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- Election of Officers and Board of Directors
- NYSARA Actions from May 2017
- Keynote Speaker - Richard Fiesta, ARA Executive Director

- Presentation - Communications - Lessons Learned through the Constitutional Convention Issue Consideration - NYSARA Executive Director Steve Madarasz
- Regional Business and President's Reports
- Where We Go From Here - Barry A. Kaufmann, NYSARA President and Steve Madarasz, NYSARA Executive Director

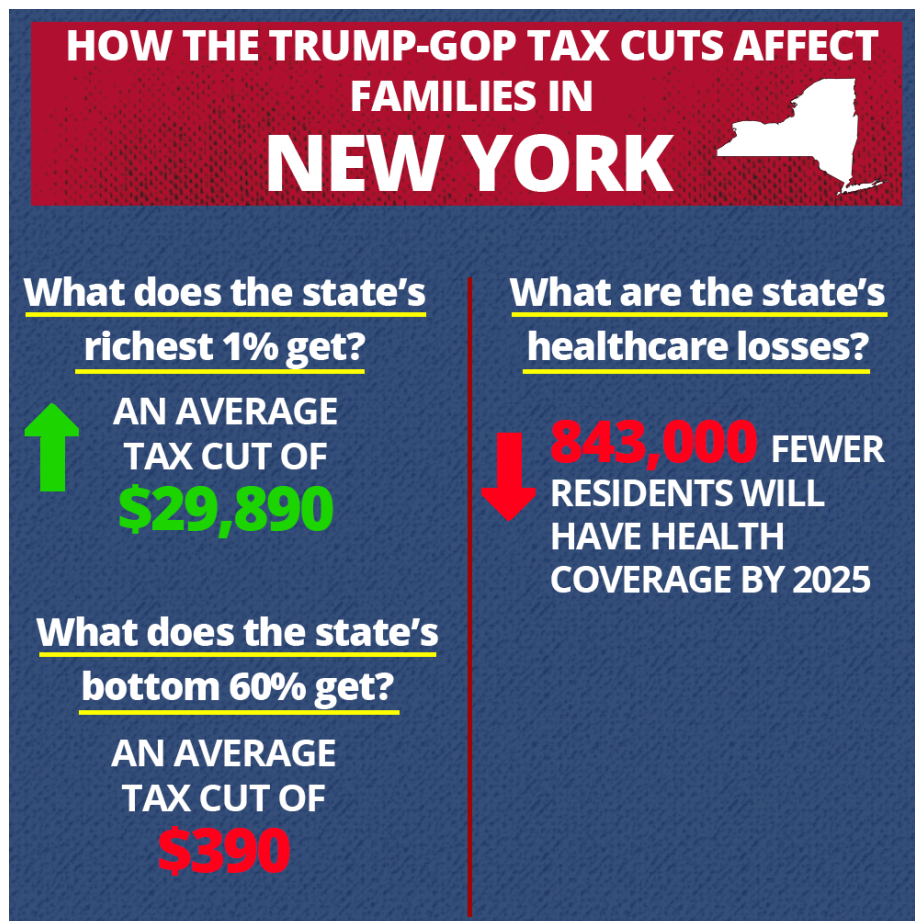
The early registration deadline has ended. If your registration was NOT postmarked by April 9th the cost of attending the convention is \$20 IF available.

How Medicare Recipients Will Benefit from the New York Health Act Benefits from Single Payer/Medicare of All

NYSARA President Barry A. Kaufmann was on a conference call with the group New York Health Strategies, which included Assemblyman Richard Gottfried (D/75th District), Chairman of the Assembly Health Committee in order to determine and activate methods that may enable the passage of the New York Health bill. This bill would provide a single payer/Medicare for all in New York. The fear by Medicare recipients is that this bill would compromise Medicare is unfounded. In fact this bill seeks to expand Medicare coverage and mitigate costs. Our partners from the Campaign for New York Health also informed us that our joint effort to complete the Health Rights and Access Survey was a success and exceeded their expectations. **NYSARA members were responsible for over 1/3 (35%) of the total surveys completed. A significant effort and success.**

Today Medicare recipients spend an average of \$6,100 -- 22% of their income -- on health care. The New York Health Act will eliminate out-of-pocket costs for all New Yorkers, ending financial worries when seeking health care. New Yorkers will pay less in New York Health premiums than they have been paying to insurance companies and in out-of-pocket expenses, and they will get the health care they need when they need it.

HEALTH CARE SERVICE	Medicare	NY Health
Hospital care	Deductibles & Copays	\$0
Physician Care	Premium, Deductible, Copays	\$0
Prescription Drugs	Premium, Deductible, Coinsurance, Copays	\$0
Dental, Hearing, Vision Care	Not Covered	\$0
Long-term Care	Not Covered	Fully integrated within two years of enactment*



At a rally, in front of Congressman John Katko's office, on April 6th Bill Spreter, President of the Central New York Chapter of NYSARA said of the Trump tax cuts *"We are very concerned that the Trump tax cuts will blow a hole in the budget, and will be used to justify cuts to Medicaid and Medicare. At first, we project those cuts to be cuts of a thousand cuts. They'll be done a little bit at a time so people don't even notice."*

Paul Ryan Retirement Brings a Sigh of Relief to Millions of Seniors

House Speaker **Paul Ryan** (R-WI) announced on Wednesday that he will not run for re-election. Democrats rejoiced after he announced his decision, saying his departure is a sure sign that a Democratic wave is going to deliver them the House in November.

In 2012, Ryan unveiled a federal budget blueprint that would have ended Medicare as we know it and slashed Medicaid dramatically. He long sought to privatize Medicare and turn it into a voucher program, which would have dramatically shifted costs to enrollees. [The Kaiser Family Foundation calculated](#) that under Ryan's plan, out-of-pocket medical expenses for the typical 65-year-old in 2022 would come to half his or her Social Security income — double the level under traditional Medicare.

Earlier in his career, Ryan was an advocate for partially privatizing Social Security by allowing younger retirees to steer a portion of their payroll taxes into retirement accounts. That idea collapsed in 2005 as the Alliance worked hard to stop it.

Reporter and columnist Michael Hiltzik [wrote](#) in the *Los Angeles Times* of Ryan, “Of all his powers, the ability to cloud Washington journalists’ minds was the most remarkable.”

“Ryan came after our retirement security time after time,” said **Robert Roach, Jr.**, President of the Alliance. “Fortunately for older Americans and anyone who wants to retire one day, we were able to stop his most dangerous plans from becoming law. Now we must make sure we protect retirees from whomever GOP House members elect as their next leader.”

House Majority Leader **Kevin McCarthy** (R-CA) is widely viewed as a likely successor to Ryan, either as Speaker if Republicans maintain control of the House in November, or as Minority Leader if Democrats capture the majority. House Majority Whip **Steve Scalise** (R-LA) said that he would not challenge Rep. McCarthy if McCarthy runs to lead the caucus.

Balanced Budget Amendment Fails in House

A balanced budget constitutional amendment failed in the House on Thursday. A two-thirds majority was needed for passage, and the vote was [233-184](#).

“We are grateful to the 6,000 Alliance members who responded when we asked them to send an email to their House member urging a NO vote,” said **Richard Fiesta**, Executive Director of the Alliance. “Proposals that would cut our earned benefits are coming fast and furious, and we need to be ready to respond quickly to beat them back.”

If the measure had passed, it would have a dramatic impact on the nation’s economy. Of concern to retirees, the Social Security Administration would be prohibited from using its trust fund reserves to pay current beneficiaries. That means the amount paid in any given year would have to come from the payroll taxes collected in that year. If there was a shortfall, it would result in benefit cuts for beneficiaries.

Don't Blame "Entitlements" for the National Debt

A group of economists from the Hoover Institution, a conservative public-policy think tank at Stanford University, recently noted that the federal budget deficit is on track to exceed \$1 trillion next year and get worse over time. However, according to



economists **Martin Neil Baily, Jason Furman, Alan B. Krueger, Laura D'Andrea Tyson and Janet L. Yellen**, the [Hoover economists were wrong](#) to argue that so-called “entitlements,” including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, are the sole cause of the deficit problem, while the budget-busting tax bill that was passed last year was described as a “good first step.”

In a *Washington Post* column, the five prominent economists noted that the federal budget was in surplus from 1998 through 2001, but that large tax cuts and unfunded wars have been huge contributors to our current deficit problem. They cite reduction in tax revenue from last year’s GOP tax cuts, not an increase in spending, as the primary reason for the enormous deficit.

“The tax cuts passed last year actually added an amount to America’s long-run fiscal challenge that is roughly the same size as the preexisting shortfalls in Social Security and Medicare,” they wrote. “The tax cuts are reducing revenue by an average of 1.1 percent of GDP over the next four years.”

They state that Social Security needs only modest changes to restore its 75-year solvency.

“Additional revenue is critical because Social Security has become even more vital as fewer and fewer people have defined-benefit pensions,” they note.

Pointing to flaws in the Hoover Institution's assumptions and methodology, they recommend "starting with spending goals based on the priorities of the American people," and then setting tax policy to realize adequate revenue to meet those goals.

“Laura D’Andrea Tyson, Janet Yellen and their writing partners were right to address the Hooverites' claim that benefits for the middle class and working class are ‘the problem,’ but tax cuts for the rich are the cure,” said **Joseph Peters, Jr.**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance. “Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are under constant attack, and we need experts to speak up when the other side tries to win by tricking us with deeply-flawed arguments.”

For a printable or pdf version of this document, [click here](#).

The New York State Alliance for Retired Americans is an organization of 490,000 activists across NYS advocating on behalf of seniors and their issues.