

## ARA Meeting Features Updates on Retirement Issues

*By Daniel & Bernadette Burke  
SEIU 721 Retiree Committee*

The Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) is a nationwide grass roots organization, launched in 2001 with more than 4.3 million members working together to make our voices heard in the laws, policies, politics and institutions that shape American life.

ARA has been mobilizing retired union members, seniors and community activists into a nationwide grassroots movement advocating a progressive political and social agenda that respects work and strengthens families. The mission of ARA is to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for all citizens so that they may enjoy lives of dignity, personal and family fulfillment and security.

It was a privilege to attend ARA's National Meeting from Nov. 13-15. All of



*Dan Burke, left, shared a report about the information that SEIU 721 Retirees, right, learned at the Alliance for Retired Americans National Membership Meeting in Las Vegas in Nov. 2018.*

us had many opportunities to improve our skills as grassroots activists and learn more about retirement issues.

Workshops attended included: Achieving Retiree Power, Protection Against Investment Fraud, Bring Events To Life With Images, Issues Affecting Retiree Power, Intergenerational Panel, Flexing Retiree Power Through Advocacy, Tell Your Story-Change The World and Building Retiree Power-Membership & Alliance Planning.

We all can expand our level of involvement by utilizing some of the skills discussed by: obtaining ARA's toolkit, which provides detailed steps and action plans, attending lobby days at our State Capital, participating in lobby visits of our State's Federal Representatives, planning and participating in Medicare/Social Security anniversary events, telling our stories as an

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*Several members of the SEIU 721 Retirees Committee attended the ARA Membership Meeting.*

## Political Action Sub-Committee Reports on Latest News

*By Myran Cotton  
Co-chair, Political Action Sub-Committee*

I am honored to be appointed as your



*Myran Cotton and Charley Mims greet former State Sen. Rod Wright at the Jan. meeting.*

co-chair of the Political Sub-Committee along with the Honorable Barbara Calhoun. We encourage you to participate and help us to keep our elected officials accountable and our interests a priority.

Congratulations to the Honorable Barbara Calhoun for winning her election as Compton Community College Board of Trustee. Barbara has also been a Councilwoman for the city of Compton and a trustee on the Compton School Board. She has represented the city of Compton with loyalty and integrity.

I also would like to thank our committee members who volunteered and worked with us to phone bank, canvass communities and walk precincts. This is what it's all about, working together collectively and getting the information to our members,

family and friends.

This year has been exciting for SEIU 721 Retirees. SEIU 721 won major victories this year. We were successful in getting Gavin Newsom elected for Governor, Tony Thurmond for California Superintendent of Public Instruction, Alex Villanueva for L.A. County Sheriff and many others. We also saw an increase in diversity among our elected officials. We flipped seven Congressional seats in California from

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*Barbara Calhoun was elected to the Compton College Board of Trustees.*



# Big Fun Had By All at 2018 Holiday Party



## ARA

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organizing tool and writing letters to our editors.

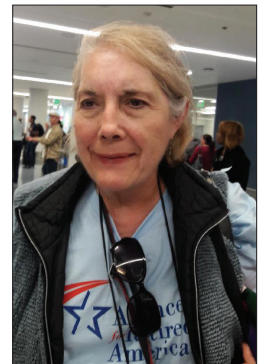
Thanks, SEIU, for enabling us to participate in this conference. From our firsthand involvement, we can see the importance of such empowering conferences to help grow our ranks in order to move toward actions that can make a difference.

In Unity,  
Dan & Bernadette Burke

Leana Babinaux thought the conference was very educational and the information was very good. She would have liked more workshops and fewer speeches. She felt she spent too much time walking up and down the halls. But, she did appreciate the short flight to Las Vegas. (Reported by Edwina Chism)



Yolanda Roybol was glad to meet people from all over the country at the ARA meeting, all with the common goal of spreading the word that we're in for a fight! She feels empowered to spread the word that we've got to keep Social Security and Medicare. (Reported by Edwina Chism)





## Political

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red to blue including ALL the seats in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Fifty-four women were elected in California into state and federal offices. We have quite a bit of work ahead of us, but we are well prepared for the challenges and opportunities that 2020 brings.

### Upcoming events:

California Democratic Party State Convention, which will take place from May

31-June 2, 2019 in San Francisco.

U.S. Department of Commerce will be opening 40 area 2020 Census offices throughout California through March 2019. We will be inviting them to discuss the procedures and how we can engage in the process.

The City of Los Angeles and LAUSD will have an election on March 5, 2019.

We came together to defeat the anti-worker Prop. 6. Unfortunately, Prop. 10 and Prop. 8 were rejected. They would have allowed local governments to enact rent control on any type of housing, and

capped profits for Dialysis corporations.

The New Year started out with a bang. Our committee hosted the January meeting. Our Special Guest was the Honorable Roderick Wright, former California State Senator and Assemblyman.

He lit up the audience, informing us on the many topics of the past, the past year and what we should be focused on in the future.

Please join our Political Sub-Committee and help us keep our members, community and families well informed in these troubled times.

# Retiree Committee Members - Out and About



Martha Hunter, 3rd from left, and Doris Wallace, 3rd from right, pose with Buffalo Soldiers on August 8, at the APR Conference in Phoenix, AZ.



Yolanda Toure, center, poses with a friend and Larry Frank at the MLK Breakfast sponsored by the L.A. County Federation of Labor in January 2019.



Yolanda Toure greets Rusty Hicks, L.A. County Fed president, during the MLK Breakfast at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown L.A.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 12, 10 a.m. Retirees Committee Meeting  
Women's History Month  
1545 Wilshire Blvd., Auditorium  
Los Angeles, CA
- April 9  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Retirees Committee Meeting  
Health and Wellness Fair  
1545 Wilshire Blvd., Auditorium  
Los Angeles, CA
- May 14, 10 a.m. Retirees Committee Meeting  
Mother's Day Salute  
1545 Wilshire Blvd., Auditorium  
Los Angeles, CA

*Share upcoming events with any Communications Sub-Committee*

### SEIU Retirees Committee

## Newsletter

Produced quarterly by the  
Communications Sub-Committee

Committee Chair - Charley Mims  
Committee Liaison - Gloria Aguilar

Communications Sub-Committee  
Edwina Chism, Carey Eatmon,  
Lemoria English, Rollyn Intari,  
Cora Jackson-Fossett, Samuel  
James, Betty Nasir, Robby Rivera,  
Gerald Smith Sr., Mary Smith,  
Jean Sweeny and Kerrie Thomas.

## Retirees Committee Members – Take Advantage of SEIU Member Benefits

Call (844) 836-7348 or visit [seiumb.com](http://seiumb.com) for details about the following SEIU Member Benefits

**Financial Services** – A variety of products are available such as prepaid, secured or Platinum Edition SEIU Visa Card, SEIU Personal Loans for under \$5,000 and over \$5,000, and SEIU Home Financing Program.

**Insurance** – SEIU offers Group Term Life Insurance, Guaranteed Issue Life Insurance, Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance, Family Childcare Insurance, and Auto and Home Insurance.

**Education** – Eligible SEIU members and their families can earn an Associate Degree or Certificate online without having to pay for tuition, fees or e-books.

**Travel** – Receive hotel discounts at Red Roof Inn and rental car discounts at Alamo, Dollar, Enterprise, Hertz and National.

**Discounts** – A variety of SEIU Member discounts are offered including AT&T and Costco.

### Family Defender Legal Benefit

This legal benefit plan is specifically designed for SEIU Local 721 members and covers a range of services including Legal Consultations, Wills, Lawsuits, Traffic Violations, Real Estate, Bankruptcy, Divorce, Child Support and more for a nominal fee. For information, call (877) 802-9740 or (855) 518-5297 or visit [uslegalservices.net/companies/SEIU721](http://uslegalservices.net/companies/SEIU721).

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