



VOTE FOR OUR NEXT PRESIDENT ON NOVEMBER 8

# Workers United Retirees Association Issue 7

## WE MUST ENGAGE SENIORS IN VOTING

Election season is fast approaching and it is important that we educate and mobilize seniors in our community. The next President and elected officials will be able to implement changes to our Social Security, Medicare and many other programs that are important to seniors. We want to ensure that we vote for candidates that are going to strengthen these programs. In order to do that we must engage seniors in our community, prepare them for the elections, educate them about the issues and ensure that they cast their ballot. Below are a few steps that each chapter can do to engage seniors in their communities.

### Register seniors in your community to vote:

Register seniors at senior centers, chapter or club meetings, and community/religious gathering. **Each chapter should have a goal of how many seniors they plan to register to vote.**

For more information about voting, call one of these hotlines:

1-866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (en Español)

1-888-API-VOTE (Asian multilingual assistance)

or visit their website: <https://www.usvotefoundation.org/>

**Beware of the deadlines in your state:** Each state has its own deadlines for voting as well as absentee ballots. It's important that chapter members understand – The

process to register individuals to vote in your state; the deadline to request an absentee ballot; as well as when to return it; and lastly; the identification you need to vote. You can obtain all of this information by calling the number to your local Board of Elections office. It's also a good idea to invite guest speakers to a chapter meeting to explain the voting rules and deadlines in your state.

**How does each candidate stand on issues that are important to seniors?** If you need to know how each candidate stands on issues concerning seniors call us and we will mail you the congressional voting record from the Alliance for Retired Americans that gives each candidate a grade based on their voting record. Then you can, provide copies of the congressional record to chapter members and voters in your area.

**Once seniors are registered:** Help them get the necessary information or items to vote. Do they have the proper identification to vote? If they need to vote absentee, assist them in the process to ensure they get an absentee ballot application.

**Follow –up:** Call or visit them to ensure they're able to send back the absentee ballot and/or to remind them to vote on Election Day.

## RETIREE PROFILE: JIMMY DEANE from Canada

Jimmy Deane came to Canada from Dublin, Ireland 50 years ago with his wife Pearl. As he says in a joking manner, *"She must have been crazy to follow me but she did."* Many years later they are still happy with 3 kids and 4 grandkids. Jimmy retired from Coppley Apparel as a special order cutter.

He made beautiful suits that appeared effortless but took tremendous skill and accuracy to create. Jimmy Deane was able to perform that same magic in the union. He is a



hard worker that makes everything seem effortless and possible. He has a spirit that makes everyone feel at ease and welcomed. Underneath that easy-go-lucky guy is a man rooted in integrity and commitment to ensure that we guide our union with a moral compass at all times. Despite his humble demeanor, Jimmy has been a union member for 50 years. In those 50 years, he served as a Local President, Ontario Council President, and Executive Board Member of the Hamilton and District Labour Council.

Jimmy got involved with the union because he did not like the way he was being treated. He felt the union could be more effective representing the needs of the members if it "actually listened" to them. Also, he realized that the union provided education. Jimmy saw education as a vehicle to build a better life for oneself and to make a better union. He took advantage of that education and became an executive member of his Local 210C and he continued to learn and advance in the union. As he advanced he brought more and more members and working class folks to the table with him. Judy Lackner, a retired business agent and founding member of our association states, "Jimmy would always have a table full of delegates at the council meetings, he would fill his car with stewards and representatives from Coppley Apparel. The same was true for the many rallies, strikes, parades and protest. He would organize busloads of people to join whatever was happening. You could always depend on Jimmy for whatever needed to be organized or done. I

can't count the times that Jimmy would go to work early to get his work done at Coppley Hamilton and then head out to Toronto for executive meetings."

Barry Fowlie, Director of our Workers United Canadian Council states, "Jimmy brought that flame of international solidarity and the fight to working class rights with him to Canada." He always urged people to be involved, to be heard, to participate no matter what country or area "we are all workers," is what Jimmy would say.

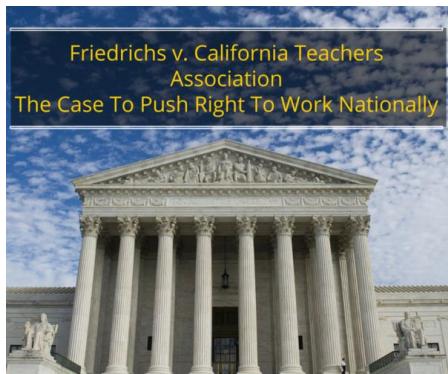


Now, as a retiree, Jimmy encourages all of us to get our younger members involved. Jimmy states, "We as retirees have to encourage them to move forward, help them gain the confidence and share our experience but most of all listen. They have their own set of skills, language and technology and it's our job to encourage them. They have the passion and the fire to move our movement forward."

The latest project Jimmy and his committee took on was forming a Coppley Apparel retiree group. Judy Lackner states, "It was not easy getting this off the ground but he will do whatever it takes to help his retirees. They have been meeting for the last year and are building a retiree chapter."

Our union is resilient because of members like Jimmy Deane. We proudly thank Jimmy Deane for his dedication to our union.

## 2016 UNION UPDATES



The **Friedrichs vs. California Teachers Association case** was recently decided upon by the Supreme Court. The result was victorious for union members. It continues to allow for public workers across America the opportunity to work together to improve working conditions that lead to a collective bargaining agreement. The California Teachers Association stated, this has been the practice for the last 40 years, the attempt to change it is an attempt by corporations and conservative groups to silence workers voices. The Center for Individual Rights a conservative Liberian group pursued this litigation on behalf of Rebecca Friedrichs, who sued the Californian Teachers Association for being required to pay a portion of her union dues called fair share. In the arguments to the Supreme Court she states that having to pay fair share dues when she is not a part of the union violates her First Amendment Right of the United States Constitution. In essence, she wanted to be able to have the benefits of a collective bargaining agreement without having to pay any portion of her union dues.

All public sector employees can choose if they want to participate in the union. If they decided they do not want to participate in the union then they only have to pay what is called "fair share" which is a percentage of your union dues. The fair share percentage covers the cost for the collective bargaining agreement and representation in disciplinary process. The California Teachers Association and unions know that it is not a violation of her First Amendment Rights. It is an attempt by conservative foundations and corporations to weaken the ability of workers bargaining a good contract.



The Supreme Court decision was a tied 4-4 decision. This means that the Supreme Court will uphold the lower court ruling. In this case the lower court ruling decided that all members have to pay their fair share. This is a great victory for working people and unions.

## NEW FOR 2016: MEDICARE OFFERS END-OF-LIFE COUNSELING



"I'm sorry, but Dad's final wishes were that you didn't get to sit in his chair."

Source: [www.ktoo.org/2016/03/19/126434](http://www.ktoo.org/2016/03/19/126434)

Last September, a Kaiser Family Foundation poll found 89% of the public said that doctors should discuss end-of-life care issues with their patients, though just 17% of Americans and 34% of people 75 and older—said they have had such conversations. As of January 2016, Medicare has added a benefit called, "End-of-Life Counseling" or as some refer to it "Advance Care Planning." This allows you to have a 30 minute counseling session with your doctor to go over living wills, hospice care, and other end-of-life issues. You can get advice on how to make your wishes known about, if-and-when you want life support measures, such as, ventilators and feeding tubes to be used if you were to need it. You can also talk about how to appoint a family member, friend, or spouse to make medical decisions on your behalf if you are not capable of doing that for yourself.

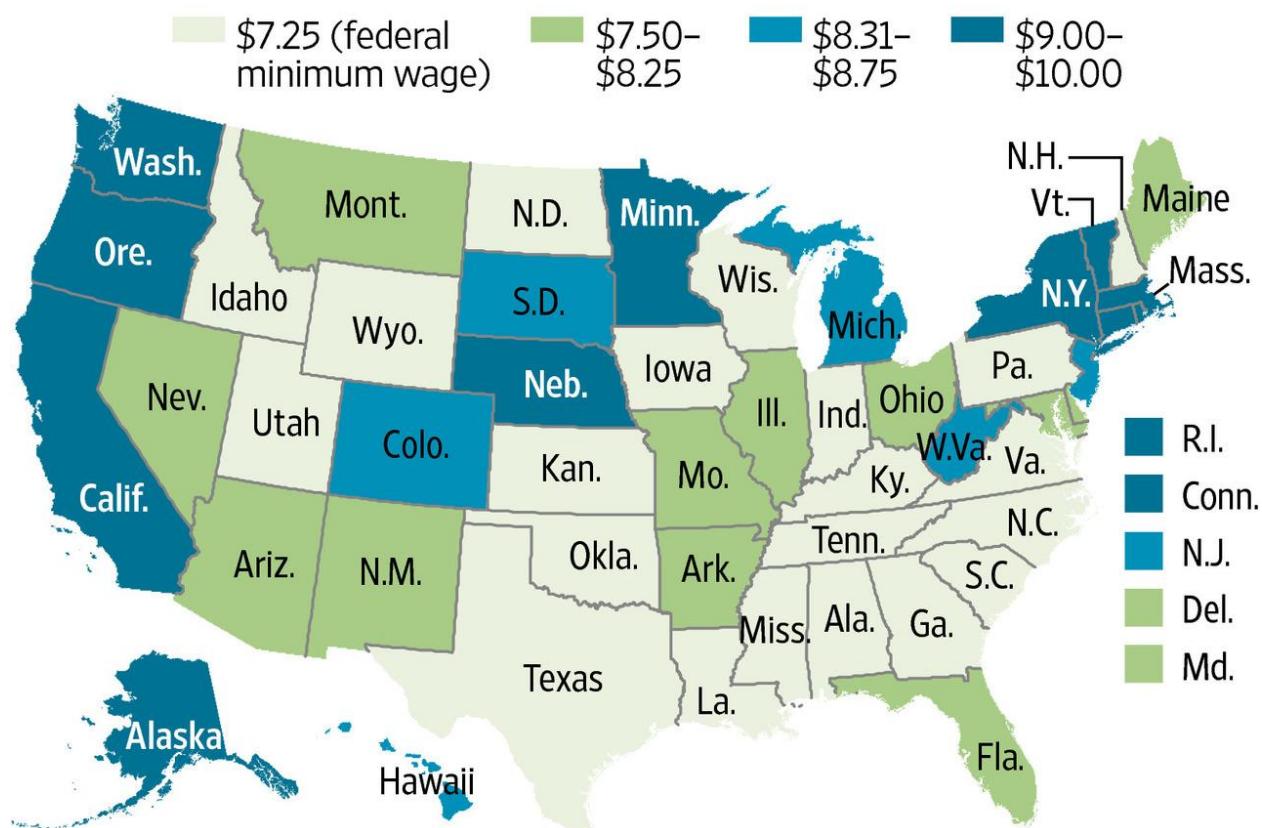
## WE ARE WINNING THE FIGHT FOR \$15 AN HOUR

### The Fight for 15 - We did it in New York & California!!!

We want to thank all the retirees that have participated in actions for our union's Fight for 15 campaign. Many cities have increased the minimum wage due to our Fight for 15 campaign. Recently, we won again when the state of California and New York passed regulation that creates a path towards increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. We must continue to put pressure until all states are at \$15 an hour.

## Wage Floors

The minimum wage exceeds the federal rate of \$7.25 an hour in 29 states. Several states are scheduled to have further increases in coming years and lawmakers in California and New York are moving ahead with a \$15 rate.



Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

## RETIREE HIGHLIGHTS: OUR RETIREES MAKING AN IMPACT

On behalf of our Workers United Retirees Association, our Director-Yadhira Alvarez and the Chicago Retiree Chapter donated money and clean bottled water to the residents of Flint, MI affected by the lead poisoning in their water supply.



### Flint, MI Faces a Toxic Water State of Emergency Crisis

Earlier this year, Michigan's City officials decided to switch the water supply from Detroit's water system to the Flint River, then the city added iron and lead to the water—which contaminated the water. They choose to do this to reduce the expenses for Michigan's state budget. Soon after, the residents of Flint who are mainly Blacks and low-income minorities started to complain about the water's color, taste, and odor and reported rashes and concerns about bacteria. Currently, the quality of the water in Flint is improving.



The St. Louis Retiree Chapter phone banks for the 2016 Presidential elections.



Sherry Dennis has been elected to the ARA's Southern Region Executive Board.



Tommie Blocker with James Kenney—the newly elected Mayor of Philadelphia.



Hillary Clinton, the 2016 Democratic Presidential Candidate, with our Chinese retirees at a union meeting.

Lana Cheung, Agnes Wong & May Chen with Hillary Clinton, who remembers speaking at the ILGWU convention about 30 years ago and the garment workers teaching her how to sew.

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## WE ALL NEED A HEALTH PROXY AND HERE'S HOW TO GET ONE

A health care proxy (also known as a durable power of attorney for health care, medical power of attorney or appointment of a healthcare agent) is a legal document that lets you appoint another person to express your wishes and make health care decisions for you if you can't speak for yourself. You don't have to be terminally ill for a health care proxy to go into effect. You only need to be unable to communicate your wishes due to temporary or permanent illness or injury. In some cases a doctor may have to certify that you are incapacitated. If you regain the ability to make your own decisions, you will again be able to speak on your own behalf. You do NOT need a lawyer to write or get a health care proxy. **You can get a health proxy form by requesting it from your doctor, hospital, or you can have someone do an internet search for a free health proxy form and print it out. Once you print it out, this is what you do with it:**

- Complete and sign the form. Ask two other people to sign the form as witnesses.
- Give a copy to the person you appointed, your primary care doctor, and other important family members. (It's also a good idea to carry a copy in your wallet or purse, in case of an unexpected emergency.)

If you don't create a health care proxy and can't make health care decisions for yourself, state law determines who can make decisions for you.

- Most states have laws that let close family members and others act on your behalf if you haven't appointed a health care agent.
- In a few states, if you fail to appoint a health care agent, decisions about health care may be left to your doctor or hospital administrators. In these states, your loved ones may have to go through a costly, time-consuming court process to get the legal right to make medical decisions for you.

Source: [www.medicareinteractive.org/get-answers/caring](http://www.medicareinteractive.org/get-answers/caring)