see their way forward at all. They could barely make out the telephone line above them, and they tried following it into the darkness. It was too dangerous, so they turned back.

The fire chief told Hough he should get some sleep and showed him to a bed in the fire house. It was around 3:30 am. Hough had barely laid his head on the pillow, when a tow truck pulled up outside. Along with the driver were Mr. and Mrs. Rosenblum.

The tow truck was the only vehicle that could get to her house, but could not make it to the hospital. Mrs. Rosenblum was in labor.

Hough loaded the two into the snow buggy and zigzagged his way to the hospital. Thirty-two minutes later their baby was born.

When Hough got back to the fire station, William Payne, another combinationman, was there to assist, replacing the local fireman.

By now, it was light enough to try again to get out to

Merrill place.

On the way, they encountered stalled vehicles, many stalled vehicles. In one, they found Richard Bivens. Bivens excitedly explained that his wife and family were trapped inside their home about four miles east of town, and they had no heat. He was desperate to get back and help them. Biven's place was on the snow buggy route to the Merrills, so they loaded Bivens in with them. The highway east of town was a hodgepodge of scattered, stuck vehicles. Trying to get around a large stranded truck, the snow buggy fell into a barrow pit, taking a half hour to dig out.

Arriving at the Bivens' ranch, only the snow-covered roof was visible. Bivens struggled around the house through the snow, frantically searching for a way in, when he finally found the top of a window still exposed. He yelled to raise his family. They were okay. Another 'rescue' for the snow buggy.

They left Bivens, and pushed on, still seeking a path to the Merrills. The ground blizzard was a fierce white-out, hampering visibility. Following the power line across country, away from the highway, took the snow buggy right over fences — and whatever else was buried beneath the snow. They finally reached the Merrill Ranch. To take Mrs. Merrill to the hospital in Cheyenne, which was their mission, they first had to take the Merrill's 3-year-old daughter to her grandfather's ranch about another mile and a half further to the East. With the little girl on board, they travelled along the highway, this time discovering more and more abandoned cars.

One vehicle was in a precarious position, teetering over the edge of a ditch and half-filled with snow. As the snow buggy approached, two young men climbed awkwardly out the door with their faces hidden because their shirts were buttoned over their heads, and their hands were covered with several pairs of socks. Words of gratitude tumbled out of them as they told their story that they were University of Colorado students heading back to school. They had been trapped in the car for 62 hours. They had emptied their suitcases, and put on all the clothes they could find. Pants on pants, shirts on shirts and so on. They were helped into the snow buggy, and went along to 'grandfather Merrill's ranch.'

After getting a hot meal at the ranch, the two students

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(Sams and Kissick), rode back to pick up Mrs. Merrill and take her to the hospital. At the Merrills, the snow buggy now contained Hough, Sams, Kissick and a very pregnant Mrs. Merrill, all heading into a more than six-mile blizzard.

The journey was slow and treacherous. Within about a mile and a half of town, the snow buggy lurched into a hole. The crunching sound they heard could only mean a broken ski. When they got out and inspected, both skis had broken, disabling the snow buggy, which carried only one spare ski.

After carrying Mrs. Merrill for about two blocks, the men found a filling station called the Dutch Mill. Leaving Mrs. Merrill and the college students at the Dutch Mill, and knowing that a spare ski for the snow buggy was stored in the telephone company garage, they called and Edmunds answered. He put the spare ski in a company truck and made it to within a mile of the Dutch Mill before being halted by impassably deep snow.

No other means but for Edmunds to get out of the truck, push through the snow, dragging the spare ski behind him. He made it. But no one thought about tools. Probably for the first time, a snow-buggy ski was replaced using a hand axe – plus pure grit and determination.

The two students stayed in the safety of the Dutch Mill to await later rescue. Mrs. Merrill, now in the repaired snow buggy, was transferred into the company truck with Edmunds who took her for her much-needed medical attention.



Hough, Payne and the snow buggy were not done yet. Back in Cheyenne, they rescued a man who'd injured his back and couldn't walk. He was taken to the Veterans' Hospital. Then out to a ranch seven miles east of town to find a man with frozen feet. Then on to another man and his dog, both suffering from exhaustion. The dog thanked Payne for his efforts by biting his hand, but the dog was so weak, it did no damage.

Remember the little boy, Michael, from the *Telephone Hour* lead-in at the beginning? The next day the snow buggy went about two miles from town to rescue a little guy named Michael who needed medical help. He and his parents rode in the snow buggy to the doctor.

The Wyoming manager, Christensen, in the summary of his memorandum, said: "Many times during these trips, blowing snow and zero temperatures seemed to be almost more than one could stand and, due to the poor visibility, the success of each trip was doubtful and the job hazardous." Christensen pointed out that

at the time of his writing, 11 people in the Cheyenne area had been found frozen to death.

The July 1950 issue of *The Monitor* reported that Mountain States Telephone Company President, F. P. Ogden, in a formal presentation to the applause of their fellow employees, awarded three silver Vail Medals and \$500 each to Keith Hough, William Payne, and William Edmunds. Our true heroes of the blizzard of 1949.

Maybe some of you readers know or knew our heroes,

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Lobbying on Capitol Hill

**Bill Kadereit, President
 National Retiree Legislative Network**



In recent years, the NRLN held its Annual Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., in mid-February. When plans

were made for 2017, the conference was scheduled for March 13–15, with the hope of avoiding winter weather. But snowstorm “Stella” moved into the nation’s capital on Monday night, March 13, ahead of Tuesday and Wednesday appointments scheduled by conference attendees on Capitol Hill.

Despite the snow, wind, awful traffic conditions -- and some appointment cancellations, 27 attendees represented you at more than 70 different meetings in Senate and House offices. The NRLN retiree association and chapter leaders lobbied Senators, Representatives, Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Directors and other staff members.

The NRLN legislative issues they advocated for in the meetings were:

- Request passage of bills in the House and Senate to reduce the cost of prescription drugs by allowing the importation of safe and lower-priced drugs from Canada and other countries that meet the Federal Drug Administration’s quality standards and allowing Medicare to negotiate the price of prescription drugs.
- Retain in the repeal / replacement of the Affordable Care Act, the features that were beneficial to Medicare participants, including:
 - > annual wellness examinations;
 - > closing the Medicare Part D “donut hole” which is the difference between what a beneficiary has to pay for after reaching the initial coverage limit and the amount the government pays for the catastrophic drug coverage;

> rewarding health plans, doctors and other Medical-care providers if they improve health outcomes and quality.

- Change the federal bankruptcy code to better protect retirees’ pensions and health-care benefits when their former employer declares bankruptcy.

- Request legislation to give the PBGC more authority to better protect the interests of retirees when there are mergers, acquisitions and spin-offs – particularly in the case of foreign ownership.



Sen. Deb Fischer (NE) with Vern Larson, President, Avaya Retirees Chapter, and NRLN President Bill Kadereit.

On Wednesday, NRLN leaders representing the Avaya Retirees Chapter (Avaya is in bankruptcy court), DuPont Retirees Chapter, National Chrysler Retirees Organization, Lucent Retirees Organization, NRLN President Bill Kadereit and Alyson Parker, NRLN Executive Director, met with two staff members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Committee has jurisdiction over bankruptcy law



Rep. Tom O'Halleran (AZ-01) with Martha Deahl, President, Arizona Chapter.

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legislation. Request for legislation to require pension plan sponsors to obtain approval from the Pension Benefits Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) before combining one or more poorly funded pension plans with one or more well-funded pension plans.

Having appointments on Capitol Hill were leaders from seven retiree associations: —Telco/AT&T, — Engineering Retirees Society (Boeing), —Detroit Edison Alliance of Retirees, —EKRA-Kodak Retirees, —National Chrysler Retirement Organization, —Lucent Retirees Organization and —NWB/Qwest/CenturyLink; and five NRLN Chapters: —Arizona Chapter, —Avaya Retirees Chapter, —DuPont Retirees Chapter, —Villages (Florida) Chapter and —Washington State Chapter.

We have worked hard to get prescription-drug legislation introduced and we are hopeful these meetings will result in more Representatives and Senators becoming supporters of other NRLN legislative proposals. We have added statute language ready for use by

Congressional legal staffs to each of our major proposals.

That said, it takes a strong mental commitment and repeated advocate visits to gain acceptance for our proposals by members of congress.

Associations' leaders and Chapter leaders, who show this commitment, deserve a big thanks from us all.



Judy Stenberg (left), Vice President, Pacific and Mountain West Region, meets with Hannah Vanhose and Kellin Clark, staff members for Senator Jon Tester (MT).

FIRST..

Call the
CENTURYLINK
SERVICE CENTER at
800-729-7526

RETIREE ADVOCATES
can help you if you have
unresolved
questions or problems
AFTER you call the
Service Center

The Retiree Advocate program operates with volunteers who listen to your questions or problems with your benefits and pensions — then they use their knowledge and resources to make contacts to resolve your issues.

<u>If you live in:</u>	<u>Retiree Advocate:</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Arizona	Kitty Kennedy	520-444-6617 kkennedy404@gmail.com
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Arizona

Bliss, Donald A 'Don' (1932 - 2016)
Robison, E. L. 'Rob' (1925 - 2017)
Stokes, Leah Kae Schofield (1932 - 2017)
Tilley, James William 'J W' (1921 - 2017)

Colorado

Baldwin, Michael 'Mike' (1941 - 2017)
Barth, Eugene (1924 - 2017)
Bell Jr, Virgil Alexander (1938 - 2017)
Breece, Agnes Marie 'Aggie' (1931 - 2016)
Cox, Ralph Odell (1929 - 2017)
Davidson, Michael S (1943 - 2017)
Doerr, Howard Paul (1929 - 2017)
Entwistle, Jane S (1939 - 2016)
Fulks, Martha E. Pedot (1927 - 2017)
Goodsell, Virginia M (1922 - 2017)
Gray, Harold 'Lynn' (1930 - 2017)
Keate, Terrie Stone (1951 - 2017)
Lowell, Howard Vernon (1935 - 2017)
Roys, Adele Lucille (1937 - 2017)
Wells, Tamyra Jean (1946 - 2017)

Idaho

King, Earl Ronald (1931 - 2017)
Lewis, Edward Joseph (1935 - 2017)
Schindel, Burk A (1924 - 2017)
Spence, Iris Faye (1928 - 2017)
Starkey, Donald B (1924 - 2016)

Montana

Barker, Richard D (1927 - 2017)
Beaver, Raymond Louis (1933 - 2017)
Boettger, Irving Christian (1922 - 2016)
Bossell, Ann Lucille 'Lucy' (1930 - 2016)
Duncan, Douglas Scott (1959 - 2016)
Johnson, Kenneth Fred (1925 - 2016)
Molenda, Peter F (1930 - 2017)
Nelson, Pansy Lorene (1921 - 2017)
O'Brien, Sue Caddy (1945 - 2017)
Salverson, Eileen Dianne (1939 - 2017)
Schaffer, Helen (1929 - 2017)
Thares, Raymond Duane 'Ray' (1947 - 2016)
Wooten, Marguerite 'Maggie' (1937 - 2017)

We remember ...



Send information about a member who has passed away (please include the date and newspaper source of the obituary) to: Bill Alsdorf at AUSWR@q.com

New Mexico

Brannan, Virginia Heard (1951 - 2017)
Rubi Jr, Isidro (1940 - 2017)

Oregon

Brennfleck, George and Arlene (1923 - 2016)
Lanterman, Jack Robert 'Bob' (1925 - 2017)
Matsumoto, Julie Misaye (1953 - 2016)
Nickerson, Paul R (1938 - 2017)
Wiesinger, Betty J (1923 - 2017)

Utah

Broadwater, Drew (1952 - 2016)
Brollier, Nina T (1940 - 2017)
Dutt, Russell E (1927 - 2016)
Hales, William "Bill" George (1947 - 2017)
Hedges, Wayne Dean (1934 - 2017)
Hiskey, Shirley Broberg (1928 - 2017)
Jensen, Milford L (1930 - 2017)
McDonald, Sheila Rae Heath (1953 - 2017)
Tenne, Rolando J (1930 - 2017)
Vail, Donald Elmer (1936 - 2017)

Wyoming

Cuthbertson, Jack (1929 - 2017)
Hranchak, Herman (1934 - 2017)
Marsh, Joan C (1930 - 2017)
Young, Edith M (1940 - 2017)

Legal services DONATION for CURTIS KENNEDY for 2017: \$ _____ .00

AUSWR Colorado/Wyoming MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION—please PRINT

CHECK ONE: New Member: _____ Annual renewal: _____ (\$10.⁰⁰) Change _____

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Dual membership: Last name: _____ First name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____ - _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I would like to volunteer in the following areas: ANY U S WEST/Qwest or predecessor company retiree is welcome
(you will be contacted—you can check more than one):

Area Rep: _____ Membership: _____ Financial: _____ Legislative: _____ Media Relations: _____

Other (describe): _____

I retired from (Name of company): _____ Date: _____

Spouse retired from (Name of company): _____ Date: _____

I own CenturyLink stock: Yes: _____ No: _____



CHANGES TO ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS

If you have a change in your name, mailing address, phone number, or e-mail address, please use this form. On the back page of this newsletter, your membership expiration date is included on the mailing address. If your expiration date is near, use this form to submit your annual dues.

- **IF YOU KNOW** of any prospective members who have not yet joined the Association, please provide them with a copy of this **Membership Application** form, or have them contact John Rommelfanger, Colorado President, at 303-475-8225. A copy of the form also can be printed from our web site at: www.AUSWR.org.
- **IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION:** AUSWR CO/WY is an I.R.S. non-profit, tax-exempt organization. However, dues and donations are **NOT DEDUCTIBLE** on your personal tax returns. Records are available via written request at **P.O. Box 27027, Denver, CO 80227**.

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—720-859-7641 / rwiswell@ix.netcom.com

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Littleton (80223—80225—80227): La Verne Lanskey
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Littleton (80224—80226—80228): Tom Spall
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—303-475-8225 / jrommel@live.com

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Thornton/Brighton: Bill Alsdorf
—303-659-4189 / balsdorf@q.com

Westminster/Wheat Ridge: Alice Peterson
—303-424-7609 / allicad@aol.com

WYOMING AREA REPRESENTATIVES:

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—307-527-9005 / ago@tritnet.net

Lander-Riverton: Jim Reddon
—307-856-6833 / jamesr@bresnan.net

Cheyenne Area: Dorothy Rhoades
—307-235-4501 / drhoades36@hotmail.com

ARIZONA REPRESENTATIVE:

Statewide: Kitty Kennedy
—520-444-6617 / kkennedy404@gmail.com

**All other states OR to volunteer
in your area — CONTACT:**

John Rommelfanger —303-475-8225 / jrommel@live.com

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Denver-area Medicare '101' Classes

Monday, April 24, 2017 1:30-3:30 PM Carpenter Recreation Center Multi-Purpose Room C 11151 Colorado Blvd.	Thornton, CO 80203 Thursday, July 20, 2017 10:00 AM-Noon CWA Local 7777 2840 South Vallejo St.
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To register, or to ask questions about the schedule, please contact Kit Thomte at 303-526-1664, or Email mtnnplains@gmail.com.

If you have questions about Medicare or how Medicare works with CenturyLink benefits, you can continue to contact Barbara Wilcox, Email: bmw80205@gmail.com.

The classes are geared towards Post-90 retirees who will be 65 soon or are going on Medicare for any other reason, such as being on Social Security disability for two years. But, anyone interested in Medicare, and how it interfaces with CenturyLink retiree health benefits, is welcome. The classes are a collaboration between AUSWR CO/WY and the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), and they are free of charge. CenturyLink Human Resources personnel are often present to answer questions, depending upon their availability.

CenturyLink's newsletter—

<http://www.centurylinkbenefits.com/docs/pdf/001262.pdf>



April 2017

Welcome to Well Connected
for Retirees!

This periodic newsletter provides updates and insights on managing your CTL retirement benefits, plus tips for boosting wellness during retirement.

We'd love to hear from you!
Send feedback, stories and questions for this newsletter to