



Fact Sheet

Overview

The National Retirement Planning Coalition (NRPC) was formed in June 2002 by a group of financial industry and advocacy organizations to address the growing national crisis in "Retirement Readiness." Through an extensive national campaign designed to raise public awareness of the critical need for retirement planning, the NRPC is dedicated to providing Americans with the information they need to effectively build and manage comprehensive retirement plans. The coalition's ongoing goal is to demonstrate that it is possible to "Retire On *Your* Terms.®"

National Retirement Planning Week 2003

National Retirement Planning Week – November 17-21, 2003 – is the annual kick-off event for the National Retirement Planning Coalition's retirement education program. This year, noted economist, former presidential speechwriter, author and actor/comedian, Ben Stein, has been selected to serve as the Coalition's honorary chairperson. He will launch National Retirement Planning Week through a series of national media appearances. Stein steps into the position previously held by Senator Bob Dole, who served as honorary chairperson for the 2002-3 year.

NRPC Honorary Chairperson – Ben Stein

Ben Stein was born November 25, 1944, in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Columbia University in 1966 with honors in economics, and graduated from Yale Law School in 1970 as valedictorian of his class, where he helped to found the Journal of Law and Social Policy.

Stein has worked as a poverty lawyer in New Haven and Washington, D.C., a trial lawyer at the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C., and a university adjunct at American University in Washington, D.C., at the University of California at Santa Cruz, and at Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA.

In 1973 and 1974, he was a speechwriter and lawyer for President Richard Nixon and then for President Gerald Ford. He has been a columnist and editorial writer for *The Wall Street Journal*, a syndicated columnist for the *Los Angeles Herald Examiner* and King Features Syndicate, and a frequent contributor to *Barron's*. He has also been a regular columnist for *Los Angeles Magazine*, *New York Magazine*, E! Online, and also has

-more-

National Retirement Planning Coalition Fact Sheet – Page 2

written a lengthy diary for 10 years for *The American Spectator*. Stein also writes frequently for *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, op. ed. and almost every other imaginable magazine.

Stein has written and published 21 books and seven novels, largely about life in Los Angeles. He has written nine nonfiction books about finance and about ethical and social issues in finance, and also about the political and social content of mass culture.

Stein has been a longtime screenwriter, and he is also an extremely well known actor in movies, TV, and commercials, including *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, and the seven-time Emmy Award-winning, "Win Ben Stein's Money." He appears regularly on the FOX News Channel, he is currently a celebrity judge on the CBS show, *Star Search*, and is currently working on a detective show for CBS.

Stein lives with his wife, Alexandra Denman, his son, Tommy, four cats and two large dogs in Beverly Hills.

NRPC Programs

The National Retirement Planning Coalition is undertaking a number of initiatives to motivate Americans to begin the retirement planning process:

- A national television, radio and print media campaign with Ben Stein
- Updated consumer retirement planning Web site: www.RetireOnYourTerms.org
- Consumer retirement risk-avoidance information and resources
- Financial advisor training courses offered to provide qualified advice to the growing number of retirees

Coalition Members

The National Retirement Planning Coalition was formed by a group of leading financial industry and advocacy organizations, including:

- **Actuarial Foundation** – An organization dedicated to contributing to and influencing the understanding and resolution of present and future social and economic problems by: investing in innovative education, research and communications initiatives; using actuarial capabilities; and collaborating with universities, governments, industry, professions and others with similar missions. www.actuarialfoundation.org

National Retirement Planning Coalition Fact Sheet – Page 3

- **American Savings Education Council (ASEC)** – A coalition of private and public sector institutions undertaking initiatives to raise public awareness about what is needed to ensure long-term personal financial independence. www.asec.org
- **International Foundations for Retirement Educations (InFRE)** – A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization working to advance the retirement interests of today's workers. InFRE was formed to help solve the impending retirement crisis by developing and offering to professionals the education and tools necessary for them to help the American worker plan for a successful retirement. Its two respected certifications, the Certified Retirement Counselor (CRC) and the Certified Retirement Administrator (CRA), set the standard for retirement-focused professional education. www.infre.org
- **National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC)** – A non-profit joint venture dedicated to providing support to family caregivers and the professionals who help them, and increasing public awareness of issues facing family caregiving. www.caregiving.org
- **National Association for Variable Annuities (NAVA)** – An alliance of financial organizations dedicated to promoting the growth, acceptance and understanding of annuity and variable life products to retirement-focused Americans. NAVA provides educational and informational resources to the public and to the industry, and protects consumers by encouraging adherence to the highest ethical standards by insurers, distributors and all other industry participants. www.navanet.org
- **National Preretirement Education Association (NPEA)** – An association established to encourage and promote the development and delivery of comprehensive preretirement programs for members of public retirement systems. www.npea.com
- **Retirement Solutions Foundation** – A foundation that aims to formulate prudent investment standards for retirement plans and to cultivate future savers in today's teenagers. www.retirement-solutions.org

Contact Information

George Millington
Walt & Company Communications
2700 Augustine Drive, Suite 200
Santa Clara, CA 95054
(408) 496-0900, Ext. 2974
NRPC@walt.com