



Missourians for Single Payer Health Care

438 N. Skinker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63130 ~ Ph: 314.862.5735 ~ www.mosp.us

MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Thanks to You on Behalf of MoSP

Thanksgiving reminds us to give thanks to the caring volunteers who make up the brains, heart and soul of MoSP. Thanks to you who attend programs, who question, challenge, provoke and contribute information. Thanks to you who chip in your dollars or cents for dues and donations. Thanks for your voice: your phone calls, letters, and emails to your elected officials demanding a fair and equitable single payer health program for all Americans. Thanks for participating in media conferences and demonstrations. Thanks for your road trips to the Capitol to meet with legislators and to testify in favor of the single payer bills. YOU will make our goal a reality.

Thanks to a dedicated board of directors who contribute their precious time to giving selflessly to further the work of MoSP. Special Thanks: to **Julia Lamborn**, who has represented MoSP in all parts of Missouri and the United States; to **Mary Jane Schutzius**, who keeps our financial records and mails the newsletters with her husband **Bob**; to **Stefany Brot**, **Pam Gronemeyer**, and **Esther Clark** who bring us intriguing MoSP Movie Nights plus refreshments; to **Suzanne Hagan**, who records meeting minutes and writes up programs; to **Anne Bader**, who deftly puts together our newsletter; to **Don Ford** who improved the MoSP website with accessible information and a contemporary look; to **Sheri Wahlen** for her Facebook expertise; to **Jim** and **Esther Clark** for their AV skills and for designing and building clever posters and signs; to **Roger Signor**, whose program ideas are fresh and timely.

To all of you who work to make universal single payer health care a reality in our country, thank you for all you do. First imagine it; then make it happen.

—Mimi Signor, Vice President

MoSP newsletter staff

Editor-in-Chief,

Mimi Signor

Mailing Committee, Mary

Jane & Bob Schutzius

Layout editor, Anne Bader

Webmaster, Don Ford

www.mosp.us

Coming MoSP events~ complete details inside

*MoSP Annual Meeting on
Thursday, Dec. 20, 6:30pm*

*Kate Lovelady on "The
Ethics of Social Insurance,"
Thursday, January 17*

*"The Healthcare Movie" on
Saturday, April 6, 7 pm*

*MoSP Health Care Sunday
platform, featuring
filmmakers of "The
Healthcare Movie" on
Sunday, April 7*

Calling All Members! Annual Meeting December 20



MoSP will hold its annual member-only meeting Thursday, December 20 at 6:30 pm in the Hanke Room of the Ethical Society of St. Louis. Participating members will plan activities to move MoSP forward in the goal of universal single payer health care and to elect the 2013-2014 directors. We will evaluate our past programs, events, actions and activities and vote for the best ideas for 2013.

The following directors have consented to serve another two-year 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. Prior to voting at the annual meeting, any member present may nominate a member to serve, if the nominee consents to serve.

Mary Jane Schutzius will accept dues renewals before the start of the member meeting. If your dues are up to date, you are eligible to participate and vote. The date your dues were paid last is located on the newsletter's mailing label. An undated label indicates your newsletter is complimentary.

—*Mimi Signor, RN, Vice-President*

Kate Lovelady on “The Ethics of Social Insurance”



“The Ethics of Social Insurance,” a discussion led by Kate Lovelady, Leader of the Ethical Society of St. Louis will be the first program of 2013 sponsored by Missourians for Single Payer. Social insurance should not to be confused with commercial for-profit insurance companies, which are businesses, not social institutions.

The free public program begins at 6:30 pm on Thursday, January 17 in the Hanke Room of the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road.

Kate Lovelady has been Leader of the Ethical Society of St. Louis since 2005. She was born and raised in New York. Lovelady also served Ethical Societies in the New York area, North Carolina, and Texas. Before holding such posts, which provided health insurance benefits, she learned firsthand the value of social insurance.

For seven years, her work as a freelance editor provided no such benefits. She was among the millions of Americans of all ages and circumstances without a health care safety net. Lovelady is a graduate of Northwestern University.

—*Roger Signor, Programs*

MoSP Calendar

MoSP's public programs usually begin 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

Dec 20, 2012: Annual member only business meeting, election of 2013-2014 Board members

Jan 17, 2013: “The Ethics of Social Insurance” by Kate Lovelady, Leader, Ethical Society of St. Louis

Feb 21, 2013: TBA

March 21, 2013: TBA

April 6, 2013, 7 pm: “The Healthcare Movie” to be shown in the main auditorium with introduction by filmmakers Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg, and discussion after the film.

April 7, 2013, 11 am: MoSP Health Care Sunday platform by Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg

Be a Good Citizen

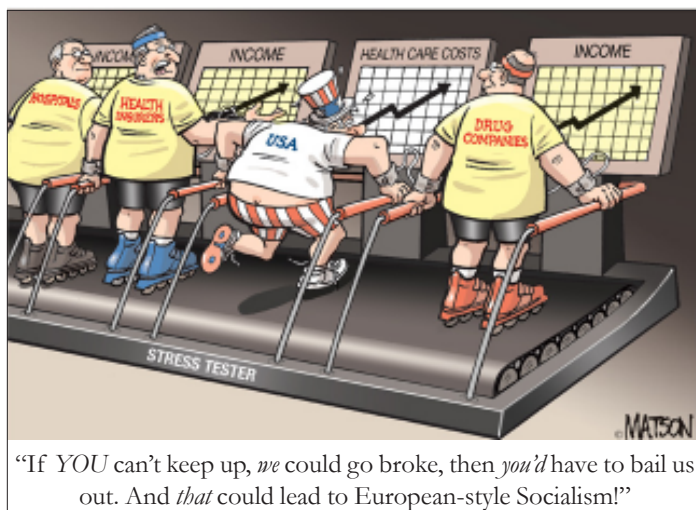
The most essential way to be a good citizen is to participate in your democracy. Exercise your political power now to bring guaranteed health care to all Americans. One way is to write to your elected officials in Washington, D.C., starting with a letter to President Obama.

In an open letter to President Obama this November, documentary filmmaker Michael Moore outlined the reasons why President Obama has a mandate from the people to do great things, and bring about real and necessary change. Moore notes that President Obama scored the highest percentage of the vote of any Democrat since Lyndon Johnson, and won the most votes for a Democratic president *in the history of the United States* twice, earning a massive 126-electoral vote margin.

Numerous, sincere letters from ordinary citizens will add our voices to the public demand for a universal single payer system-Medicare for all, which would greatly reduce the country's deficit. President Obama must NOT compromise away our health security! He must do the job we elected him to do. Here's his address:

**The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500**

—Mimi Signor, RN, Legislation



Jerry Tucker: Labor Leader and Health Care Advocate

Years ago I got a call from my friend Sharon Penrod asking if I was interested in volunteering to help her organize a bargaining unit of nurses at St. Anthony's Hospital in south St. Louis County. She introduced me to her advisor, Jerry Tucker, in their offices on Lindell Blvd. Sharon had become disillusioned with the labor unions representing nurses. Sharon and Jerry formed a new union, The United Health Care Workers Union, or UHCW.

Jerry Tucker had been a legislative liaison for the United Auto Workers Union. In Missouri, he led the fight against Right to Work, which unions called “the right to work for less.” Jerry died in October after a battle with cancer.

Jerry's philosophy of organizing was evolution of thoughts and ideas. Jerry had great persuasive powers. He recruited me to write for their newsletter, give programs, and to make house to house visits to nurses with volunteers from the Steelworkers Union. Jerry persuaded like-minded unions to support the campaign with donations of money and volunteers. After illegal and unfair practices by hospital management prior to the first election, the National Labor Relations Board awarded UHCW with a second chance at an election.

As a single payer advocate, Jerry organized in 2009 “The Labor Campaign for Single Payer” with its first meeting in St. Louis. Mark Dudzic currently leads that group in solidarity with other national single payer groups.

In 2010 The Labor Campaign for Single Payer and Missourians for Single Payer earned the coveted Martin Luther King Award from the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists led by Lew Moye. Our MoSP President Julia Lamborn and Jerry accepted this great honor.

—Mimi Signor, RN

Everybody In and Nobody Out: Opportunity, Narrative and the Radical Flank in the Movement for Single Payer Health Care Reform

Lindy Hern, Ph.D.

In my dissertation, I analyze and discuss over 20 years of the Single Payer Movement for Health Care Reform. I argue that social movement actors develop understandings about the opportunities that they face through the practice of telling stories. This narrative practice is an integral aspect in the process of pragmatic liberation, or the practice of empowerment, through which social movement actors seek to empower themselves and a wider audience of constituents. Even during time periods in which there is less political likelihood that the movement will achieve its goals, movement activists are able to mobilize constituencies by constructing narratives of opportunity outside of the material realm. A more diverse system of narrative practice that is rooted in multiple types of opportunity facilitates greater diversity in movement mobilization.

During the Clinton Era of Health Care Reform, the narrative practice of single-payer activists was focused on countering the dominant narrative of political opportunity which concluded that single-payer was not politically feasible. This facilitated increased mobilization – first to insert single-payer into the debate, then to support national single-payer legislation, and finally to support state-based single-payer initiatives. Although this period was defined as a failure by most, it was defined as a success by single payer activists who continued to mobilize until a period of abeyance that arose in part due to the hegemonic narrative of the Contract with America and the material changes in health care delivery that occurred.

On surface, the Obama era of health care reform seemed to be very similar to the Clinton era, but single-payer activists actually experienced more

marginalization during this period as many former grassroots supporters of single-payer rallied behind Health Care for America NOW (HCAN) and the new administration's push for health care reform. Although SP activists attempted to change the political narrative of opportunity for single-payer, they were not able to garner single-payer a substantial "seat at the table" and were systematically written out of the story of health care reform. However, this did not result in a decrease in activity, rather narratives regarding other types of opportunity as well as developments of material culture encouraged activists to mobilize in more radical ways – to the point of arrest. The single-payer movement has continued to mobilize even following the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and this is largely related to the diversity of their narrative practice and its ability to produce hope even within a negative context.

I would like to thank the activists that have been so important in my research and who I am now happy to call my friends. Many of you make appearances in this text and I thank all of you. I would like to specifically thank Julia Lamborn, Mimi Signor, Mary Jane Schutzius, Donna Smith, and Katie Robbins. Julia introduced me to the world of single-payer and without her fierce support of single-payer and of my research; this study may have never started. Mimi has been a consistent source of expert knowledge of the health care system and she has always been willing to act as a soundboard for my ideas. Mary Jane allowed me to utilize her immaculately kept files for the historical portion of my research. Donna is an untiring supporter of single-payer movement and she has brought enthusiasm and light to my research. I thank all four of these

women for also being consistently willing to engage in discussion with my students, even when it meant travelling over great distances. I thank Katie Robbins for her devotion to the single-payer movement and for long telephone conversations during which we discussed many of the issues presented here. Finally, I would like to thank Marilyn Clement who, until her death in 2009, was one of the many rocks on which the movement for single-payer was built. She welcomed me into the Health Care NOW community with open arms and was consistently supportive of my research. She will forever be remembered and will forever be missed. As Marilyn would say, “Onward to Single Payer.”

I am excited to share some of the many single-payer stories that I have collected with you in upcoming editions of this newsletter. You may find the full (360 page) text of the dissertation at <https://mospace.umsystem.edu>

I would love to hear your comments and critiques – lshern@manchester.edu.



Remembering State Representative

Jim Murphy



life. His perspectives did not always please Republicans or Democrats. His pure insight into what makes

We will miss State Representative Jim Murphy, of Crestwood who served ten terms in the Missouri House of Representatives until he was term limited out in 2002. It is regrettable that there are not more genuinely honorable people, such as he, in public

people tick would make me laugh out loud. Right was right, and political correctness, a non-issue.

Mr. Murphy cosponsored the state single payer health bill, The Missouri Universal Health Assurance Act, when it was introduced by Gail Chatfield in 1990. He was the first and only Republican to sign on. He believed we should have a constitutional amendment making health care a civil right, like public education.

He was my state representative until 1991, and he worked very hard to represent me. He responded quickly and thoughtfully to my personal notes. Even after my moving to University City, he still was happy to help in any way he could, such as the case with the assessment appeals.

In an obituary written by Michael Sorkin in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch: “St. Louis County had changed its assessment formula and thousands of outraged homeowners suddenly found themselves with big tax increases. Mr. Murphy researched how to file appeals. His most successful venture may have been the slim book he wrote during the 1980s explaining how to fight property taxes. After a radio interviewer gave out his home number, Mr. Murphy was swamped with requests for copies of his 20-page book. He wore out three photocopy machines, making some 25,000 copies over a decade. He and his family delivered the copies to county residents, many of whom lived outside his legislative district.”

The Post-Dispatch honored him with an editorial entitled: “Jim Murphy gave public service a good name,” stating, “Mr. Murphy was a Republican in the days when Democrats controlled the House, a man with a low tolerance for flim-flammy and a strong belief that the public ought to get a dollar’s worth of effort for every dollar invested in government... He just liked to serve. He believed in public service, and he gave it a good name.”

—Mimi Signor, RN

Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg, MoSP's 2013 Health Care Weekend Speakers



Laurie Simons

Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg, creators of *The Healthcare Movie* will give MoSP's 11th annual Health Care Weekend programs on April 6 and 7, 2013. Watch for more information in the next newsletter and on our

website calendar and events page, <http://www.mosp.us/events.htm>.

Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg

Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg are a married couple of mixed cultural heritage. Laurie is Canadian, and Terry is American. From 1982 to 1992, Terry joined Laurie in Canada and during that time their two sons were born in a Calgary hospital. They moved to the Seattle area in 1992, and experienced the culture shock of switching from the worry-free health care system in Canada, to the complicated, expensive, and anxiety-provoking system in the United States. In making this documentary they learned that the story of the battle for national health care in both countries has been an adventure story, fraught with heroes and villains. And they learned how two neighboring countries ended up taking such drastically different paths.

The Healthcare Movie:

This documentary provides the real story of how the health care systems in Canada and the United States evolved to be so completely different, when at one point they were essentially the same. Most people under the age of 50, in both countries, are not aware of the intensity of the political struggle that led to the universal medical care system in Canada. Nor are



Terry Sterrenberg

they aware of the public relations campaigns, still active today, that have been prevalent in the United States since the early 1900's to dissuade the public from supporting national health care.

Produced by Canadian/American couple Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg, *The Healthcare Movie* reveals the personal and emotional impact on Canadians who now have access to universal health care because of the heroism of people who took a stand nearly 50 years ago. It also reveals the continuing struggle in the United States between the fear of government intervention and the right to quality health care for all people.

Every day people are dying or going bankrupt due to the ills of the United States system. Who are we in the face of this human tragedy? If you agree that people are more important than profits, then you must watch this film."

(*The Healthcare Movie* website: www.healthcaremovie.net)

—Roger Signor, *Programs*



September 2012 Missourians for Single Payer Meeting

Thanks to a report in the Webster Groves-Kirkwood community newspaper, nearly 90 persons attended the Ethical Society on Thursday, September 20 for the MoSP monthly meeting to hear speaker Dr. William Fogarty address the topic of single payer health care.



Physicians for a National Health Program Meets in San Francisco

I attended the October 27th annual meeting of PNHP in San Francisco. Physicians from all over the country made up the largest group that had ever attended the annual meeting. As always, it was a great place to be surrounded by like-minded people who are working continuously and ardently for Medicare for all. The meeting included updates by Drs. Woolhandler and Himmelstein underscoring the issues that are appearing as the Accountable Care Act is rolled out. The number of underinsured people will rise as the trend is developing where employers are increasing the deductibles and co-pays that their employees must pay for their insurance. The out-of-pocket costs are limiting access to healthcare since the patients don't have the money for their increased share. The 2012 slide shows are available on the PNHP website. We heard from several states about their actions to create single payer in the state. California is now engaged in an effort to attract donors to help with the media campaign. There was a definite pervasive overtone this year that we must gear up the fight for single payer since the country is at a crossroads. The increasing inequality in wealth in the United States makes it imperative that we continue to educate and expand the public's understanding of single payer health care. The only way that we can truly control costs is in a single payer system.

—Pamella Gronemeyer, MD

Dr. Fogarty noted that the Affordable Care Act (ACA, often referred to as “Obamacare”) does not cover many services for Medicare recipients (Medicare is federally administered health insurance for the elderly). Further, the ACA leaves 26 million Americans uninsured. Private health insurers, with their high administrative costs and profits, are at the core of the ACA. The number of Americans who enjoy health insurance coverage has declined, from 70% to about 50% currently. If President Obama is not re-elected, the ACA will be repealed.

The mandatory expansion of Medicaid (state-funded health insurance for the poor) was removed from the ACA by the Supreme Court, making it optional for the states. With expansion of Medicaid, Missouri will get 21 times its current expenditures in Federal dollars, and 350,000 needy Missourians will gain coverage.

Dr. Fogarty discussed the inability of President Clinton to enact a national health plan during his term of office. This failure, documented in the book *The System: The American Way of Politics at the Breaking Point*, written by Haynes Johnson and David Broder, outlines how a bill becomes law – or in the case of the Clinton proposal, fails.

The humane, economically sensible alternative for near-universal health care coverage, notes Dr. Fogarty, is the single-payer coverage that was legislatively authored by John Conyers nearly 20 years ago, and re-introduced annually, as HB 676.

Nearly 73% of Americans have polled in favor of single payer universal health care. About 57% have indicated that they would fund it by paying higher taxes. And about 59% of physicians favor it.

Is single payer morally imperative? Other countries that have universal health care adopted it for that reason, not solely because it was economically less costly than other systems.

—Suzanne Hagan, OD

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Categories

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

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(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.