

# RETIREE NOTES



AFSCME retirees from Sub-chapter 16 (with US Rep. Robin Kelly) volunteered to get out the vote.



Sub-chapter 86 member Liam McDonnell phone-banking for Labor 2018.

## Retiree activism contributes to big election wins

RETIRES FROM ALL CORNERS of the state worked diligently to help labor-friendly candidates in the November general election.

"Chapter 31 members wrote letters, addressed envelopes, walked in parades, knocked on doors, made phone calls and worked on Election Day," Sub-chapter 55 President John Weir said. "We made sure we had boots on the ground across Illinois to protect our retirement security."

The hard work paid off. JB Pritzker ousted Bruce Rauner as governor and AFSCME-endorsed candidates across the state prevailed (see page three for election details).

"I helped plan eight AFSCME Labor walks and we had great attendance," Sub-chapter 87 President David Spinner said. "Retirees also attended endorsement events, giving our members

the opportunities to see and speak with labor-friendly candidates. On the campaign trail, JB Pritzker said that he saw me everywhere. I'm glad our newly elected governor saw how active AFSCME retirees are."

"Our members love volunteering for election work. We had a solid group at every walk and phone bank around Springfield," Sub-chapter 86 President Don Todd said. "We have a dedicated group of retirees

and I am incredibly proud. Our members knew that this year's election would have had dire consequences if we didn't work hard."

"Our livelihood was at stake," Sub-chapter 60 President Mary Jones said. "We worked hard for what we have, but retirees and working families were being attacked for just living our lives. That's why we phone-banked all the way up until the election."

"Retirees could not afford to sit out this election. Everything that we worked for as state employees was threatened," Sub-chapter 163 President Clyde Wilson agreed. "As retirees in Illinois, we were at the mercy of a government that doesn't care about us. We had to make a change."

And change was made. JB Pritzker and Juliana Stratton will take office on January 14.

"We are keeping the union strong so that retirees and workers can continue to live quality lives with dignity," Todd said. "I couldn't be happier that we ran out Rauner's clock."



AFSCME members and retirees from Sub-chapter 87 walking precincts for Labor 2018.




## Hearing aids for AFSCME members and retirees

HEARING LOSS DEVELOPS slowly and can go unnoticed for years. But those with untreated hearing loss suffer from poorer physical and emotional wellbeing and can experience extremes of anger, frustration, anxiety, depression and social isolation.

The AFSCME Advantage benefits program includes access to the National Hearing Aid Discount Benefit Plan. Working and retiree AFSCME members and extended family who may need help with hearing loss can register for free annual hearing screenings at a nationwide network of locations.

The program assures that participants are dealing with reputable providers and allows them to purchase hearing aids at discounts of up to 70 percent from several different manufacturers. It includes three years of repair warranty, loss and damage coverage, cleanings, check-ups and free batteries. No-interest financing is an option for many, and those who already have hearing aids can purchase extended warranties.

This AFSCME members-only benefit is provided through Hear in America. Call 1-800-286-6149 to register for a free screening. 



## Did you know?

**To be an AFSCME Retiree Chapter 31 member, you must sign an AFSCME Chapter 31 membership card after you retire!**

Retiree dues are only \$3.00 a month and will be deducted directly from your pension check upon your authorization.

By joining AFSCME Retiree Chapter 31, you'll be taking a stand for retiree rights and improved benefits. You've earned your retirement benefits; now join the fight to protect them. Become a member of AFSCME Illinois Retiree Chapter 31 today—it's the best investment a retiree can make!

**For more information or to request a membership card, please contact Kate Morthland, AFSCME Council 31 Retiree Coordinator, at 217.788.2800**