

Net Neutrality is at Risk

“Net neutrality” is once again under attack, putting in jeopardy fast, fair, and affordable internet access for all.

In 2014, millions of Americans turned back an attempt by corporate giants to destroy net neutrality. But now, a proposal by Ajit Pai, Donald Trump’s FCC head, is threatening to overturn the Open Internet rules adopted in 2015 to protect consumers and prohibit the slowing down, blocking, and paid prioritization of internet content.

Under the current net neutrality rules, internet service providers (ISPs) must provide citizens with open networks. They cannot block or discriminate against any applications or content that travel over their networks.

Pai, a former Verizon lawyer, is pushing to reclassify broadband as an “information” service, rather than a “telecommunications” service. This would alter the FCC’s ability to regulate high-speed internet. Verizon and its ilk stand to make huge profits from the change, while consumers will pay more for less.

If Pai gets his way, an ISP could slow down a competitor’s content or block content with which it disagrees. It could sell premium plans to those people or corporations who could

afford exorbitant fees, while leaving others with a slower tier of service. (Did you ever have dial up?)

Open access to the internet has been crucial to many social movements, including, for example, Black Lives Matter and the Women’s March, two groups that have successfully used on-line forums and social media to organize.

The Communications Workers of America (CWA) has long supported rules to ensure an open internet and net neutrality in general. CWA and other organizations, including national civil rights, environmental and labor groups, have called for the FCC to implement four principles of net neutrality: free speech; no blocking; no unjust or unreasonable discrimination; and transparency.

On July 17th, CWA and the NAACP issued a joint statement that the FCC must “protect the openness that is critical to the internet’s success” while encouraging “investment by broadband providers and application, content and service providers.”

Recently, more than 9.7 million people sent the FCC comments regarding Pai’s proposal after a day of action promoted by John Oliver and supported by privacy rights groups and companies that rely on the open internet, including Microsoft, Google, and Amazon.

CWA has noted that the development of broadband networks has been stalled over the net neutrality debate, stating “It’s critical that we end the gridlock and shift our focus to the investment that will allow the U.S. to catch up with the rest of the world.”

Contact the FCC to support net neutrality. Updates are available at speedmatters.org. Speed Matters is a project of the CWA to support policies to bring affordable high-speed internet to all Americans.

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Beware of Fake Petition

Be aware that a group leading the effort to repeal Michigan's Prevailing Wage Law is misrepresenting the intent of their petition when asking people for their signature.

Michigan's Prevailing Wage Law requires contractors to pay their workers union-rate wages and benefits on state-financed or state-sponsored projects. Repealing prevailing wage requirements would hurt Michigan workers and allow contractors to hire cheap, unskilled labor.

The petition that people are being asked to sign is a direct attack on workers' hard-won negotiated pay and health care benefits.

"There is only one prevailing wage petition being circulated and its intent is to benefit big contractors and out-of-state construction companies at the expense of our local economies and Michigan workers," said MiARA president Dick Long.

"MiARA members should never allow Michigan workers to be stripped of the protections that they now have under Michigan's Prevailing Wage Law. Union brothers and sisters stay vigilant."



**Warning Fake Prevailing Wage Petition
DO NOT SIGN THIS PETITION!**

MiARA Activist Spotlight Harvey Miller

Harvey Miller received this month's MiARA Activist Spotlight recognition for his long and faithful service to his union, the Michigan Education Association (MEA).

How one person could have accomplished all that this immediate Past President of MEA-Retired has done in his lifetime is a mystery. Recently inducted into the Pine River Hall of Fame (the school district where he spent many years as a teacher, principal, superintendent and proud MEA member), this honor is but one of the many that this humble, humorous, dedicated and versatile public servant has received during his never-dull life—so far.

Harvey not only started the 15-B Chapter of MEA-Retired in 1997, but he has also been its president for 20 years. He has been a member of the MEA-Retired board of directors for over a dozen years, and served as MEA-Retired President from 2010 to 2013. As immediate Past President, Harvey remains on the MEA-Retired Board and chairs its public relations committee. Harvey encourages retirees to stay active in their union and their community.

Harvey and his wife Barbara have both retired after serving Pine River for the final 30 years of their teaching careers. Their daughters have continued in the family tradition, teaching in the Mancelona and Potterville public schools.

In addition to assuming the roles of superintendent, principal at every level, Federal Programs Coordinator, "all around helper in the athletic department," and teacher in the Pine River Area Schools, Harvey has served the Village of Tustin as President, Clerk and Trustee. Harvey has been Chair of the Osceola County Democratic Party for the past ten years and is currently a member of the county's Jury Commission.

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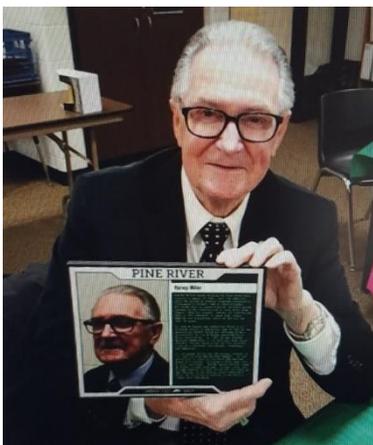
MiARA Activist Spotlight Harvey Miller *Continued*

Harvey's many honors include the Pine River EA Outstanding Persons in Education Award, Honorary Membership in the Michigan High School Coaches Association for his "Outstanding Contributions to Michigan High School Football and Prep Athletics" and the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association's Award for "Molding Student Journalists."

In his presentation at the Pine River Hall of Fame ceremony, Miller's former student Darrell Holmes heaped praise on his teacher. "Mr. Miller greeted every student entering his classroom every day."

"His sense of humor and mischievous smile made even the hardest classes worth taking and his classrooms were always full of students who became better people because of his high expectations for each one of them," said Holmes.

When people first meet Harvey, their first impression is of a mild-mannered gentle soul wearing a fine tweed fedora. But, Harvey is one very committed, very vocal and witty individual. Pine River was lucky to have a person of Harvey's caliber in their community. His dedication to his students his union and public education can be matched by few.



Harvey Miller proudly displays his Outstanding Person in Education award from the Pine River EA.

ARA Members Celebrate Birthdays of Landmark Legislation for Seniors

This summer the National Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) celebrated the 52nd and 82nd anniversaries of Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, the major federal laws that protect the standard of living for senior citizens in the U.S.

The ARA and its chapters across the country have marked the occasion by celebrating the legislation's birthdays and promising to continue to work hard to aggressively defend and strengthen these programs and the protections that they provide for all Americans.

The ARA warns that we are currently witnessing one of the largest assaults on retirees and seniors with threats and cuts to the programs they rely on.

The ARA pledged to continue to mobilize its members to act, to continue to petition and lobby members of congress on those issues important to retirees and their families, and to keep its members informed of the latest legislative attacks.

MiARA Secretary and President of Michigan Education Association-Retired, Judy Foster agrees, commenting that "Washington and Lansing politicians are busy making proposals that may have a huge impact on our pensions and healthcare." Foster notes that "Both state and federal legislative bodies are moving quickly and decisions are on a fast track for approval."

According to Foster, "At the national level, Medicare, Social Security and health care proposals are big issues. It is not clear yet how these things will be altered but there are rumblings that changes are coming."

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ARA Members Celebrate Landmark Legislation

Foster listed three important facts to keep in mind about Social Security and Medicare from the Office of Social Security and the Office of Retirement and Disability Policy:

- Social Security and Medicare are paid for with a separate tax; they add nothing to the national debt.
- Social Security has a \$2.5 trillion surplus.
- Congress has borrowed trillions from Social Security.

Polls have consistently shown that the American public strongly supports these social programs across party and demographic lines.

According to Foster, “The time has come when we must speak up and make our voices heard, beginning now.”

“Whatever your feelings happen to be, remember you can express your opinion November 2018, when 33 Seats in the U.S. will be up for election, 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, and 14 governorships, including Michigan,” Foster said.



Members of the North Central Florida chapter of the ARA brought cake outside the office of U.S. Rep. Daniel Webster (R-FL) to celebrate the success of the federal programs that protect seniors and to protest President Trump’s proposed budget cuts.

Michigan Union News: MEA Members Elect New Officers

The Michigan Education Association Representative Assembly elected new officers for a three-year term beginning September 1, 2017 at their spring RA. Paula Herbart, a music teacher from Fraser, will serve as the new President; Chandra Madafferri, a high school teacher from Novi, was elected Vice President; and Brett Smith, a fifth-grade teacher from Linden, was elected Secretary-Treasurer

MEA-Retired members thank outgoing officers Steven Cook, Vice President Nancy Strachan and Secretary-Treasurer Rick Trainor for their outstanding service to MEA members, both active and retired. President Cook retires having served for 26 years. He holds the record for the longest tenured officer of any NEA affiliate.

MiARA Fall Meeting Set

Please mark your calendar. The next MiARA General Meeting has been set.

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

11:00 am

UAW Region 1A

9650 South Telegraph Rd.

Taylor, MI 48180

Lunch will be served

MiARA Executive Board

Dick Long, President, (UAW)

Henry Lykes, Executive Vice-President, (AFSCME)

Richard McInerney, 1st Vice-President, (USW)

Charlie Robinson, Treasurer, (AFT-MICHIGAN)

Judy Foster, Secretary, (MEA)

Board Members from State Sustaining Organizations

Warren Danford, (UAW)

Arthur Kroll, (USW)

Jack Schneider, (MEA)

Bob Sisler (AFL-CIO)

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