

February 28, 2010

As we move closer towards the beginning of Spring I think we can all sense the opportunity ahead of us as salaried retirees. Let me give you a brief review of what NCRO has been working on last year and what we want to accomplish this year.

NCRO Ongoing Mission and Focus

Mission:

1. Protect pension and other benefits
2. Inform, Educate, and Communicate
3. Support American workers, jobs, and products
4. Build camaraderie and fellowship

Quarterly Breakfast meeting -- Mark Your Calendars! The Next meeting May 26 at the Venetian

If you didn't get a chance to attend the breakfast meeting last week you really missed out on a great meeting. The streets were amazingly snow free after a heavy snowfall from the day before. David E Davis's anecdotes were thoroughly enjoyed by the attendees. Chris Dyrda reviewed the meetings we had with congress in DC last month, what we accomplished and the legislative agenda we put together with the NRLN while we were there. I reviewed NCRO's 2009 accomplishments and objectives for 2010. And after the main meeting over 150 members attended the "best way to buy or lease a new car" meeting given by Ryan Evans of Chrysler's Great Lakes Business Center. I wanted to thank all of you for your support and for what we have accomplished working together.... But of course the job is not done.

NCRO 2009 Results

Together we got through a very anxious year for retirees.... Chrysler's bankruptcy, potential loss of healthcare, potential loss of pensions, meetings with the Auto Task Force, loss of SRP, elimination of EL lease cars for retirees, significant changes in Medicare Advantage premiums, a major federal effort in healthcare reform... all while growing the membership from 1,200 to 6,000 increasing our operating and CAF funds, hiring legal counsel to represent us in bankruptcy, meeting with and lobbying our elected officials in MI and DC, heavier integration into NRLN leadership, aligning with GM, Ford, Delphi and Visteon retirees to share lessons learned, developing and presenting information on supplemental Medicare insurance programs for those over 65 and developing a Retiree Friendly set of dealers that are willing to work with retirees and treat us with the respect we deserve after years of service. **Quite a year!!!!**

NCRO 2010 Objectives

But the job just continues... In 2010 we want to build membership to 12,000, grow the CAF in the event that we need it, hire an auditor for the books, continue and improve the lobbying effort, connect with other retirees to strengthen our numbers in the lobby effort, continue to integrate into NRLN management and build grassroots efforts in key congressional districts that will allow us to influence congress to develop laws that protect salaried retirees in bankruptcy.

Key Elements of our Legislative Agenda

During the 60's our generation changed the world. Now in retirement we need to change the way the world (and more importantly) the laws treat retirees.

The only way to protect our pensions is through Legislative and Regulatory change. You should currently be receiving Action Alerts from the National Retirees Legislative Network (NRLN). The last one was received Feb 25th from Bill Kadereit. Please respond to these. We support NRLN with a portion of your dues and our time through various committees and are members of the board of directors of NRLN. For this reason, when you receive an Action Alert that requests you write or visit your Congressman, please comply.

In the coming months you will not only hear from the NRLN but you will receive requests from the NCRO to write, call or contact your Senators and Representatives regarding issues that are important to all of us. Some of you will be requested to meet with your Congressmen. Don't worry, we will provide talking points to support you... (And now you know why we need your complete 9-digit zip code!). Securing our futures through pensions and healthcare protection should be a top priority for all of us. Please help us help you.

Here's the agenda we developed at the January 2010 meeting with the NRLN which we took to Congress when we visited our Senators and Representatives:

PENSION ASSET PROTECTION (PAP): NCRO advocates legislation that stops corporations from taking pension assets from defined pension plan trusts to pay for lump sum severance and early retirement incentives. Pension funds not be used to pay executive non-qualified pensions and other deferred compensation. Pension plan assets should not be transferred to or be taken over by third party financial or other institutions.

PBGC REFORM: The Pension Benefits Guaranty Corporation must be regulated to ensure equitable calculations of benefit payments earned by retirees.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM: The NRLN advocates that bankruptcy reform is needed to place retirees' pensions and benefits on the list of obligations that companies can't shed. Retirees often lose pension, health care, and other benefits and, unlike secured creditors, rarely have the ability to recover losses.

PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF RETIREE HEALTH CARE BENEFITS: MAINTENANCE OF COST PAYMENT:

A "Maintenance of Cost" Payment (MCP) proposal would establish a fixed monthly payment to retirees equivalent to the value an employer provided prior to the reduction or cancellation of retirement health care, prescription drugs, life insurance, long-term care or other benefits. Companies would be entitled to tax credits as an offset to MCP payments.

MEDICARE BUY-IN FOR AGES 55-64: Retirees forced into retirement at age 55 to 64 should be allowed to buy Medicare coverage at a cost that does not burden the Medicare system. Access could be limited to individuals without access to an employer-sponsored or other group health plan that is actuarially equivalent or superior to Medicare.

INCLUSION OF CATASTROPHIC COVERAGE IN MEDICARE: Congress should extend protection against catastrophic medical costs to the Medicare population by setting a reasonable maximum limit on out-of-pocket costs.

PROTECT RETIREES IN MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS: Law that clarifies what a parent foreign owner's pension plan obligations are to abide by ERISA should its U.S. subsidiary be spun off or dissolved. Clarification must include situations where foreign corporations that own U.S. subsidiaries are also acquired by a third party, foreign-owned corporation.

REDUCE THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: The reduction of prescription drug costs for Americans through passage of legislation that: (1) Enables re-importation and importation of safe prescription drugs approved by the FDA; (2) Enables Medicare to develop formularies and take competitive bids for prescription drugs; (3) Staffs and funds the FDA to reduce the generic drug approval backlog; (4) Prevents drug companies from colluding to control pricing or subvert free market practices.

PROTECT MEDICARE: Congress must guard against reductions in Medicare expenditures that negatively impact the care that retirees receive from doctors, hospitals and other health care services.

PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY: Legislation to make Social Security financially sound without reducing current and future retiree benefits.

While meeting with the NRLN in DC we also had other fruitful meetings

We met with and discussed issues with Retirees from GM, Delta Pilots, Kodak, Lucent, Deere, DTE Energy, SBC, Southwest Bell and others to share lessons learned.

Met with the PBGC representatives who in 2009 the PBGC took over 150 terminated plans with 200,000 participants to learn more about how their process works so that we might help develop legislature to improve it.

We together with NRLN, GMRA and the Delta Pilots retiree organization met with the Judiciary Sub Committee on bankruptcy. We made them aware that retirees do not get recognized in court, cannot obtain retiree lists, and have little ability to claim assets. This is a key area that we will be following up on with our grass roots efforts. We will be working with NRLN to finalize White Papers on Bankruptcy, PBGC and Mergers & Acquisitions issues.

Retiree Friendly Dealer Program

We added Cueter Chrysler Jeep Dodge in Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor to the RFD list. We now have signed up 6 Detroit Metro dealers that will sell vehicles to retirees using a "no hassle" process. They are Crestwood Dodge Chrysler Jeep, Cueter CDJ, Golling Chrysler Jeep Dodge, Southfield Dodge Chrysler Jeep, Telegraph Dodge Chrysler Jeep and Galeana's Dodge. We have another 4 in process. Go to <http://www.ncro.org> for details on the process as well as who to contact at the dealerships to schedule an appointment. Once your appointment is completed feel free to log onto the NCRO blog at <http://blog.ncro.org> to report your experience. We use your blog comments to monitor the dealer's follow through on their commitments.

Remember the vouchers are good through December 31, 2010. This incentive program is in addition to most other retail vehicle incentives. Participants who cannot locate their voucher should contact the Rebate Hotline at 1-800-227-0757, select Option #3, and a representative will provide the original voucher number. " They will also help you with the complete list of incentives which include Employee Pricing, the above voucher certificate, consumer cash and special financing. Listed below are several typical vehicles incentives levels that were reviewed at the breakfast meeting. Incentives change monthly but we'll list the new incentives on the website. Stop in at the website or at a Retiree Friendly Dealer to check it out!

Dodge Charger RT/Charger AWD APR Combo

4.9% for 72 Months instead of \$3,000 Customer Cash
\$1,558 HEMI cost Discount from EP No Charge HEMI Equipment
\$3,000 Company Car (\$3,000/\$2,000/\$1,000) Voucher-varies by model
\$1,500 Company Car Select Owner Loyalty-Company Car Termination Req.
\$6,058 Total towards Purchase of Dodge Charger plus 4.9% for 72

or

6.9% for 72 Months instead of \$2,000 Customer Cash AWD is a different rate
\$1,558 HEMI Cost Discount from EP No Charge HEMI Equipment
\$1,820 All Wheel Drive Cost Discount from EP NO Charge AWD
\$3,000 Company Car (\$3,000/\$2,000/\$1,000) Voucher-varies by model
\$1,500 Company Car Select Owner Loyalty-Company Car Termination Req.
\$7,878 Total towards Purchase of Dodge Charger plus 6.9% for 72

Dodge RAM Stand Alone APR Offer

4.9% for 72 Months instead of \$2,500 Customer Cash

\$1,500 Bonus Cash
\$3,000 Company Car (\$3,000/\$2,000/\$1,000) Voucher-varies by model
\$1,500 Company Car Select Owner Loyalty-Company Car Termination Req
\$6,000 Total Towards Purchase of Dodge RAM plus 4.9% for 72 Months

Town & Country LX Purchase and Lease Example

\$1,500 Customer Cash
\$1,000 GMAC Bonus Cash (Must Finance/Lease through GMAC)
\$2,000 Company Car (\$3,000/\$2,000/\$1,000) Voucher-varies by model
\$1,500 Company Car Select Owner Loyalty-Company Car Termination Req.
\$6,000 Total towards Purchase of T&C LX
\$2,500 GMAC Lease Bonus Cash
\$8,500 Total towards Lease of T&C LX

Jeep Compass-AARP Exclusive Purchase (If you are AARP member)

\$1,500 Customer Cash
\$1,000 Bonus Cash
\$1,000 Company Car (\$3,000/\$2,000/\$1,000) Voucher-varies by model
\$ 750 AARP Bonus (Membership Required)
\$1,500 Company Car Select Owner Loyalty-Company Car Termination Req.
\$5,750 Total Towards Lease or Purchase

We encourage you to continue to buy Chrysler products and ask that you encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same. Remember you also have access to the Employee Advantage Program that has been renewed for the 2010CY. Retirees have 6 Employee Purchase (EP at 95% of invoice) numbers and 6 Friends program (FP at 99% of invoice) numbers available for use. Log on to the program at <https://www.ea.chrysler.com/employeeadvantage/login2.jsp> I know we are upset with the Company due to the way that we have been treated regarding health care, life insurance, pensions, and lease cars. However, buying a competitor's product does not keep the Company strong and our pensions intact and we all need our pensions intact.

That's it! Thanks and have a happy and healthy 2010!

Your NCRO (Volunteer) Team

(Remember no one in the NCRO gets paid for his or her efforts. All funds go towards expenses designed to secure your future benefits and pensions so come on down and help us!)

Chuck Austin, Chris Dyrda, Vicki Bonus, Mike Cipponeri, Rick Golpe, Roy Sjoberg, Jerry Koenigbauer, Mike Kane, Mike Aberlich, Deb Morrissett, John Glotzbach, John Argeropoulos, Stan Hurst, Dana Oliver, Sue Olejar, Brian Haw, Johnnie Johnson, Grainger Goodman, Pete Piccinato and Casey Mehta.

Sincerely,

Chuck Austin
President
National Chrysler Retirement Organization

Other Announcements and items of Interest:

Medicare -- Quarterly information Meetings

NCRO will continue to hold quarterly Medicare informational meetings to cover those individuals turning 65 and becoming eligible for Medicare during the year. We will try to coordinate these with breakfast meetings

beginning in May. If you have additional immediate questions you can also use the federal website to determine the best plan for you at <http://www.medicare.gov/Default.asp>

Membership Dues Reminder

We still have a large group of members that have not paid their 2010 dues. If you haven't already done so please submit your 2010 membership dues now. If your dues are not paid by March 20, your membership will become inactive.

If you don't know if you have paid you can review your records online to see if you have paid. If you paid your \$25 after July 29, 2009, you've already paid for the 2010 membership year.

If you are still not sure, you can confirm that you paid your dues in two ways:

One, you can click on the "Members/Member Administration/Review Your NCRO Registration" tab at our website www.ncro.org. Fill in your last name and NCRO registration identification number to review your personal information. If you do not know your NCRO registration ID number, fill in your email address and we will e-mail your ID number to you.

Two, contact either Mike Cipponeri at (248) 758-8703 or at mikecipponeri@comcast.net or Jay Kuhnle at JayKuhnle@yahoo.com to check if you have paid 2010 dues.

If you have not yet paid, you can pay via PayPal with a credit card by visiting "Members/Member Administration/Pay NCRO Dues" at our website www.ncro.org to pay your dues or **send a \$25 check to NCRO, PO Box 174, Washington Twp, MI 48094.**

Contingency Action Fund (CAF)

Also please consider making a totally voluntary contribution to our Contingency Action Fund (CAF). This is not a required contribution but we continue to ask our membership for a \$75 minimum contribution to the CAF which is used to pay our legal expenses. You can contribute by clicking on the **CAF** link on the homepage of our website www.ncro.org and follow the payment instructions or **send your CAF contribution to NCRO, PO Box 174, Washington Twp., MI 48094.**

Please indicate in the check's memo space "CAF Contribution". Also, please do not combine your CAF contribution with any other payment (such as breakfast meeting ticket, dues, etc) on the same check or PayPal payment. Please use a separate check.

Thank you for being a valued member of the NCRO and your continuing support!

March 16th Bankruptcy Court Hearing

The next Chrysler bankruptcy hearing is March 16th. NCRO will have our attorney present to gain insight into the status of our claims.

One of the claims he will be following is the NCRO claim for \$4.05 billion on behalf of salaried retiree health care and life insurance benefits for those over 65 at the time of bankruptcy. While we realize there may be little chance of recovery at least the NCRO is leaving "no stone unturned". With the twists and turns of actions in bankruptcy it is better to file a claim for lost benefits and hope for the best than to allow the claim to go unfiled.

SRP Activities

If you are an SRP recipient and haven't sent your email address and info to Jeff Chiapetta at chiapet@wowway.com please send it to him now. We are developing a plan of action that will affect SRP recipients.

Lifetime of Oil Changes

For those of you purchasing a new vehicle Fenkell Glass is offering oil changes for the life of your vehicle every 3000 miles for \$225. Fenkell has been replacing glass on lease cars for Chrysler for many years. If you have purchased a car you will be keeping you should check it out at www.fenkell.com and yes, if you keep proper records this qualifies to keep your warranty intact.

Volunteers needed for our committees

We have a large group of volunteers. We will be contacting you during the month of March to determine where you can best help out. Here are the various committees, their leaders and their objectives that will be contacting you. Remember, no one in NCRO at any level gets paid for his or her work, so we need volunteers to spread the workload. We are in special need of IT experienced people. If you would like to participate in one of these please email your name, email address and phone number and committee that interests you Dana Oliver at [Dana Oliver](mailto:Dana.Oliver@ncro.org)

Technology Committee - Rick Golpe - Develop and maintain NCRO website and technical activities.

Insurance Committee - Frank Ceci - Investigate possible insurance programs for members. Initial focus on post 65 retirees.

Membership Committee - Jay Kuhnie - Grow membership and increase membership value.

Political Action Committee - Deb Morrissett - Work with NRLN and membership to develop lobbying plan with legislative leaders to support retiree healthcare and retiree rights in bankruptcy.

Pension Committee - John Glotzbach - Work with NRLN and membership to improve PBGC insurance of pensions post bankruptcy.

Bankruptcy Committee - Chris Dyrda - Work with NRLN and membership to improve retiree pension and benefit protection during bankruptcy.

Event Committee - John Argeropoulos - Plan, implement and execute NCRO quarterly breakfast meetings and other meetings as required.

SRP Committee - Jeff Chiapetta - Investigate SRP issues and develop plan to recover it.

Legal Issues Committee - Dana Oliver/Stan Hurst - Provide legal support for NCRO activities.

Regional Clubs Committee - TBD - Maintain and improve communications and support for regional clubs.

Technology Committee - Rick Golpe - Develop and maintain NCRO website and technical activities.

Procedure for Snowbirds Completing the Census Forms

Snowbirds from Michigan need to be careful on how they fill out their census information. If you are in Florida (or any other state) someone from Michigan will have to mail the census forms to you in a separate envelope. The post office will not forward the census forms with the other normal mail. If you fill out Florida forms they will be counted as Floridians.

If you can legally claim Michigan as a residence, please do! It means federal dollars will be spent in Michigan which badly needs your support!