



CARA Alert – June 9, 2018

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

CARA Statewide In-District Senior Lobby Day on June 8th A HUGE SUCCESS!! We won on SSI on June 8th TOO!

We did it!!! Over 250 CARA members participated in CARA's in-district lobby day on June 8th. We had over 100 meetings with State Senators and Assemblymembers in their district offices – some with the member and some with the staff. A few meetings happened earlier this week or are scheduled for next week. But CARA voices were heard, loud and clear, showing that we are truly statewide and truly unified in our efforts to support guaranteed health care for all (SB 562) and to raise SSI grants, reinstate the COLA, and allow SSI recipients to get food stamps (AB 3200) without threatening the food stamp benefits of any other CA beneficiary. Click [here](#) to see photos from some of our lobby visits.

And guess what? On Friday, June 8th, the budget conference committee, which includes leaders from both houses and the Governors' office agreed to include the COLA reinstatement and food stamps for SSI recipients in the 2018-2019 budget – with both scheduled to be implemented in January of 2019! This is huge – gigantic – stupendous. So many organizations were a part of the broad based coalition fighting for SSI justice, and CARA was an essential part of this effort. Although the final budget votes still need to take place, the fact that all 3 houses of our state legislature are in agreement means that these 2 parts of our 3 part ask to move SSI recipients out of poverty are just a step away from reality.

Every CARA member, and especially those of you who participated in our lobby day or who attended rallies, hearings, press events, told you story, signed petitions and more should be so proud of your work. It shows that even though these fights might take many years, we must never give up. All of our efforts led us to these victories, but there are many more fights before us. We still need to fight to raise the base grants for SSI, win guaranteed health care for all, provide more protections for renters and homeowners and build more affordable housing, and so much more. And with the victories of June 8th, we have the wind at our sails to continue these fights.

Thank you one and all for your great work on Lobby Day, and every day, on behalf of CARA, seniors and people with disabilities. Onward!



CARA BALLOT RECOMMENDATIONS WIN ON JUNE 5TH!

- YES ON PROP 68:** Parks and Clean Water Fund
- YES ON PROP 69:** Safer Roads and Protect Local Transportation Improvements
- NO ON PROP 70:** **NO supermajority vote requirement on cap and trade reserves**
- YES ON PROP 71:** Effective date for ballot measures – 5 days after certification by Secretary of State
- YES ON PROP 72:** Permits rain capture systems from property tax assessments

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SIGN UP FOR THE CARA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY IN JUNE IN ORANGE!

FREE for CARA MEMBERS. SIGN UP TODAY
Orange (Teamsters Local 952) on June 28th & 29th
Program from 10am – 8pm on first day; 9am – 4pm on second day

CARA's famous Leadership Academy 2-day training program is being offered on June 28th & 29th in the city of Orange! Workshop sessions are designed to be informative, interactive, and fun! During the course of the training, you will assess your leadership style, learn how to take your issue to policymakers and the media, practice your public speaking skills, and use social media to make your message heard. You will share your experiences with others as you work to build the strength of CARA and your organization.

The Leadership Academy is FREE for CARA Members and Affiliates. Members of the public who are not affiliated with CARA can attend with a \$50 registration fee. Refreshments and Lunch will be provided on both days, along with training materials. Dinner is also included. Space is limited so you must register by **June 21st**. There is plenty of free parking at the Teamsters Hall. For those who do not want to drive back and forth each day, CARA has reserved a block of rooms in Orange at the Doubletree Hilton. You can book a shared double room for \$80 per person, to be shared with 1 other person (some scholarships for rooms available too). To reserve a room and to register for either event, call CARA at 510-663-4086.

CARA's SENIOR VOTE PROJECT TO BEGIN PHASE 2 OF OUR WORK

With the June 5th primary behind us, we are gearing up for our continued outreach, education, and phone calls to senior voters in our 5 Congressional target districts. In all of these districts, the incumbent won, and there is another candidate (a Democrat in all 5 districts) running against the incumbent. Over the next few months we will be sending questionnaires to both Congressional candidates to determine their positions on key senior issues. We will publish these responses and share them far and wide with senior voters in these districts. We are planning Candidate/Election Forums around the state in September and will be inviting these candidates as well as candidates running for other statewide races to these events, as well as speakers to teach us about key measures that will be on the state ballot in November. Stay tuned to future CARA Alerts to find out about events in your area, and other ways to get involved. If you have not yet signed up to be a Senior Ambassador, and call a list of 20 senior voters in one of our 5 target districts, it is not too late. We will be starting phone calls again in late July so the time is now to sign up and get your list – and get involved.

You can contact CARA at:

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