

## Watch for New Medicare Cards in the Mail Now

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services is sending new cards with new Medicare numbers to everyone with Medicare. Instead of your Social Security number, your new Medicare card will include a new number unique to you. This will help to protect you against identify theft and protect Medicare from fraud.

Medicare will automatically mail your new card to the address you have on file with Social Security. If your address is up to date, there is nothing you must do. But, once you have received your new card, take these steps to protect your information and identity

### Protect Your Identity--Destroy Your Old Card

Make sure you destroy your old card to help protect your Social Security Number and other personal information.

### Start Using Your New Card

Doctors, other health care providers and plans approved by Medicare know that Medicare is

replacing the old cards, so carry your new card with you. They are ready to accept your new card when you need care. *Your Medicare coverage and benefits will remain the same.*

### Important! Keep Your Medicare Advantage Plan Card

If you are in a Medicare Advantage Plan (for example, an HMO or PPO), keep using your Medicare Advantage Plan ID card whenever you need care. However, you should also carry your new Medicare card---you may be asked to show it.

### Protect Your Medicare Number Like You Would Your Credit Cards.

Only give your new Medicare number to doctors, pharmacists, other health care providers, your insurer, or people you trust to work with Medicare on your behalf.

Beware of people contacting you about your new Medicare card and asking you for your Medicare number, personal information, or to pay a fee for your new card. Medicare will never contact you uninvited to ask for your personal information.

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## Important Elections are Coming Soon

The 2018 elections will be upon us before we know it. School districts in 66 communities have already held elections on May 8, 2018.

The Democrats, Republicans, and other parties will have primaries on August 7, 2018. The Democrats will finalize their slate in August and the Republicans will hold their nominating Convention on August 25, 2018. All this leads up to the November 6, 2018 General Election.

Retirees have lost ground since President Trump was elected. Many of the protections that President Obama put in place to boost the standard of living for seniors have been eliminated by executive orders issued by President Trump. In order to safeguard those issues important to retirees, it is imperative the **BLUE-WAVE** continues in our upcoming elections, and that we work to elect officials who will have our backs.

The 2018 election is important to the future. America's democratic values depend on the outcome. The control of Congress and the appointment of federal judges, including the Supreme Court, will be at issue in this election. Without a majority of Democrats in the U.S. Senate, it will prove difficult, if not impossible to stop President Trump from appointing radical right-wing judges to the bench.

The American Legislative Exchange Council, (ALEC) and the Koch Brothers, bring millions of dollars into the 2018 election cycle. ALEC is a shadowy group of companies and politicians working together behind closed doors to rewrite laws that frequently bolster corporate profits at any cost. ALEC and other right-wing Republican groups will by far outspend Democratic candidates. They may have the money, but we have the votes. It is vital that we mobilize to get out the vote.

MiARA members must be active. We must learn about the candidates, contribute money' and work at the grassroots level to support those candidates who support our interests.

Many MiARA members who voted the absentee ballot in previous elections have received an application for an absentee ballot.

If you have not, you may still qualify for an absent voter ballot. Check with your city or township clerk if you are:

- Registered to vote.
- Age 60 or older.
- Physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- Expect to be absent from the community in which you are registered for the entire time the polls will be open on Election Day.
- In jail, awaiting arrangement or trial.
- Unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons.
- Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct or residence.



## **MiARA Activist Spotlight**

### **Richard A. McInerney**

### **Retiring MiARA Board**

### **Member**

Richard McInerney, or as his friends call him, Mac, has worked hard to ensure that his fellow retirees are able to spend their retirement years with all the benefits they worked so hard to enjoy.

Mac's interest in the National Alliance for Retired Americans inspired him to help establish our state MiARA chapter. Mac was part of the MiARA Founding Convention in 2012 and was elected to the board where he served as secretary. He was elected as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President in 2016, the position he held until announcing his retirement from the board this year.

Mac and his wife Lucy have been married for more than 50 years. They have two children; a daughter, Jeanette, and a son Kim, and two grandchildren, Megan-Renee and Matt. Because he wants to spend more time with his family, Mac decided to readjust his busy schedule and announced that he would not seek re-election to the MiARA board at its recent convention.

“Mac's commitment to the Alliance has been enormous. He always helped steer the Board Members into making the right decisions,” Said MiARA President Dick Long.

Mac joined the United Mine Workers in 1965. In 1972, he served on the Organizing-Merger Committee with the United Steelworkers of America (USW). Throughout his career, Mac served in multiple positions with USW Local 12934, including acting as shop steward and being part of the bargaining committee. Mac was elected President of Local Union 12934 in 1976; a position he held for 30 years. Mac served as a delegate to the United Steelworkers Constitutional Conventions from 1974 to 2006. He is president

of SOAR – Chapter 29-2, the USW organization for active retirees.

Complimenting his union activism has been Mac's Democratic Party and Civic involvement. He has served the Democratic Party as a precinct delegate and as a member of the State Central Committee.

Community activism has been a major part of Mac's life. He was a founding board member and vice-president of the 1016 Home in Midland, a treatment center for drugs and alcoholism. Mac was on the board of the Michigan Association of United Way and was elected as Secretary-Treasurer for the Midland County United Way. Mac also served on the board of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Advisory Committee on Quality of Work Life for Delta College, and The Dow Chemical Company Community Advisory Committee. As a board member of his local emergency food pantry, Mac was responsible for organizing the SHARE food program in Midland, Gladwin and Claire Counties, and he was a founding member of D.A.R.E. in Midland County.

In 1989, Mac received the Armory Houghton Community Service Award from the Dow Corning Corporation in recognition of his commitment to community service.



*President Dick Long, fellow MiARA Board Members and the membership wish Mac nothing but the best and want him to know how much we appreciate all he has done for MiARA.”*



## Be SMART: Grandparents Are Your Guns Stored Safely When Your Grandchildren Visit?

The four-year-old girl was looking for candy while visiting her grandparents in North Tampa, Fla. Instead, she found a handgun, then she accidentally shot and killed herself.

According to the nonpartisan group, Moms Demand Action, each year in the U.S. nearly 300 children aged 17 and under gain access to a firearm and unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. Nearly 500 more die by suicide with a gun.

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America has developed the SMART framework to help parents and adults prevent gun deaths and injuries, with their SMART campaign.

- S – Secure all guns in your home and vehicles.**
- M – Model responsible behavior around guns.**
- A – Ask about the presence of unsecured guns.**
- R – Recognize the risks of teen suicide.**
- T – Tell you peers to be SMART.**

Kids will be kids. They won't always make good decisions about their own safety. Always assume that curious or impulsive kids may find and touch an unsecured gun, even if they've been told not to.

If a child handles a gun, a bad decision can quickly become a fatal one. SMART adults protect kids by storing guns locked, unloaded and separately from ammunition, and by making sure that children are never in the presence of unsecured guns.

What can you do? It's simple. Spread the "Be SMART" message. Talk to your friends and family about the importance of responsible gun storage and get the word out in your community.

## Memorial Day is a Time to Honor Our Fallen Veterans



Memorial Day is a day to pay tribute to the men and women who died in service to America. In 1868, former President and then Congressman James A. Garfield attended the widely-held ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery to honor both the Union and Confederate deceased. He spoke the following words:

“We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue.”

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