

## September 2, 2013 E-Newsletter

### Executive Director Ed Coyle Announces His Intention to Retire



**Edward F. Coyle**, who has been the Executive Director of the Alliance since its launch in 2001, announced this week that he plans to retire soon. During his dozen-year stewardship of the Alliance, Mr. Coyle steadfastly supported seniors on Capitol Hill through numerous battles over Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid; led the way for retirees to victories in key federal and state elections; and chartered 34 state Alliance affiliates with hundreds of local chapters. He said that he will stay until a successor is named.

In reaction to the announcement, **Barbara J. Easterling**, President of the Alliance, said, “With Ed at my side, I have always known that the Alliance’s positions would further the organization’s goals of economic justice and increased retirement security for all Americans. He has been a pleasure to work with. We are sorry to lose him as our Executive Director, but we hold on to his creative spirit and forceful energy that he brought to the job every day. I think that all of our activists and staff join me in wishing Ed the best and saying a gigantic, collective ‘thank-you.’”

“Ed has been a true leader, and he has done an outstanding job,” added **Ruben Burks**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “He has been there for all of us. He will be sorely missed, but he promises to keep in touch.”

### Rhode Island Alliance for Retired Americans 2013 Social Security & Medicare Hero Award



On Friday, August 30, 2013, RI ARA President, John A. Pernorio presented Rhode Island Second Congressional District Congressman, Jim Langevin with its 2013 Social Security & Medicare Hero Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership & support for Rhode Island seniors, disabled & veterans.

Congressman Langevin told the 100 Johnston, RI Senior Center attendees that he will continue his support against any cuts to Social Security & Medicare including efforts to privatize Social Security and implement the Chained CPI to calculate the yearly COLA, Medicare Vouchers, means testing for Medicare and increasing the retirement age.

Also attending the celebration was Johnston, RI Mayor, Joseph Polisena. Mayor Polisena spoke about how Congressman Langevin has been a great asset to the residents of Johnston, RI, especially its senior citizens and the Johnston Senior Center.

A celebration cake was cut and served to the members.

Jennifer Kenny, Alliance for Retired Americans New England Field Organizer (pictured at right) also thanked the Congressman for his support.



# From the Rhode Island AFL-CIO

## Labor Day 2013



Labor Day is a welcome, and well-deserved, day off for millions of Americans. But it's worth remembering that Labor day is more than just a three-day weekend. Labor Day "is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers."

**Here are four important accomplishments of the labor movement that benefit all Americans:**

- **1. Unions Gave Us the Weekend**
- **2. Unions Helped End Child Labor**
- **3. Unions Won Widespread Employer-Based Health Coverage**
- **4. Unions Spearheaded The Fight For The Family And Medical Leave Act**

### Local Labor Day Events

The Battle of the Gravestones: Remember the Saylesville Massacre: the Rhode Island Labor History Society gathers in Moshassuck Cemetery in Saylesville on Labor Day to begin labor day by honoring our martyred union dead and to recommit to fight like hell for the living. This year's remembrance will be led by Brother Pat Brady from the Electricians Union.

In 1934, during the height of the Depression and one of the largest national strikes in history, 4 unarmed Rhode Island workers were killed by State Police and Militia Men called out by Governor TF Green to protect the Saylesville Bleachery in Lincoln, Rhode Island. It wasn't a "strike," he declared, but a "communist insurrection.

**When: Monday, September 2nd at 10:00am**

**Where: Moshassuck Cemetery-978 Lonsdale Avenue, Central Falls, RI [MAP](#)...[More Info](#)**

### LABOR DAY MARCH AND RALLY 2013:

**No More Second Class Workers:** Labor Day is Worker's Day! In the US, Labor Day is a celebration of the social and economic contributions of workers. However, here at home as well as abroad, too many workers are being treated as second class. Hotel Workers at the Renaissance, immigrant workers facing exploitation and retaliation, and Bangladeshi workers struggling to end deadly and dangerous working conditions are all in the fight so that everyone's labor can be valued justly. Join JwJ this year on Labor Day to say: "No More Second Class Workers!"

This year Labor Day will lift up local, national and international struggles for workers rights, including:

- The fight for justice at the Renaissance,
  - The campaign for immigration reform that protects workers' rights, known as the POWER Campaign,
- The fight in solidarity with garment workers in Bangladesh after the recent factory collapse that killed over 1300 workers.

**When: Monday, September 2nd at 4:30 pm**

**Where: Francis Street Lawn, Across from Old Navy in the Providence Place-Francis St, Providence, RI [MAP](#)**  
**[More Info](#)**

## HOW TO CHARGE \$546 FOR SIX LITERS OF SALTWATER

*Nina Bernstein, New York Times*



It is one of the most common components of emergency medicine: an intravenous bag of sterile saltwater.

It is no secret that medical care in the United States is overpriced. But as the tale of the humble IV bag shows all too clearly, it is secrecy that helps keep prices high: hidden in the underbrush of transactions among multiple buyers and sellers, and in the hieroglyphics of hospital bills....[Read More](#)

## SIMPLER MEDICATION, NO CO-PAYS LINKED TO BIG DROP IN HYPERTENSION

*Associated Press*

Research suggests giving patients easier-to-take medicine and medical visits with no co-pay can help drive down high blood pressure, a major contributor to poor health and untimely deaths. Those efforts were part of a big health care provider's eight-year program, involving more than 300,000 patients with high blood pressure. At the beginning, less than half had brought their blood pressure under control. That increased to a remarkable 80 percent, well above the national average, the researchers said....[Read More](#)



## NO SHOPPING ZONE: MEDICARE IS NOT PART OF NEW INSURANCE MARKETPLACES

*Susan Jaffe, Kaiser Health News*



While the Obama administration is stepping up efforts encouraging uninsured Americans to enroll in health coverage from the new online insurance marketplaces, officials are planning a campaign to convince millions of seniors to please stay away – don't call and don't sign up

"We want to reassure Medicare beneficiaries that they are already covered, their benefits are not changing and the marketplace doesn't require them to do anything," said Michele Patrick, Medicare's deputy director for communications...[Read More](#)

## IS WORKING LONGER REALLY A SOLUTION TO A STABLE RETIREMENT?

*Ryan Galloway, Forbes*

For most Americans, retirement by age 65 was always a matter of course. It was supposed to be the culmination of a career, the American Dream's final act. But as Baby Boomers—the 79 million people born between 1946 and 1964—approach retirement age, many are discovering that reality doesn't quite match their expectations.

A 2013 study conducted by Northwestern Mutual found that just 56 percent of Americans were financially prepared for retirement. Those who are unprepared often plan to continue working into their 60s, 70s, and even 80s. But while working longer is an increasingly pervasive strategy, it's one that rarely works...[Read More](#)



## HUGE SHORTAGE OF CAREGIVERS LOOMS FOR BABY BOOMERS, REPORT SAYS

*Tara Bahrapour, Washington Post*



Americans should expect an enormous shortage in caregivers for older people in the coming decades, with a dearth of friends and family members available to care for the baby-boom generation as it ages, according to a report released Monday by AARP.

The report, "The Aging of the Baby Boom and the Growing Care Gap," projects that by 2030 there will be only four potential caregivers available for each person 80 or older, down from a high of more than seven in 2010...[Read More](#)