

# Connection

## Connie's Korner

The election is finally over! I would like to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication through this long and sometimes difficult process. I know all of you have worked extremely hard this election cycle. The countless meetings you all attended, the phone banking and block walks all played a major role in limiting our losses.



Unfortunately, with the changes that took place on November 2, our work load has significantly increased. Once again a majority of Americans voted against their self-interest. The loss of a progressive House of Representatives has put the future of Social Security and Medicare in jeopardy.

I wish we had time to take a minute to catch our breath and recharge our batteries, but the work begins in earnest. We have a full agenda. We must be prepared to defend Social Security and Medicare. The National

Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform clearly has both of these much needed programs squarely in their sights as they attempt to reign in spending. We need to continue our fight for a trade policy that works, and goods jobs for our fellow Americans.

Congress must focus on the economy. Creating good family supporting jobs will resolve many of the issues that angered the electorate. When people work, they contribute to the tax base that supports our government and maintains our infrastructure. Payroll contributions fund Social Security and Medicare. That is why we need a manufacturing policy that will create jobs and stop the erosion of our economy.

We need to continue our fight for retirement security and other issues important to working families and retirees. It cannot happen without all of us working as hard on our agenda as we did in this election.

Again, thank you for all that you do! I look forward to working with each and every one of you as we continue our fight to protect and enhance the quality of life of retirees and working families.

*Connie Entrekina*, SOAR President

**DON'T CUT SOCIAL SECURITY**

**NATIONAL CALL  
CONGRESS DAY**

November  
**30<sup>th</sup>**



Call your Senators on November 30<sup>th</sup>  
1-866-529-7630

Tell them: NO to Social Security benefit cuts.

**Hands Off Social Security!**

### From the Director's Desk

Obviously, we are all disappointed with the outcome of November's election. However, SOAR, the USW International Executive Board and I are extremely pleased with the performance of SOAR and our union during this campaign. The energy we brought to the electoral process to define the important issues facing working people was second to none.

We are proud of the sacrifices and diligent contributions made by our SOAR officers and members and the literally thousands of Steelworker members and their families who took an active part in this campaign. We made a definite difference in the areas where we mobilized our members and despite the final outcome, we can hold our heads high knowing that we did all we could to advance the agenda of working families and our nation's retirees.

In this process, we energized a new core of our membership to political activism. We need to build on this force in order to assure that there will be even more of us in the future working to ensure that the voices of retirees, workers and working families are listened to in our communities.

While we've lost this battle, our fight will continue. We must work hard to inject our economic issues into the political debate. We must stand strong to protect the gains we made in health care reform and the checks and balances that will hold Wall Street accountable.

While the immediate future poses severe challenges, I believe the most important issue facing our country today is our economy. We must continue to push for a strong manufacturing base that provides good family sustaining jobs to strengthen the middle class. We must stop the continued erosion of our jobs by unfair trade and continue to call on the President and Congress to enact legislation to deal with the flood of illegally dumped goods from China and other third world countries on our nation's shore.



On the retiree front, we must be on guard to preserve and protect Social Security and Medicare. Many of the newly elected right-wing conservatives campaigned on a platform of dealing with our deficit on the backs of retirees by cutting Social Security and Medicare. Despite Social Security and Medicare's continuing successes, these programs continue to be under attack by those who would like to privatize them. Once again, we are hearing from the far-right that the deficit is out of control and Social Security and Medicare is to blame. As was stated before in this publication, our nation's current deficit was not caused by Social Security and Medicare; it was caused by tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, two wars and an unprecedented economic crisis caused by Wall Street excesses.

On December 1, 2010 the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform will issue its report to the President. What we must be afraid of is the possibility of this commission attempting to balance the budget by cutting benefits to both the Social Security and Medicare programs.

We must make our voices heard! Our nation's current deficits were not caused by Social Security and Medicare. Let your representatives know that you oppose reducing Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits as a means to balance the federal budget. Make your voices heard! Write, call and e-mail your member of Congress and Senators today! Let them know that you object to this insane and cruel attack on working families and our nations' retirees.

I again congratulate all of you on your hard work and effort. We fought for our candidates on the basis of issues that matter to all of our members. Get some rest and get energized for the upcoming fights on Social Security, health care, jobs, trade, future Supreme Court nominations and many other issues of critical importance to retirees and workers. Again, my personal thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication.

*Jim Centner*, SOAR Director

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material is usually the  
18th of the month.**



**Charlie Sez:**

You only need two tools in life; WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the duct tape. Oh yeah, if you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.

**The McNeil Report**

(1) A doctor examining a man who had been rushed to the Emergency Room, took the wife aside, and said, "I don't like the looks of your husband at all."

"Me neither Doc," said the wife. "But he sure is good around the house and dealing with the kids."

(2) A man was recovering from surgery when the surgical nurse appeared and asked him how he was feeling. "I'm OK, but I didn't like the four letter word the doctor used in surgery." he answered. "What did he say," asked the nurse. His reply..... "oops"



**Happy Holidays to all of our SOAR members**

**Internet Links**

**Official SOAR web site:**

<http://www.usw.org/resources/soar>

**Unofficial SOAR web site:**

<http://web.mac.com/soar3/SOAR/welcome.html>

**Charlie Averill Blog:**

<http://charlieaverill.blogspot.com/>

**The Voice of SOAR Podcast:**

<http://web.mac.com/soar3/SOAR/Voice of SOAR/Voice of SOAR.html>

**SOAR YouTube videos**

<http://www.youtube.com/user/abbysan#p/u>

## District 6

SOAR in District 6 has had a very good year. We have been actively involved in many of the problems that appear to be caused by our Governments lack of action to protect the very people that made this country of ours great.....we seniors.

There have been a number of strikes across the district, some still ongoing. They seem to be lasting longer and getting meaner all the time. SOAR is getting better at raising funds to help our Brothers and Sisters. Our members are also very active supporting them on the picket lines.

SOAR in District 6 is very involved with the Congress of Union Retirees (CURC) in trying to force our Provincial and Federal Governments to increase our Canada Pension Plan (CPP). We will also continue to press for a National Drug Plan. Our Governments have to get the message that drug costs are going through the ceiling. Many of our seniors cannot afford the cost of many of the new drugs that are coming on the market.

I very much enjoyed the SOAR executive board meeting in Pittsburgh this month. It was very productive and informative. Our International President, Connie Entekin, chaired a very good meeting. Jim Centner, International SOAR Director, as usual, gave us a very good report of SOAR across both countries. Jim stressed the need for all of us to remain active and to do all that we can to increase our membership in SOAR. It was also very nice to be able to see our many friends again and to socialize with them.

I am really looking forward to the International SOAR Conference in Las Vegas next year.

I wish all my American friends a very "Happy Thanksgiving" and all good things in the years to come.

*Dan McNeil*, board member



### *From the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare - November 11, 2010*

**“America’s retirees, disabled and their families had hoped for a balanced approach to solving our nation’s fiscal crisis. Unfortunately, that is not what we received in today’s report by the Chairmen of the President’s Fiscal Commission. This proposal relies far too heavily on benefit cuts which will hurt millions of Americans. Lowering COLA’s which hit even current retirees, raising the retirement age, and making benefit cuts in Social Security have nothing to do with solving this fiscal crisis and do not offer a balanced solution to debt reduction by any stretch of the imagination.”**

**“America’s seniors and their families want Washington to get its fiscal house in order; however, they also know Social Security did not create this economic mess and should not foot the bill for failed economic policies of the past. The American people are serious about deficit reduction and have said in poll after poll that they’ll support a balanced proposal. This isn’t it.”**

*Barbara B. Kennelly, President and CEO*

SOAR Chapter 7-34-2 members from Granite City, Illinois, along with allies from the USW and various other groups, preparing to board a Bus traveling to a Town Hall meeting in Maryland Heights, Missouri. The meeting took place on October 27 and was sponsored by the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM) with the purpose of learning from candidates for Federal Offices their plans for bringing back good paying, family-supporting jobs to the USA. More than 300 people were in attendance at the event which was part of a nation-wide tour, posing questions to the candidates.



*Jeff Raines*, Chapter President

## Open Enrollment Is NOW!



Remember, you have until December 31 to make changes to your Medicare health or drug plan. While you always have your guaranteed benefits, there are other choices to think about to make sure your coverage still meets your needs. It's worth looking into!

Learn more about the new benefits and compare plans at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), or read your "Medicare & You" 2011 handbook.

## Financial Help for Caregivers



There are several programs that can help you save money on Medicare premiums, drugs, or basic living expenses. Make sure you explore these options:

- [Learn about Medicare Savings Program \(MSPs\)](#)
- [Apply for Extra Help with Medicare drug coverage](#)
- [Look at State Pharmaceutical Assistance Programs](#)
- [Explore national and local charitable programs](#) with Benefits Check Up, created by the National Council on the Aging (NCOA)
- [Visit GovBenefits.gov](#) to learn about government assistance programs
- [Apply for Medicaid](#)

Learn more about all these programs at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).

### District 4 - The Ball is Now in Their Court



With the recent November Congressional Elections, the general public has decided to elect Republicans to Congress and give their party the majority vote. The Republicans have made a lot of promises to reduce spending etc. and address all the problems we now have before us. Well, come January 2011 they will have the opportunity to do just that. Look for issues such as privatizing Social Security, attacking national health insurance, reforming Medicare and other issues that are extremely important to working families and retirees in America today.

It appears the Democrats had sent a mixed message to the electorate in 2010. When I hear people say I voted for Republicans to protect my Social Security and health insurance, it makes me think: *What kind of message are we sending out to the people that vote?* To elect the Republicans into the house is like letting the fox into the chicken coop to protect the chickens! Don't people remember how the Republicans under George Bush tried to privatize Social Security and the disaster on the stock market and how that would have affected their Social Security? It is a shame that some voters have such short memories! Voters often forget that Republicans have always looked out for Big Business and the Democrats have always looked out for the working men and women in America. The Democrats have got to learn how to fight once more and stand up for the principles that they believe in instead of running away from the issues that faced them in the 2010 elections. Labor lost many congressional friends in this past election and we will surely feel the brunt of this change in 2011. Well, the ball is in their court now, so hang on for a rough ride in Congress in 2011 and be prepared for a huge battle in in coming years.....Where is FDR when you really need him?

*Jim Bickhart*, board member

### District 10

Pennsylvania SOAR members and officers hit the ground running to defend Social Security and demanded the Federal Government act to create jobs, getting family members, neighbors and friends back to work during the recent election campaigns.

“We started early,” said SOAR Chapter 15 - 4 (Johnstown) President, Henry Ball. “We did a lot of door to door -- man. We worked the phones and our members wrote letters to the editor. Our guy, Mark Critz, is one of the few Democrats who won in this state. He is a good man, coming to our chapter meeting and taking time to listen to us.” Ball appeared on local TV 26 times during the campaign, applauding Critz's actions on behalf of retirees.



Working with the Alliance for Retired Americans, SOAR chapters held press conferences, staffed phones and pounded the pavements sending a message to preserve Social Security and get workers back to work. One chapter, 15 - 19 in New Kensington, PA, used the campaign to build their membership. “We sent out over 50 letters to non-SOAR members,” said Chapter president George Bolte. “So far, we have 11 new members, but at our October meeting, guys who came said they were bringing their brothers, spouses or buddies they have been in contact with to sign up for SOAR.”

*Denise Edwards*, board member

## District 12 Report

As everyone knows, the Co-Chairs of the Fiscal Commission issued a preliminary report that targets Social Security in the wrong way. This report was not from the commission itself, just the Co-Chairs. I believe it was wrong of these two gentlemen to even do this. It takes 14 votes out of the 18 Commission Members to present anything to Congress for their vote. Democrats have six members on the Commission.

Democratic members of the Fiscal Commission are Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA), Sen. Max Baucus (Mont.), Sen. Kent Conrad (ND), Sen. Richard Durbin (IL), Rep. Jan Schakowsky (IL) and Rep. John Spratt (SC). If you live in these elected officials districts, please contact them and let them know that the Commission should keep its hands off of Social Security. If we can get our Democrats to stand firm on this issue, the issue will not even get to Congress.



On November 10, SOAR Chapter 12-2 held a very successful Bar-B-Q and 50-50 fund raiser. President Charlie Henderson was the head cook with able assistance from Jimmy Dixon, the chapter treasurer. The Bar-B-Q went from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. when we ran out of meat. People were streaming in and out all day long.

The community response was wonderful. The event was held at USW Local 9518 in Maywood, California. James Janrhett, the business agent from 9518 was extremely supportive. As a side note, one of my granddaughters, Beth, who is visiting with us now from the United Kingdom, volunteered in the kitchen all day, helping put the food plates together. I am a proud Grandpa.

What about election day? I wish the rest of the country had voted like District 12. If the rest of the country had voted like we did in District 12, we Democrats would not have lost the House of Representatives. In fact, we would have gained members. Here in California, we have 53 members of Congress. We elected 34 Democrats and 19 Republicans. Senator Boxer was re-elected despite an opponent that spent millions of dollars. It looks like we Democrats took every state wide office from Governor to Insurance Commissioner. We are still counting ballots in the California Attorney General race, but the Democrat is ahead now and I am confident we will win.

For a budget to be approved in our legislature, it takes a 2/3s vote and the Republicans have always held us hostage by refusing to agree unless their positions were adopted and the Democrats dropped their positions. Well, as much as I dislike ballot measures, I finally found one I liked and the voters supported it. To pass a budget, it now only takes a simple majority. We also have control of the state senate as well as the state assembly, by big margins.

Here in California, we had a lot of active retirees who really helped make a difference in this election and one man who worked tirelessly almost nonstop, California SOAR Coordinator "CW" Smith, did just about everything to get democrats elected, from a local city council race to the Governors race. Thank-you "CW."

*Bob Rankin*, board member

CHAPTER 30-18



*Chapter President, Dorine Godinez (left) and SOAR Secretary Treasurer, Charlie Averill, congratulate Indiana House District 17 Representative and SOAR member, Nancy Dembowski, on her election victory.*

First of all, I would like to extend my very best wishes to all of you and your families. I pray you will have good health. I wish for all of you that the holiday seasons bring for each and every one of you and your families holidays filled with good and loving memories.

I would like to make a few comments on statements too often made and mindlessly repeated. I hear many people say, and infer, that SOAR members should volunteer for this and that since they don't have anything else to do.

I've heard people say "retirees have nothing but time on their hands" but from my point of view, nothing could be further from the truth. We have put in our years. We have worked, paid taxes, and raised our families. Now we have the precious time to spend with our families. We can take trips, see our country, or even the world. We can work on our health issues. Our homes can always use repairs and we can help improve our communities. There are thousands of ways we can choose to spend our time. All the ways that working people dream of. It is now our precious time to live our dreams.

Yes, it is true that SOAR members have demonstrated time and again that we are dependable and when there is a good cause we will stand up and fight, if able.

We have the experience of time and we can ensure that our members receive the information they need on critical issues to make informed decisions. We march, we picket, we support political candidates that support American families and jobs. We phone bank and knock on doors.

Here in Northern Indiana, we worked very hard to support candidates that would support us. And many of you helped candidates elsewhere in Indiana and around the country, and thank God you chose to spend your time wisely for the benefit of all of us and our children and grand children.

In Mexico they have a saying. When one person makes a comment to another saying you are getting old, the other responds and says "NO, I'm not old but the mountains are." Think about that. No matter how long we live, even if we lived passed a hundred, we couldn't even make a pebble on a mountain.

Time is a precious gift. The way we choose to spend it is in our hands alone. Think twice - maybe even three times before you make the senseless comment that SOAR members have nothing better to do and all they have is time.

Be mindful, be wise, be respectful of SOAR members who have proven time and again how valuable, wise, and dependable they are. They sure as heck have many other things they could choose to do with their time. Don't forget! Appreciate and respect your time!

*Dorine Godinez, Chapter 30-18 President*

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**Most people will continue to pay the same \$96.40 or \$110.50 premium amount in 2011. Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) to see all Medicare premiums and coinsurance rates for 2011.**

*Source: AskMedicare*



## Fiscal Commission's Preliminary Report



The Fiscal Commission has come out with a preliminary report calling for raising the Social Security retirement age to 69; reducing the Cost of Living Adjustments; gutting Social Security Benefits; More Medicare cuts; Increasing cost Sharing for Seniors and reducing Provider Reimbursements. I align myself with the views of Senator Bernie Sanders. His views are expressed below:

*“The Simpson-Bowles deficit reduction plan is extremely disappointing and something that should be vigorously opposed by the American people. The huge increase in the national debt in recent years was*

*caused by two unpaid wars, tax breaks for the wealthy, a Medicare prescription drug bill written by the pharmaceutical industry, and the Wall Street bailout. Unlike Social Security, none of these proposals were paid for. Not only has Social Security not contributed a dime to the deficit, it has a \$2.6 trillion surplus.*

*It is reprehensible to ask working people, including many who do physically-demanding labor, to work until they are 69 years of age. It also is totally impractical. As they compete for jobs with 25-year-olds, many older workers will go unemployed and have virtually no income. Frankly, there will not be too much demand within the construction industry for 69-year-old bricklayers.*

*Despite all of the right-wing rhetoric, Social Security is not going bankrupt. According to the Congressional Budget Office, Social Security can pay every nickel owed to every eligible American for the next 29 years and after that about 80 percent of benefits.*

*If we are serious about making Social Security strong and solvent for the next 75 years, President Obama has the right solution. On October 14, 2010, he restated a long-held position that the cap on income subject to Social Security payroll taxes, now at \$106,800, should be raised. As the president has long stated, it is absurd that billionaires pay the same amount into the system as someone who earns \$106,800.*

*With the richest people in this country getting richer and the middle class in decline, it is absurd that billionaires pay the same amount into the Social Security system as someone who earns \$106,800.”*

*Charlie Averill, SOAR Secretary-Treasurer*



### District 11

SOAR activist, Bonnie Carey rallying with active Steelworker Ruthy Wylie and other Women of Steel (WOS) at the WOS Convention in Pittsburgh. The (WOS) welcome SOAR members and encourages them to stay active and join with their sisters across the country to continue pushing for rights of all active and retired workers.

## Why didn't Seniors get a cost of living (COLA) increase in Social Security and what did we learn from the recent election?

There were many complaints by seniors over not receiving a COLA increase in their Social Security for 2011. Just before the election many blamed President Obama and the Democrats.

As a result, some seniors voted for candidates that don't even believe in Social Security or would support legislation that would actually undermine the Social Security program.

The truth is, the Democrats and President Obama had nothing to do with it except for the fact that the Democrats supported changes in the law in 1972 that would even provide for COLA increases in Social Security benefits.

The formula for determining a cost of living increase (COLA) is based upon a comparison of the consumer price index for urban wage earners (CPI-W) for the third quarter of the year the last time a COLA was determined-2008, to the third quarter of the current year- July, August and September of 2010. Based on these statutory calculations, no increase was determined and therefore, no increase in SS benefits.

Yes, it is true, that many items cost more than in 2008 and 2009 and there are additional financial bur-

dens on seniors. Perhaps the formula needs improvements such as basing it on a twelve month period, but it's not the fault of Obama or the Democrats.



Most Americans do not believe that the country is heading in the right direction and I am one of them. However we must remember how we got to this point and what caused these problems. Bad trade arrangements, causing the loss of millions of good jobs and tens of thousands of factory closings, lack of regulations and effective enforcement of those we had causing the biggest Wall Street crash and recession and unemployment since the 1930's, tax cuts benefiting the wealthy causing an unnecessary increases in the Federal debt, the unrelenting attack on Unions and workers' rights, and the greatest transfer of wealth from the middle-class to the upper class.

We should not allow our anger or unhappiness to cause us to vote for the type of individuals that would allow and continue the policies that created this situation to begin with. The Obama administration inherited this mess and it's not going to be corrected overnight. We must be informed voters in the future and

not allow the special interest money poured in by the millions to cause us to vote against our interests.

Elections have results and consequences; we have already seen conservative attacks on Social Security and Medicare and a report from the Deficit Reductions Committee Co-Chairmen, that would be devastating for these social programs while benefiting the wealthy. Let your Senators and Congressperson know that we are not going to stand for it!

*Bill Gibbons, PACE Representative*

## From Nursing Home Back to the Community



If your loved one lives in a nursing home, they may be able to get services and support to help them return to the community, thanks to the Americans With Disabilities Act and the Olmstead Supreme Court Decision. See the brochure "[Your Right to Get Information About Returning to the Community](#)" to learn more, or read about the [Community Living Initiative](#).

### Vice President (West)

Greetings from Colorado. Doesn't seem possible a year has gone by since we last met. The year has been a busy one. Enjoyed the conference for the Alliance for Retired Americans. The speakers were great and we've used a lot of the information to pass on at the SOAR meetings and we've been stressing that Social Security is not broke. We also took an AARP bus from Pueblo to the State Capitol and met up with other SOAR members from around the state to let our Senators and Representative know seniors are powerfull.



Friday nights finds me at the Democratic Bingo. This helps buy educational materials and hopefully buy a building soon. SOAR is a great organization for retirees and important to keep them informed.

Happy Holidays to you and your families. Hope 2011 is a great year.

*Al Becco*

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### District 7

Happy Holidays to all of our members. I ask all of our SOAR chapters during the season not to forget those in need.

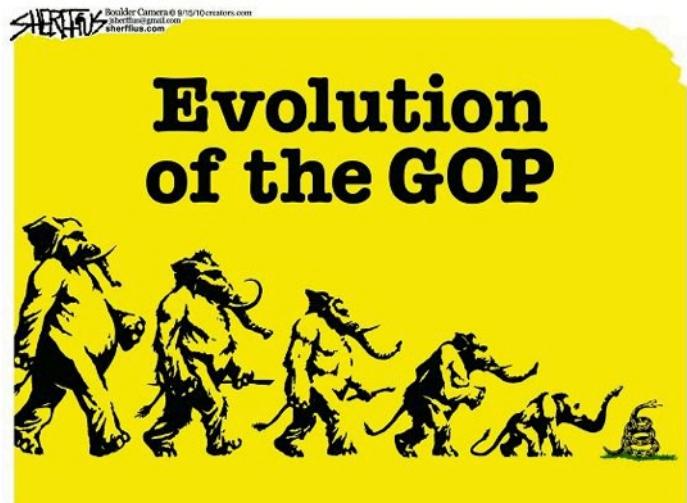
On November 5 and 6 the SOAR executive board met in Pittsburgh, PA, to discuss the elections and what SOAR needs to do to improve itself. We received both good and bad news. For District 7, some good news. We now have the largest SOAR membership in the USW. The bad news is that overall, our membership is dropping. It's a mix between members not renewing their memberships, passing away and failing to get new members. Any suggestions from any member or officer would be most helpful, and appreciated.



Also of note, two of our SOAR chapters have won NEW SOAR banners by participating in a letter writing

contest, Chapter 7-1 and Chapter 30-18. Thank you! Your new SOAR banners are on their way!

*Steve Skuara*, board member



## National Debt/Budget Deficit

These are two terms that people often confuse, the **deficit** and the **debt**. Frankly, I only got them straight in my own head a few months ago after concerted effort.

The **deficit** relates to the budget. The budget **deficit** is the shortfall between what the government takes in in revenue any given year, and what it spends that year. If the government takes in \$2 trillion and spends two and a half trillion, then the **deficit** that year is half a trillion dollars.

The government will borrow the difference to cover the shortfall. In my example, the government would borrow half a trillion dollars.

The **debt** relates to the historical total of all that governmental borrowing. It's usually called the national **debt**. The national **debt** is the total amount of money the federal government has borrowed, and owes, as a result of borrowing to cover annual budget **deficits** over the years.

So in the example I just gave you, when the government borrowed a half a trillion dollars to cover that year's budget **deficit**, at the same time, the national **debt** increased half a trillion dollars as well.

Let me flesh this out a bit here. It's necessary to clarify another bit of terminology again. You need to know that the federal fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30. It doesn't coincide with the calendar year.

A way to think about it is, the fiscal year starts three months earlier, is three months ahead of, the calendar year.

So in the last year of someone's term -- that someone, for example, being perhaps our good friend and dearly missed President and exemplar of all that's good and decent in America and indeed with all of humanity, George W. Bush -- in the last year of George W. Bush's term, Bush submitted a budget for fiscal year 2009 which runs from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009.

So when the next president, who I guess in this case would be that gentleman Barack Obama, when Obama took office in January 2009, during the first 9 months of his term, the federal budget was the one passed when George W. Bush was still president.

The more common right-wing propaganda point about Obama massively increasing the budget **deficit** takes the form of screaming that Obama has tripled the **deficit** in his short time in office.

How can the right make this claim with a straight face? They really can't, but they do, and often get away with it, because the mainstream media doesn't call them on their lies.

*Here are the details.*

The Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, is a non-partisan research arm of Congress. When it issues numbers, they are generally accepted by both the right and the left.

In October of 2009, the CBO estimated that the fiscal year 2009 budget **deficit** would be \$1.4 trillion.

To get our small sums of money terminology in synch, a trillion is a thousand billion. So the 2009 fiscal year **deficit** was projected as 1,400 billion dollars, \$1.4 trillion.

About two weeks *before* Obama was inaugurated, the CBO issued a looking ahead report on the fiscal year 2009 budget. Again, that would be the budget passed under George W. Bush, for the federal fiscal year running from October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009. -- straddling the end of Bush's term and the first nine months of Obama's term.

The CBO projected that based on Bush's policies in place and economic conditions expected, that the fiscal year 2009 **deficit** would be \$1.2 trillion dollars.

So before Obama even took office, before he could or did do anything, the CBO said the fiscal year 2009 **deficit** would be \$1.2 trillion.

Since both the fiscal year 2008 budget with a \$459 billion **deficit**, and the fiscal year 2009 budget with a \$1.2 trillion, one thousand two hundred billion dollar projected **deficit** were all on George W. Bush's watch, it's Bush who actually tripled the deficit in one year. Not Obama!

At worst, Obama's policies added \$200 billion to the initial \$1.2 trillion dollar estimate, a rise of one-sixth, not tripling.

*Source: Transcript from Blast the Right Podcast by Jack Clark*