



HEALTHCARE for ALL!

Missourians for Single Payer Health Care

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

President's message: The Capacity to Care

The tidal wave for single payer is coming. When a critical number of people change their attitude, culture at large will change. No one knows how close we are or how far away we are to the critical mass needed to change society until suddenly we are there. Cultural changes occur before institutional changes. Women's suffrage and the abolition of slavery are examples of inevitable change that didn't occur quickly. Neither will single payer, but it is inevitable and certain.

It is not naïve to believe our democracy can work as it was created to do. Patronizing demagogues, who accept lobby money to keep corporations healthy rather than us humans, say we "just don't understand the 'Realpolitik.'" Realpolitik is political realism, policy based on power rather than on ideals. Our forefathers fought in the Revolutionary War to reject that type of power in favor of the ideal of a representative democracy.

In the spirit of original democracy, the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of interdependence of personal and social life. We live in an era in which the common good has been ravaged by the inhumane social and political conditions that have made health care a commodity that we struggle for, and then bankrupts our families and our neighbors when we access care.

Our number one priority must be our health. Without health, we cannot survive and thrive. Our second priority must be the health of others. Those who are satisfied socioeconomically must not be blind to the suffering of persons less fortunate. We all need and deserve health care. As a nation we have the ability to cure, but lack the capacity to care. It is time for us to care. Now is the time for single payer.

—Mimi Signor, RN

MoSP newsletter staff

Editor-in-Chief, Mimi Signor

Mailing Committee, Mary Jane & Bob Schutzgius

Layout editor, Anne Bader ~ Webmaster, Don Ford www.mosp.us

Spaceship Earth

*The Earth is like a spaceship
Traveling through time and
space.
The crew is every member of the
human race.
Success or failure of the mission
Will depend upon the crew
Having the knowledge, skill, and
empathy
To see the mission through.
Knowledge and skill without
empathy
Are as dark as dark can be!
Edison's light bulb lights the
world,
But many still don't see that
everyone is different,
But everyone's the same.
They laugh when they feel happy
And cry when they feel pain.
This century, empathy must
finally find a place
In every human heart before we
can start
To win the human race!*

By Bob Wickline from "Wake
up America" CD Album
Cascade Mountain Music



Bob Wickline CDs for Purchase for \$15 at the address below upon receipt of their check, Bob will send the CD to the address on the check. All proceeds will go toward the copying and promotion of more CDs and forwarding more "Expanded, Improved, Medicare for All" music videos. "Pass 'em on and play 'em forward!" WICKLINE, PO BOX 84, FOX ISLAND, WA 98333

MoSP fall calendar

Thursdays at 6:30 pm Hanke Room, Ethical Society of St. Louis

September 15: St. Louis premier of Laurie Simons and Terry Sterrenberg's sequel to *The Healthcare Movie*, **Now's the Time!** – Now is the time for single payer, universal health care in the USA, and why it is inevitable.

October 20: *Free and Fair Elections*: speakers TBA

November 17: *Grassroots Democracy* is the theme of our annual members' planning meeting and election of the 2017-2018 board of directors.

December: No programs for December. Happy New Year! See you in 2017!

Grassroots Democracy November 17

"*Grassroots Democracy*" is the theme of our annual members' planning meeting November 17 and election of the 2017-2018 board of directors. Our bylaws require that the grassroots members guide MoSP into the future, by evaluating past programs and events, and planning better ones for 2017. Members who have paid their dues may vote. Mary Jane Schutzius will be happy to take your dues checks before the meeting begins. If you receive this newslet-

ter by mail, the date of your last dues payment will be on the mailing label.

You may nominate someone to serve, if that person is present and consents. You may nominate yourself. The following people have agreed to serve on the 2017-2018 MoSP board: Mimi Signor, President, (University City), Pamella Gronemeyer, Vice President and Secretary, (Glen Carbon, IL), Mary Jane Schutzius, Treasurer, (Hazelwood), Linda Sanders, (Jackson), Margie Sable, (Columbia), and Terry Flowers, (Independence).



Voting Rights Part I: DREs

A reliable voting system is necessary to make sure that the voice of the people is heard on Election Day. The non-partisan Missouri Coalition for Transparent and Secure Elections has been working for several years to bring transparency and better security to Missouri's voting process. With this aim, we have been working with our Legislature to pass a bill that would eliminate the use of direct-record, touch-screen, electronic voting machines (DREs) in Missouri, and make a hand-marked paper ballot the official ballot in the state.

Why eliminate DREs? All computerized election equipment runs on proprietary software that by law, election officials cannot review. This lack of transparency is particularly risky with the use of DREs. Unlike

when votes recorded on paper ballots are scanned through a computerized optical scan machine, when votes are recorded with a DRE there is no “software-free” record to compare against the computer-generated totals. There is a lack of any real audit capability.

While all the DREs operating in our state have a paper audit tape of the voter’s selections that is available for the voter to verify while voting, the printer that produces this tape runs on the same secret software as the DRE. Most voters do not take the time to verify it. As the Election Day logs kept by St. Louis County’s technicians reveal, this “audit” tape often gets so jammed in the printer that it cannot be removed intact. St. Louis County election officials say their only recourse for doing a hand recount of the votes on tapes that have been ruined due to jamming is to print out a facsimile of the voter’s selections from the DRE’s internally collected data, which *no* voter has verified!

DREs from every manufacturer operating in the U.S. have been demonstrated in university studies, to be easily hacked to change election results without detection. Other countries have banned these machines. Yet they are still allowed to operate here, despite warnings by computer security specialists.

One obstacle to eliminating DREs, is the false perception that they are “high tech” machines and therefore better than voting with simple, old fashioned paper and pencil. This “high tech” equipment malfunctions on Election Day with alarming frequency. In addition to frequent printer jams mentioned above, such problems as machines failing to start up, votes displaying for the wrong candidate on the screen, screens freezing or going blank, are all typical problems that occur throughout the states where DREs are still used, including here in Missouri.

We have had testimony in favor of our paper ballot bill from nationally recognized computer scientists who have studied DRE machines in depth. Despite these studies, historically there has been

opposition to our bill in both the Missouri House and Senate from both sides of the aisle. The legislation we promote includes language to ensure that the needs of disabled voters are met with HAVA approved ballot marking devices, or “BMDs” at each polling place. To protect the privacy of those voters, there are BMDs available that produce a mark that resembles a mark made by hand. You can read the complete 2016 bills, HB 1778 and SB 623 at www.moga.mo.gov.

It is a difficult battle. Please contact your legislators and demand that they outlaw DREs and make hand marked paper ballots the official ballot for all elections to protect the security and integrity of our votes. Thank you!

—Cynthia Richards, Ph.D.

(Dr. Richards is one of the directors of the non-partisan Missouri Coalition for Transparent and Secure Elections)



Cynthia Richards, voting rights advocate



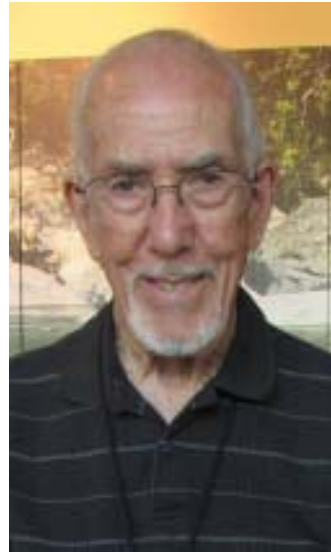
Bob Haiducek, Medicare for All Advocate, Visits Here

Bob Haiducek, of Michigan, single payer advocate and creator of the Medicare for All website, www.mforall.org honored us in July with a brief talk prior to the MoSP showing of the documentary *Fix It*. Bob discussed his optimism about what he saw as real progress in the single payer movement.

On the weekend Bob and his wife Lynn participated in a Bernie Sanders rally, representing Medicare for all in down town St. Louis during a 100-plus degree heat wave. Medicare for all bumper stickers, yard signs and buttons can be purchased through his website.



Bob and Lynn Haiducek march here



Alan Ranford

Letters to the editor, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, August 9, 2016: U.S. has to catch up to other countries on health care

To truly pursue better health care access, we need more than interstate licensing of doctors, although this is a good idea (commentary “For

better health care access, pursue interstate licensing.” Aug. 5).

Many cannot afford to see a doctor until they are desperately ill. This rich nation is the only highly developed nation without universal health care for all. Our cost per person for health care is approximately twice that of other nations with relatively poor outcomes. We rank 37th out of 191 nations studied by the World Health Organization for overall performance.

This is not anything new. It has been the case for many years. Are we not capable of doing anything about this situation when other countries obviously have? Despite much disparagement of the Canadian single-payer system, the Canadians love it. In 2004, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. polled the nation to choose the “The Greatest Canadian.” The winner by a landslide was the originator of their single-payer health care system, former Saskatchewan Premier Tommy Douglas. He beat out Alexander Graham Bell and Wayne Gretzky. That should tell you something about the popularity of their system.

When are we, in this country, going to wake up and catch up to other nations in our health care practices?

—Alan Ranford, Bridgeton

Dr. Pamela Gronemeyer receives Outstanding Working Women of Illinois Award (condensed from the Highland News Leader, May 2016)



Dr. Pam Gronemeyer

MoSP board member, Dr. Pamela Gronemeyer was honored at the Illinois Federation of Business Women (IFBW) State Convention held in Champaign. This is the most prestigious award given by the state organization to honor women who have made significant contributions to their business and their community.

Nominees are judged in six areas: education, professional/personal growth, career achievements and recognition for professional service, achievements and recognition for community service, achievements and contributions with regard to women’s issues, and regional, state, national and international contributions and influence.

Dr. Gronemeyer is lab director and owner of SEMC Pathology LLC, which she established in Highland in 2000. SEMC provides full anatomic pathology services for several clinics and doctors’ offices in central and southern Illinois. A self-employed small business owner, Dr. Gronemeyer has six employees, five of which are women. She also serves as lab director or pathologist at six area hospitals.

In recognition for contributions in her field she received the “Soul of Medicine Award” from the Physicians for Social Responsibility and Physicians for a National Health Program in Illinois in 2015. She has

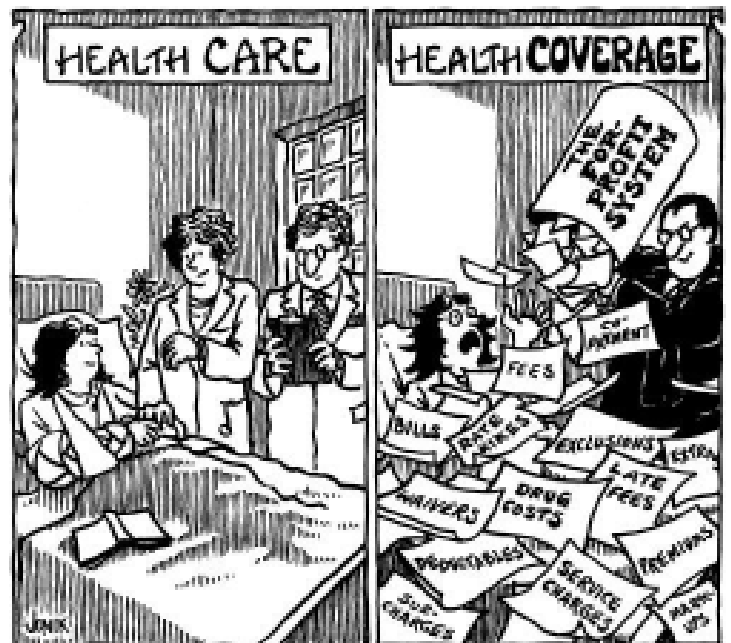
co-authored several articles published in *American Journals of Clinical Pathology, Human Pathology, Transfusion, and Pediatrics.*

Gronemeyer serves as vice president on the Illinois Single Payer Coalition Board of Directors, is co-president of the southern division of Physicians for National Health Programs-Illinois, and serves on the Missourians for Single Payer Board of Directors.

Active in her community, she has served on the Advisory Board for Madison County Health Department, participates in various community education programs on women’s health issues and health fairs sponsored by the hospitals she serves, and served on the Madison County Aids Task Force.

Dr. Gronemeyer is an organizer and member of Progressive Democrats of America and Southern Illinois People for Progress. She has led rallies and demonstrations fostering health care issues and has lobbied in Washington, D.C., with Doctors for America, Healthcare Now and the American Medical Association.

<http://www.bnd.com/news/local/community/highland-news-leader/article75547137.html>



Two Cancer Patients Arrested Protesting TPP Impact on Medicine Prices

By Doug Cunningham (condensed)

Workers Independent News –AFL-CIO www.laborradio.org

On World Cancer Day two cancer patients were arrested in a civil disobedience action protesting the expansion of medicine monopolies under the TPP trade deal. Hannah Lyon and Zahara Hecksher were arrested after they linked arms and refused to leave the lobby of the office building that houses PhRMA, the prescription drug lobby in Washington D.C. As she stood handcuffed and under arrest Hekscher had this to say about the TPP and its impact on affordable medicines. [Zahara Heckscher]: “It’s the monopoly that are keeping prices high. Congress should reject the TPP on behalf of people with cancer in the United States and around the world. Even Doctors without Borders has said that this would be the worst trade bill ever for access to medicine. PhRMA needs to stop pushing for fee monopolies, start using the money for research not trying to buy off Congress.”

1,500 groups urge Congress to oppose the TPP. For more information write to **Citizens Trade Campaign**, P.O. Box 77077, Washington DC 20013, email info@citizenstrade.org.



Robert Reich on UnitedHealth



Robert Reich

If you want to know what’s happening to health insurance in America, take a hard look at UnitedHealth – the nation’s largest insurer. It’s making humongous profits. Its second-quarter earnings jumped 11 percent. Over the past its revenue grew 28 percent to \$46.49 billion. So far this year, the value of its stock has soared 20 percent – more than triple the 6 percent average increase of the rest of the stock market.

Where’s all this money coming from? You — when you pay for health insurance, and/or when you pay your taxes for health insurance programs UnitedHealth offers. (It’s a major provider of Medicare Advantage, for example.)

But here’s the thing. UnitedHealth is losing money in the small slice of its business offering insurance to lower-income Americans (and people with pre-existing conditions) under the Affordable Care Act. So it’s cutting back. Instead of selling Affordable Care Act coverage under the Act in 34 states, as it did this year, it will be selling coverage in just 3 states next year.

Corporations are designed to make money for their shareholders (and CEOs) — which often means getting as big as possible so they dominate markets, while cutting back on social responsibilities that may make small dents in the bottom line. That’s the way the system works. Which is why we need a single-payer system. What do you think?

(Robert Reich, commentator and professor, served in the administrations of Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, and was Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton from 1993 to 1997.)

Life Expectancy between Rich and Poor Expands

Life expectancy for the poor is declining, according to a recent report published by several leading economists. In 2010, the average, upper-income 50-year-old man was expected to live to 89. But the same man, if he's lower income, would live to just 76, according to the report. The corresponding life expectancies among women are 92 and 78 years of age. Authors of the report speculated on various reasons for this large disparity, but not on an obvious cause, which is that Americans are not entitled to Medicare until age 65. For less affluent Americans, the costs of basic health care is too expensive to access until then. By age 65, it may be too late to treat advanced heart disease, stroke, and cancer, due to postponement of screening and preventive interventions.

—Mimi Signor

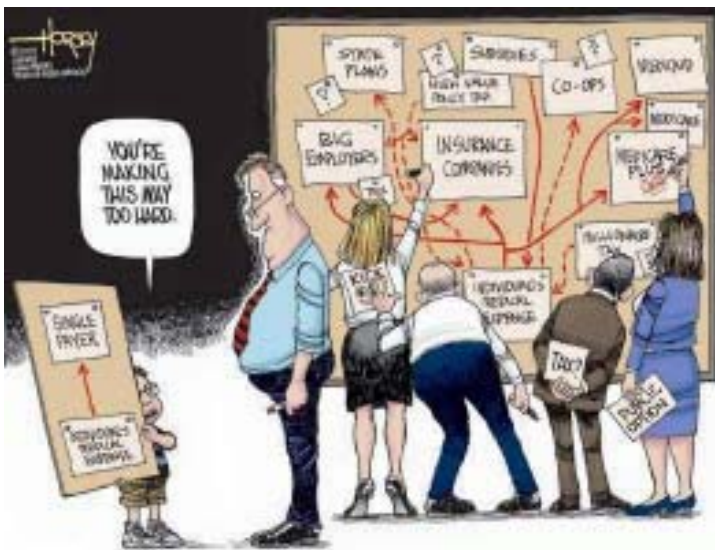


Congressman Clay opens his gift

Single Payer Advocates Celebrate Medicare with Congressman Clay

Single Payer advocates Norma and Richard Harnack, Stefany Brot, Mary Jane Schutzius, and I celebrated Medicare's fifty-first birthday with Congressman Lacy Clay at his South City office July 29. A birthday gift for Rep. Clay was a coffee mug emblazoned with the image of the world's largest Medicare card on a billboard, created by Pamella Gronemeyer. We presented Rep. Clay with postcards from constituents thanking him for his support of traditional Medicare and expanded Medicare through his continued co-sponsorship of "HR 676, Improved Medicare for All".

—Mimi Signor, RN



Single payer advocates celebrate Medicare with Congressman Clay

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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.