

CARA for On line appeal - Giving Tuesday, November 30th

Tuesday, November 23 (one week before Giving Tuesday)

From: Pauline Brooks

Subject: ***Give Thanks to CARA on November 30th/ Giving Tuesday***

Dear Friends,

It's been 20 months that we have been sheltering in place. Some things have improved – most of us have been vaccinated, some with a booster. COVID cases in California are on the decline. Children will soon be able to get vaccinations as well, and offices, theaters, etc. are starting to slowly open in some capacity.

We have missed seeing you in person at our local CARA Action Team meetings, at the Capitol, and most recently at our Statewide Convention. We have moved most of our activities on line and via teleconference during the pandemic, but it is not the same as seeing you in person, seeing you smile, sharing a meal, a hug, a chant or song. We hope to get back together in 2022, but until then we plan to continue our advocacy and organizing virtually. And with your help, we can be even more effective in the year ahead. We will need to be stronger, more informed, more organized, and ready for what will be a busy 2022.



For the first time in years, we hope to engage at the federal level to Protect, Improve and Expand Social Security – instead of fighting to just hold on to this essential program. The new bill in Congress, HR 5723 (Larson), will increase the base grant and the COLA, close the WEP/GPO, staff the Social Security Administration, make it easier and faster to apply for SSI, SSDI, and begin to scrap the cap on taxable income to strengthen and lengthen the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund.

In California, even during this pandemic, CARA was able to pass important legislation, participate in developing the Master Plan on Aging which will be released by the Governor in January, and held over a dozen fabulous Friday forums and most recently, a statewide convention in October with over 800 participants. Thousands of seniors and people with disabilities participated in these events, and we have had a huge impact on local, state and federal elections because of it. CARA's 17 Action

Teams have continued to meet via Zoom and Teleconference every month – keeping each other connected and engaged in the issues of the day.

2022 is going to be a really important year to move our work forward, and build the senior movement so that our voices will be heard. It's the 2nd year of a 2-year legislative session when many of our priority bills will have a chance to move forward. Elections will be taking place at the local, state and national levels and we need to engage our Senior Vote Program so that seniors are informed and ready to participate in these important decisions. And hopefully, we will be able to do some of this work in person – in addition to developing our capacity to connect virtually with more and more of you. Finally, we are hoping to hire another full time and part time staff to help us build on our success and make 2022 a truly successful year.

I am writing today as the newly elected State President of CARA to ask you to help us meet these incredible challenges. CARA needs to raise at least \$5000 by the end of 2021 to close out this year in the black and set ourselves up to be ready to tackle the issues in 2022. Tuesday, November 30th is the national day of on-line giving, and we hope you will be able to donate. Fundraising has been challenging during this pandemic, with resources so desperately needed to keep us all healthy and safe. Now, as we slowly start to open up our businesses and services a little more each week, CARA needs to ramp up our own fundraising to make our plans a reality. You can help us.

CARA only asks for your support twice a year, and we are counting on the contributions of people like you to help us end 2021 in the black.

Please help us reach our goal by making a contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100 or of any amount you're able to make.

You'll be getting an email on November 30th asking for a contribution. Of course, you can donate now by [clicking here](#). **You can also send a check to the CARA office 1675 7th St. # 23754, Oakland, CA 94615-8777.**

As we take a moment this week to celebrate Thanksgiving, we want to say **THANK YOU** for being part of the CARA family and for all you do to improve the lives of seniors in our communities, state and the nation.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday

In unity,

Pauline Brooks, CARA President

P.S. You can make your early Giving Tuesday donation for \$25, \$50 or \$100 by [clicking on the donate button today below](#).