

RETIREE NOTES



Like many of their fellow sub-chapters, AFSCME retiree sub-chapter 55 made a financial contribution to Eldorado First Baptist Church Meal Ministry and other community organizations during the recent holiday season.



A life dedicated to justice

LONGTIME AFSCME ACTIVIST Jay Ferraro received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Rockford United Labor in October in recognition of his contributions to the labor movement in the greater Rockford region.

Now the president of Retiree Sub-chapter 69 in Rockford, Ferraro joined AFSCME in 1973 as a member working at the city of Rockford Water Department. There he served as steward, vice-president and president of Local 1058. In 1979, he was elected to the AFSCME Council 31 executive board. During his tenure, he helped workers organize unions at the Rockford Housing Authority, Rockford Public Library, Rockford Public Schools District 205, and Winnebago County.

In 1984, Ferraro became a staff representative with Council 31, working in the Quad Cities, Rockford, DeKalb, Freeport, and Dixon. Upon retiring

in 2011 he immediately joined AFSCME Retirees Chapter 31. He became Secretary for Rockford United Labor the same year. Today he is not only President of his Retiree Sub-chapter but an executive board member of Chapter 31 as well.

“The labor movement in Illinois has greatly benefited from Jay’s lifetime of activism and dedication to the rights of working people,” RUL President Sara Dorner said. “He serves as an inspiration to so many of us and we thank him.”

Build Back Better—how it will help seniors

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN’S Build Back Better plan has stalled in the U.S. Senate due to opposition from every Republican as well as Democrats Kirsten Cinema and Joe Manchin. The proposed package would bring positive change to the lives of millions of Americans. Senior citizens would benefit it a variety of ways, including:

- **Lower Health Care Costs:** The Build Back Better plan would add dental, vision, and hearing coverage to Medicare. It would also lower prescription drug costs by letting Medicare negotiate drug prices, so consumers are no longer at the whim of pharmaceutical companies.
- **Greater Access to Long-Term Care Services:** Aging individuals and people with disabilities deserve high-quality care that meets their unique needs and personal choices. The Build Back Better Act would invest

AFSCME RETIREES GIVE BACK

Retiree sub-chapters are focused on giving back to their communities, especially during the recent holiday season. Here are some of the organizations that benefited from the contributions of AFSCME retiree sub-chapters statewide:

- 4C’s Homeless Shelter & Food Pantry
- Alzheimer’s Foundation of Northern IL • BASICS, DeKalb County • Bloom Township Food Pantry, Buddy Bags
- CASA of Saline County • CCBA Food Pantry • Centralia Youth Center
- Citizens Utility Board • Coats for Kids, Union County • Community Food Basket in Ottawa • CRAFT Scholarships Program • Dixon Food Pantry • DuPage Family Shelter Service • DuPage Pads • Eldorado First Baptist Church Meal Ministry
- Emergency Rescue Corp • Erie Family Health Clinic, Waukegan
- Family Service Agency, DeKalb County • Fortitude Homeless Shelter • Galesburg FISH Food Pantry • Gallatin County Food Pantry • Goodfellows of Lee County • Harbor House Abuse Shelter • Hardin County Golden Circle
- Home to School Connection at Centralia City Schools • Honor Flight
- Hope Haven Emergency Shelter,

- DeKalb County • Humane Society
- Illinois Labor History Society • KFL-CSI-Kankakee Charity • Kumlar Food Pantry, Springfield • LaSalle Veterans Home • Livingston County Cops and Kid Program • Livingston County Food Pantry • Loaves & Fishes • Midwest Veteran’s Homeless Shelter • Northern Illinois Food Bank • PADS of Dixon • Red Cross of Quincy • Rockford Cancer Walk
- Salvation Army • Salvation Army of Quincy • Sandoval Shalom Food Pantry • Sangamon County’s Fifth Street Renaissance • Senior Center of Quanada • St. Vincent DePaul, Dixon
- Sterling Food Bank • Toys for Tots
- Veterans Assistance Commission, DeKalb County • Veteran’s Assistance Commission, Kankakee County • Veterans Quilt of Honor, Decatur • Veterans Wreaths Across America, Anna IL • West Suburban Food Pantry
- YWCA of Sterling

billions toward expanding access to quality, affordable home- or community-based services.

- **More Affordable Housing:** The Build Back Better plan includes \$500 million in

additional funding for Section 202 housing, a program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development that benefits low-income older individuals. These provisions would

help current and future retirees, and the average working American family. That’s why AFSCME continues to urge Congress to pass the Build Back Better Act. 