

Midwest Region Laborers' Retiree E-newsletter

The LIUNA! Retiree E-newsletter, April 2015

May is Older Americans Month



Laborers' Local 362 retirees volunteer at a party for families of unemployed workers in Bloomington, IL this past December.

Each May, the Administration for Community Living celebrates Older Americans Month to recognize older Americans for their contributions to the nation. This year, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act (OAA), we are focusing on how older adults are taking charge of their health, getting engaged in their communities, and making a positive impact in the lives of others. The theme for Older Americans Month 2015 is Get into the Act.

Older Americans Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of community engagement as a tool for enhancing the wellbeing of older adults. Now is the time to Get into the Act to make the benefits of community living a reality for more older Americans. Together we can promote healthy aging, increase community involvement for older adults, and tackle important issues like the prevention of elder abuse. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living)

Local 1095 Member Receives 50-Year Pin

San Antonio resident Gerardo Escamilla recently marked 50 years as a member of the Laborers' Union. He was honored with a pin and commemorative 50-Year Gold Membership Card. He is pictured with Local 1095 Business Manager Mary Davidson.

Please send news and photos of pin parties and other Local activities to akoeppel@midwestlaborers.org or to the Midwest Regional Office.



Remembering John Fleming



Retired Laborers' Local 179 Business Manager John Fleming passed away on February 27, 2015. As an Army Veteran who had served in the Vietnam War, John was very passionate about Veterans' issues and the work of the Laborers' Midwest Region Steering Committee, of which he was a member. He was especially inter-

ested in advocating for Veterans affected by Agent Orange and other service-connected medical conditions.

We remember and honor John Fleming for all the good work he did on behalf of Laborers and Veterans in his many years of service. He will be missed by his Brothers and Sisters.

Prescription Drug Spending Up 12%

Prescription drug spending increased nearly 12 percent last year according to a report from Express Scripts. Yahoo Finance Senior Columnist Michael Santoli points out that people are consuming more health care. "The market for drugs for chronic conditions is ramping up," he says.



"Rather than threatening cuts to Medicare benefits, Congress should enact the Medicare drug rebate program," said Ruben Burks, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. This proposal would require drug companies to provide discounts to the federal government for low-income Medicare beneficiaries, saving the government and taxpayers \$141 billion over 10 years. (Alliance for Retired Americans)

Medicare Turns 50: Labor's Role



"It was the labor movement that helped secure so much of what we take for granted today. The 40-hour work week, the minimum wage, family leave, health insurance, Social Security, Medicare, retirement plans. The cornerstones of the middle-class security all bear the union label."

-President Barack Obama (Alliance for Retired Americans)