



HEALTHCARE for ALL!

# Missourians for Single Payer Health Care

438 N. Skinker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130 ~ Ph: 314.862.5735 ~ [www.mosp.us](http://www.mosp.us)

## MESSAGE FOR OUR PRESIDENT



*MoSP President Julia Lamborn Gettinger Calls an Annual Meeting to Order*

We usually have a message from MoSP President Julia Lamborn Gettinger. This time we have a message FOR the President, who had a bone marrow transplant at Barnes Jewish Hospital on Tuesday, August 14. Julia, we wish you a speedy recovery, and a continued fulfilling, happy life.

*—from the members of MoSP*

### **MoSP newsletter staff**

*Editor-in-Chief,*

*Mimi Signor*

*Mailing Committee, Mary*

*Jane & Bob Schutzzius*

*Layout editor, Anne Bader*

*Webmaster, Don Ford*

[www.mosp.us](http://www.mosp.us)

### **Coming MoSP events**

*William Fogarty, MD will be our first Fall speaker on September 20, 2012. Story on page 2.*

## MoSP Calendar

MoSP's public programs are at 6:30 pm on the third Thursday of the month in the Hanke Room at the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road in Ladue. Go to the website for calendar updates: [www.mosp.us](http://www.mosp.us)

### **September 20, 2012**

*Happy Birthday Medicare: Now Let's Expand It to Everyone* by William Fogarty, MD

### **December 20, 2012**

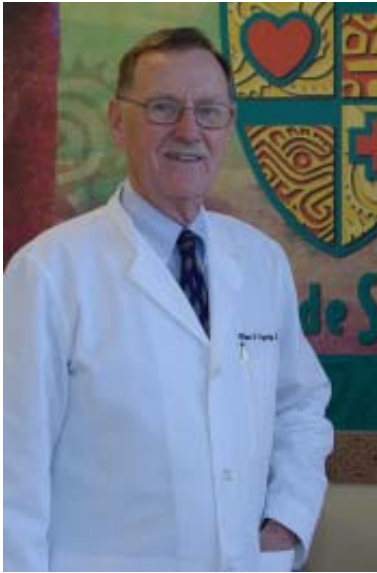
Annual member only business meeting, election of 2013-2014 Board members

### **April 7, 2013**

MoSP Health Care Sunday—program TBA



## Happy Birthday Medicare: Now Let's Expand It to Everyone



“Happy Birthday Medicare: Now Let’s Expand It to Everyone”, presented by William Fogarty, MD, is MoSP’s first fall program **Thursday, September 20, 6:30 pm at the Ethical Society’s Hanke Room.** Dr. Fogarty wrote a letter to the

St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Medicare’s 47<sup>th</sup> birthday, July 30, in celebration of our national single payer program for citizens over age 65.

William M. Fogarty, Jr., MD, FACP was born and raised in St. Louis, educated at St. Louis University, St. Louis University School of Medicine and the University of Minnesota. He served in the US Public Health Service at the National Institutes of Health and on the faculty at St. Louis University before entering private practice. He practiced as an Internist and Endocrinologist at Southwest Medical Center in St. Louis for 30 years.

Since retiring in 2001, he has served as a volunteer physician at two indigent clinics, initially at La Clinica and since 2010 at Casa de Salud. In addition he has done nine medical trips to Guatemala with HELPS International.

He has done public policy work for the American College of Physicians and is on the leadership committee of Physicians for a National Health Plan-St. Louis.

—Roger Signor, Programs

## Well Wishes from Congressman Clay

MoSP President Julia thanks all of you who have sent her cards and personal notes. Among them, Julia received a letter of support written August 13 from her Congressman, Wm. Lacy Clay. Below is a part of his get-well message:

“Dear Ms. Lamborn:

I was sorry to learn that you face the challenge of a bone marrow transplant. I pray for you and trust medical science will use whatever tools are available to heal you.

As President of Missourians for Single Payer Health Care for All, you have fought the good fight to ensure that all Missourians receive the best medical care available. It is efforts of Americans like you who make this nation great. I honor you and wish you a fast, complete recovery. I remain humbled by your efforts and deep sense of humanity.

As you once said, I ‘believe that health care is a basic right, not a privilege for those with financial means.’ I stand on that belief and in your hour of need, I hope and pray you receive the best health care available. We need you to recover and if possible, to continue to fight to help the less fortunate. May God bless and protect you.

Sincerely,

Wm. Lacy Clay,

Member of Congress”

*Congressman Wm. Lacy Clay of St. Louis is a cosponsor of HR 676, Improved Medicare for All, along with Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver of Kansas City, MO.*



MoSP Board members enjoy their PIISD (Private Insurance-Induced Stress Disorder) tote bags created by our keynote speaker, Dr. Carol Paris; L-R Dr. Suzanne Hagan, Mary Jane Schutzius, Stefany Brot, Dr. Carol Paris, Dr. Pam Gronemeyer, Mimi Signor

**MoSP’s Health Care Sunday April 15**

What a wonderful idea to bring Carol Paris to SL as the speaker for Health Care Sunday! You only had to look at her on stage, after the talk, surrounded by those beautiful young ladies from the Choir, to know that she’d been an inspirational speaker. And the best part was, I bet few of those young ladies could really have understood what the issues were that so fired up our speaker, since I doubt any of them had ever had to deal with the “system.” And the rest of the audience was inspired as well, as evidenced by the standing ovation. I have to admit that Carol is one of few psychiatrists I’ve ever met whom I didn’t immediately think, this doctor needs a good psychiatrist. She seemed so, well, normal. So, all in all, quite remarkable.

—Suzanne Hagan, OD



## MoSP Annual Member Meeting on December 20

MoSP Bylaws mandate an annual member meeting in December, with an election of officers every two years. On December 20, members will decide how best to further Missouri's single payer movement in the future and will elect the 2013-2014 directors. If your dues are up to date, you are eligible to participate and vote. As a reminder, you will find the date your dues were paid last on your mailing label. If there is no date, your newsletter is complementary.

The work of any organization is done by a dedicated, loyal board of directors. MoSP has been fortunate to have had a Board of Directors for the past two years who have unselfishly given their time and efforts for the goal of single payer health care for all of us. It has been a privilege to serve with them. Our Board has planned by-monthly programs and two spectacular annual Health Care Weekends, as well as given testimony in our state capitol. This board has given consents to serve another term, pending their continued good health: Julia Lamborn Gettinger, Mimi Signor, Roger Signor, Mary Jane Schutzius, Stefany Brot, Pamella Gronemeyer, MD and Suzanne Hagan, OD. Members may nominate a member to serve, if the nominee consents to serve, at or before the December Annual meeting.

—*Mimi Signor, RN, Vice-President*

## Single Payer Advocates Testify

Members of Missourians for Single Payer and Physicians for a National Health Plan-St. Louis testified in support of the MO Universal Health Assurance Act in a bill hearing in Jefferson City on May 2. The hearing committee gave single payer advocates just ten minutes to testify, so we had a tag-team marathon to accomplish this.

—*Mimi Signor, RN, Legislation*



## Watch the Bill Hearing on You Tube

The first link is the introduction of the bill from Rep. Michael Brown of Kansas City; the second link is our combined testimonies, running a total of about 15 minutes. Thanks to Rep. Brown and cosponsors. To view the bill and list of cosponsors, go to <http://www.mosp.us/legislation.htm> on the MoSP website.

Check out these links, “like” them, repost them, help spread the word:

Rep. Michael Brown Introduces HB1405:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W\\_AbdHVGSi8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_AbdHVGSi8)

Testimony:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0eO3v99T4Y>

Thanks to Progress Missouri (<http://progressmissouri.org/>), a multi-issue progressive advocacy organization, for recording this and generously sharing it.

—*Ed Weisbart, MD, PNHP-St. Louis*



YOU can help. First, subscribe to Facebook. Anyone with internet access can join Facebook for FREE; just type “facebook.com” into your browser and follow the directions. You must use a LEGAL name or nickname (no pseudonyms) and can share as much or as little as you want about yourself with various levels of privacy.

Second, “Like” **Missourians for Single Payer**. Find our page on Facebook, read the latest announcements, look at photos (Sheri will be posting some old “Health Care Sunday” and “Happy Birthday, Medicare!” photos soon), and click on the “Like” button.

Third—and trickier— “Friend” us, so you can receive MoSP Facebook postings. Sheri Wahlen (the way her name appears on Facebook) needs to know the name you use on Facebook so she can “Friend” you—either e-mail her (see below), comment on a Facebook wall posting or message her through Facebook—or you can click on the “Friend Request” box that appears when you are on the Facebook page.

Finally, post any items of common interest (PLEASE make sure Single Payer is a prominent commonality) on our page—meet-ups of “like-minded” individuals and groups, news about the status of health care legislation, reports about activities in which you or others promoted universal health CARE, yet another report about how insurance-based health care is not working. Mention us and our activities in your own postings—tell friends what a great movie you saw, courtesy of MoSP; share your experiences fighting for single payer; etc.

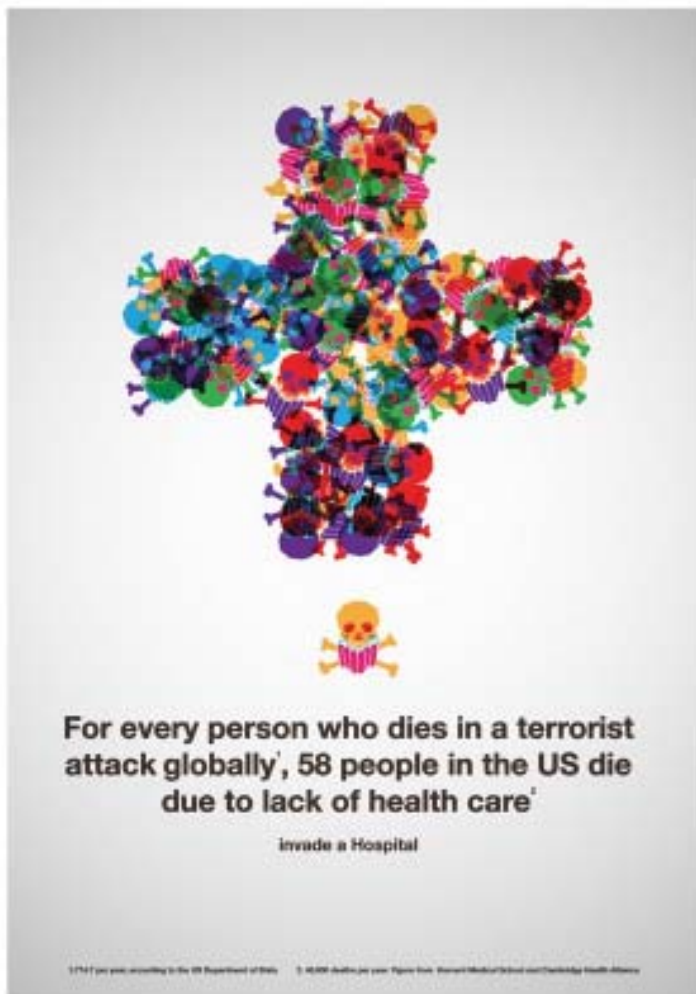
Any questions? Contact Sheri Wahlen at [sdwahlen@yahoo.com](mailto:sdwahlen@yahoo.com) or on Facebook.

## Notes from Sheri, MoSP Facebook Page Editor



Our Facebook page connects us with other Facebook subscribers who are interested in making “Medicare for ALL” a reality. We have reached the threshold number of

“Likes” to start receiving weekly stats on how many people see our MoSP Facebook page, as well as how many “Like” postings we get. Our next step is to gather “Friends,” so we can use Facebook to announce meetings and other news.



## Bill Moyers' Essay on Medicare\*

BILL MOYERS: I read a news story this week that sent me on a nostalgic trip down memory lane. This past Monday, July 30th was the 47th anniversary of Medicare, and to celebrate it, the “Raging Grannies,” as they’re known, gathered outside the county office building in Rochester, New York to protest rumored cuts to their Medicare coverage.

RAGING GRANNIES: This old grey granny now needs a test or two —

BILL MOYERS: They praised Medicare in song as “the best deal we have in the country,” and even called for expanding Medicare into universal health care for everyone.

For myself, the “Raging Grannies” channeled a familiar voice, the Texas twang of my boss back in 1965, Lyndon Baines Johnson. I was a White House

assistant at the time and had been working with the President and others on the team trying to get Medicare through Congress. Even with overwhelming Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, it was one tough fight. Others had tried before us.

In his 1948 State of the Union message, President Harry Truman said: “This great Nation cannot afford to allow its citizens to suffer needlessly from the lack of proper medical care. Our ultimate aim must be a comprehensive insurance system to protect all our people equally against insecurity and ill health.

BILL MOYERS: But every time Harry Truman proposed legislation to do just that, Congress refused to budge.

BILL MOYERS: Tragically thrust into the White House by Kennedy’s assassination, LBJ, the son of Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal and Harry Truman’s Fair Deal, vowed to finish what they had started. He pushed us relentlessly to get it done. Here he is talking to his Vice President, Hubert Humphrey, in early March of 1965:

LYNDON JOHNSON: They are bogged down. The House had nothing this week, all —damn week. Now that’s where you and Moyers and Larry O’Brien have got to find something for them. And the Senate had nothing [...] so we just wasted three weeks [...] Now we are here in the first week in March, and we have just got to get these things passed [...] I want that program carried. And I’ll put every Cabinet officer behind you. I’ll put every banker behind you. I’ll put every organization we got behind you [...] I’ll put the labor unions behind you.”

BILL MOYERS: Later that March he called me to talk about a retroactive increase in Social Security payments that we were supporting. I had argued for it as a stimulus to the economy. LBJ said okay, but reminded me that social security and Medicare were about a lot more than economics:

LYNDON JOHNSON: My inclination would be [...] that it ought to be retroactive as far back as you

can get it [...] because none of them ever get enough. That they are entitled to it. That that's an obligation of ours. It's just like your mother writing you and saying she wants \$20, and I'd always sent mine a \$100 when she did. I never did it because I thought it was going to be good for the economy of Austin. I always did it because I thought she was entitled to it. And I think that's a much better reason and a much better cause and I think it can be defended on a hell of a lot better basis [...] We do know that it affects the economy [...] But that's not the basis to go to the Hill, or the justification. We've just got to say that by God you can't treat grandma this way. She's entitled to it and we promised it to her.

**BILL MOYERS:** LBJ kept that promise. He pushed and drove and cajoled and traded, until Congress finally said yes. It was 47 years ago, we traveled to Independence, Missouri, the hometown of Harry Truman, and there with the former president at his side, LBJ signed Medicare into law. Turning to Truman, whom he called "the real daddy of Medicare,

"Johnson signed him up as its first beneficiary. Harry Truman was 81.

All this was high drama, touched with history, sentimentality, politics, and compromise. The bill wasn't all LBJ wanted. There were too few cost controls, as some principled conservatives warned. Co-pays and deductibles remain a problem. We didn't anticipate the impact of new technology, or the impact of a burgeoning population.

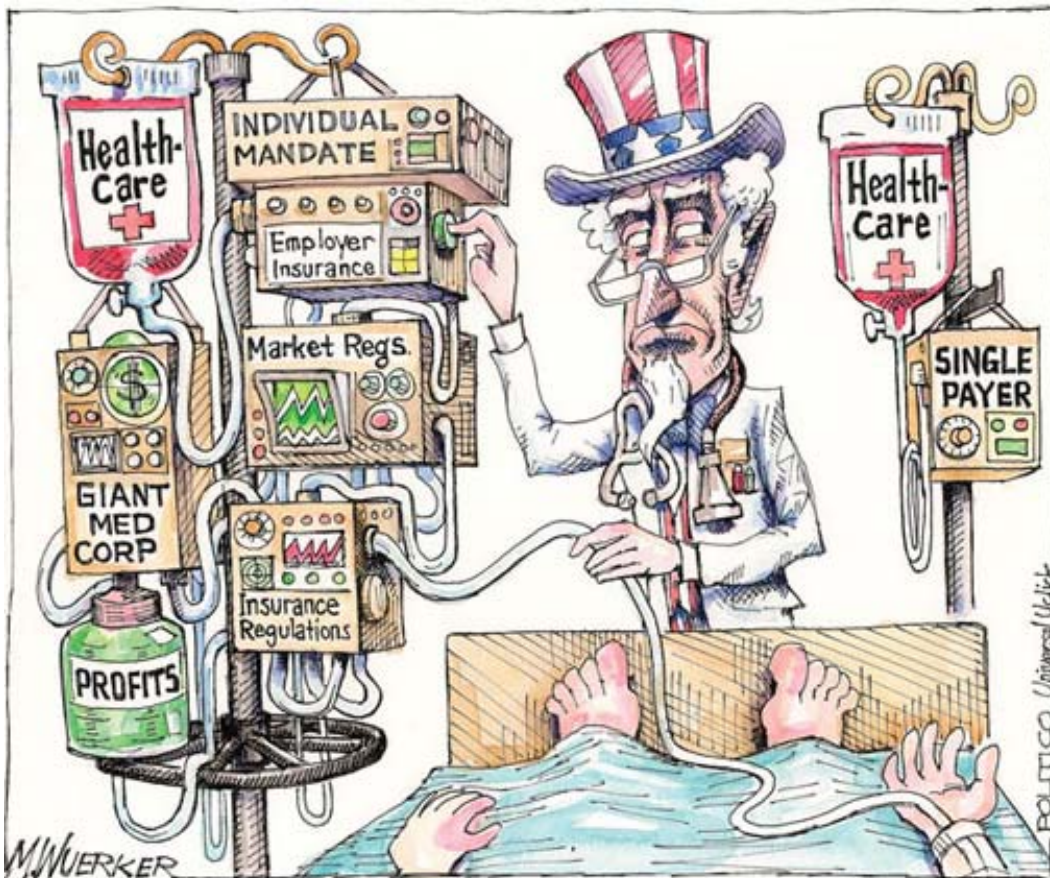
Longevity and cost are what we must now reckon with. As the historian Robert Dallek has written, Medicare and Medicaid, the similar program for the very poor, "...did not solve the problem of care at reasonable cost for all Americans", but "the benefits to the elderly and the indigent...are indisputable." There's no going back, current efforts notwithstanding. A new study in the journal Health Affairs finds that Medicare beneficiaries age 65 and older are more satisfied with their health insurance, have better access to care, and are less likely to have problems paying medical bills than working-age adults who get insurance through

employers or purchase coverage on their own.

So sing on, Raging Grannies, sing on. The surest way to save so popular and efficient a health care system is to make it available to everyone.

**RAGING GRANNIES:** Everybody in and nobody out, single-payer Medicare for all.

\*Excerpts; full text at <http://billmoyers.com/segment/bill-moyers-essay-everyone-should-be-entitled-to-medicare/>



Missourians for Single Payer Health Care  
438 N. Skinker Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63130

Non-profit Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
St. Louis, MO  
Permit MO 3550

Address Service Requested

## Membership Form

### Missourians for Single Payer Health Care

438 N. Skinker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130

Phone: 314-862-5735

www.mosp.us

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Categories

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual, \$20      I will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ towards \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Family, \$30      \_\_\_\_\_

(specific programming and expenses)

\_\_\_\_\_ Organization, \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I'm unable to pay dues at this time, but I will support and promote MoSP among relatives, friends, colleagues, acquaintances, however I can. Please continue to send me the newsletter. Please call on me for volunteer help.