



It's Time to Add Your Voice

PNHPWW August 19th Meeting/Monthly Report

Twenty-four attended the meeting.

Coordinator's report

Email list 458, Treasury \$1121.13. Web site update - Weiner Amendment support links.

PNHPWW Board Meeting Report

Please see the **attached** report

Report from PNHP National

Anthony Weiner amendment to HR 3200 that would replace its language with that of HR 676. There will be a House floor vote on this amendment when the house reconvenes in September.– To date, more than 3000 emails have been generated to ask Congressmembers to vote for the amendment. There is a link from our PNHPWW web site to easily submit these emails.

Approximately 25 Congressmembers have committed to vote for this amendment. Many others are likely to support it, but can't confirm yet. (currently, 86 House members have co-sponsored HR 676).

Kucinich amendment to HR 3200 would provide an ERISA waiver, facilitating individual states to set up their own experimental plans such as a single payer plan. PNHP has decided to support attaching this amendment to any bill short of single payer that Congress settles on.

Bernie Sanders will introduce an amendment to the final Senate version of its reform legislation with his S. 703. He has already introduced S. 898, same intent as the Kucinich amendment to facilitate state reform legislation.

Whole Foods boycott – PNHP has been asked to provide educational and speaker support to a group working to boycott Whole Foods. It's CEO, John Mackey, is anti-union, believes that health care is not a right, individuals have to be responsible for their own health and that the market can fix our health care system. He provides a high-deductible, health savings account insurance plan for his employees. His mostly progressive customers need to be aware of his politics.

Recent Activities

Anne Feeney's "Sing Out for Single Payer Concerts" in Western Washington. Anne did six shows in Western Washington, including Tacoma, Seattle, Port Angeles and Bellingham. The Seattle show attracted 250 people who contributed more than \$3000. Lots of SP literature was distributed. A short video clip can be viewed at - www.unitedforsinglepayer.org

Wash DC Birthday of Medicare Lobbying, June 30th – PNHPWW members Don Mitchell, Reba McGear, James Floyd and Kathleen Myers represented PNHPWW at this focus of lobbying for single payer. They met with Jim McDermott and visited our senators' offices.

United for Single Payer Coalition - UfSP has been meeting almost weekly and has provided single payer presence at several community events this summer. PNHPWW members are playing an active role.

SP Action Team Meetings in Legislative Districts – Coordinated by Chuck Richards of HCFA-WA and co-hosted by PNHPWW. These monthly meetings in seven grouped legislative districts have brought many new people into the single payer community. For a schedule of these meetings visit - www.healthcareforallwa.org/local-action-teams

34th Dems Health Care Forum – Lisa Plymate coordinated and moderated a panel that included Jim McDermott for a standing-room-only crowd.

Olympia Health Care Forum – Don Mitchell participated in this forum on health reform.

Olympia Radio Station KAOS 89.3 FM, interview – David McLanahan was interviewed during a one-hour discussion of current health reform issues. Follow up to occur on August 27th at 12 noon.

Future Activities

Resolution to LD Democratic Clubs to support the Weiner, Kucinich and Sanders legislation (see above). Please consider have your local Democratic Club pass this resolution (see **attached**).

Sept 2nd Meetings with Jim McDermott and Mary Conway of Patty Murray's staff – several PNHPWW members will be attending these meetings to discuss the current status of reform legislation. See Board report for planned questions.

Community Events in August/September – there are several events coordinated by UfSP where you can join in spreading the SP message. See calendar for info - www.unitedforsinglepayer.org/USP_Calendar_August.html

August 29th - American and Canadian Postal Workers meeting in Burien. Request for PNHP speaker. Les Pittle coordinating

September 8th – “Mad as Hell Doctors” event in Seattle – Seven Oregon physicians are taking a cross-country trip in a motor home with media friendly events and Town Halls in 28 cities. The idea is to increase media coverage of single payer. Particularly, they hope to discuss health reform with the grassroots of all political persuasions. Their trip will culminate in a demonstration in front of Congress at the end of September. Paul Hochfeld (see below) is a “Mad Doctor.” For Seattle Press release and flyer - www.unitedforsinglepayer.org/flyers/Mad%20as%20Hell%20Doctors-Flyer%20copy.pdf

Sept 29th - WaCAN Social Justice Breakfast, 7:30 AM (\$60). For information and reservations - www.washingtoncan.org

Sept 30, Oct 1st – Vancouver BC HC Forums – Don and David will speak

October 5th – Tacoma Rotary request for PNHP speaker. Reba McGear coordinating

Conversation with Paul Hochfeld via Internet

Paul is a PNHP member and ER physician from Corvallis, Oregon who is a driving force behind the Mad as Hell Doctors tour. Paul also produced the outstanding video “Health, Money, and Fear” that looks at causes for our super expensive and dysfunctional health care system. It is in our library for anyone to borrow.

WE had a SKYPE connection with Paul projected on the big screen. The video and audio were remarkably good for an Internet connection. We still need to do some work to get the audio optimized for those attending by the Go-to-Meeting Internet connection.

Paul offered lots of pearls of wisdom during his initial remarks and in lengthy answers to questions over the 45 minutes. Unfortunately, any summary leaves out a lot.

He talked a little about the Mad Doctors Tour as mostly about the political process in this country, not about health care. He hopes they are able to reach out to those in the middle and right with the message that we have lost our democracy to “corporatocracy.”

The Mad Doctors do not want to be identified as “the angry left” - just the other side of coin from the angry right that we have been seeing. Want to distance themselves from that rage and irrationality. They even considered changing the name of the tour, set months ago, to avoid those connotations. But they will tell the truth, using humor every step of the way.

The right doesn't think the gov't can do anything well. Agree with them that's often so. But the private hasn't been doing so well either. Point out how the corporatocracy has screwed up our economy, brought us outsourcing and unemployment, the auto industry collapse, etc. Point out the gov't runs the post office efficiently in the cheapest postal system in the world, the VA, CDC, Medicare, our police and fire departments.

We need some entity independent of gov't, not beholden to Congress, to run health care and the risk pool,. Needs to have a budget and be transparent. We need to know who is in charge.

To stay in office and protect their own privileges, politicians need money from the corporatocracy to media message the “middle masses,” - more than they need the votes of you and me on the left or the right. The doctors hope to message the middle masses on their tour, not just the “choir.” They hope to have high profile media events in each venue.

Realistically, the corpocratocracy has control of our “democratic” public processes. We will need campaign finance reform to unglue the unholy partnership between the politicians and the corporatocracy.

Physicians need to tell the public just how sick our system is. But physicians have become the mercenaries of the industry. Those making “enough” money (not in Family Practice) aren’t speaking up. An exception - Remote Medical folks are the real heroes. They work quietly yet make a huge point.

Obama isn’t asking for anything from those who have health care. He’s not being brave. Those folks might have to give up a bit – wait a little longer for some elective things – so that their neighbor can go to bed without worrying about affording HC.

Lastly, Paul shared a letter ([see attached](#)) from an American doc who now practices in Canada that clearly contrasts our two systems. Read it and quote it freely!

Next meeting – Wednesday, September 16th, 7PM, Swedish/Cherry Hill Campus, Conference Center Auditorium

Submitted by

David McLanahan
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