

May 17, 2013
LWWCalifornia State Convention

Welcome to the Caucus for Healthcare Reform!

We are meeting this evening as a followup to this afternoon's workshop/forum on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Single-Payer Healthcare Reform. Our aim is to organize our work together statewide in support of the LWW healthcare position: *universal quality healthcare affordable to both society and individuals*.

Right now there is a lot of activity at both the state and county levels committed to implementation of the ACA. Unfortunately this has distracted many individuals and organizations from working for continuing reform with the goal of Single Payer in mind, especially since the failure at the state level of both proposition and legislation in support of Single Payer.

However, we should not be pessimistic about the future of continuing reform. There are significant flaws in the ACA, especially in the areas of accessibility and cost control. The League's presence in all parts of California gives us a wonderful opportunity to organize at the "grassroots" level as well as with every level of our elected officials, so that when it comes to a popular vote, *which it will*, Single Payer will win.

The LWWBerkeleyAlbanyEmeryville health committee has been developing a kit of tools each local League can use in its community. This kit will have information and access to resources at levels ranging from Questions and Answers for those who haven't yet heard of Single Payer to research papers by academics looking at individual aspects of reform.

This folder contains the beginnings of this kit. It presently contains the following:

- Links to internet information, both ACA and Single Payer
- Links to organizations and their resources
- Hard copies of a number of sample flyers and handouts on both the ACA and Single Payer
- Access to The Healthcare Movie
- Potential access to speakers and to speaker training

Eventually this information will all be available through the LWW California website.

And how do we use this knowledge?

Each of our communities is different, with different interests, needs, and environments. We will have to tailor our work to the context, but between keeping everyone as healthy as possible and saving both public and private

money, we will have mutual interests with many other organizations, humanitarian, environmental, educational, even business. Ultimately we will need to work in coalition with other organizations, and we should begin now.

Many League members wear several hats, belonging to more than one organization; active in more than one way. We can use that to reach out with the idea of healthcare reform. It will take organizations, not just individuals, to persuade legislators and to pass legislation and propositions.

With these tools we can do what the League does best--Educate and Advocate, with League conversations, public forums, movie screenings, meetings with legislators, tabling, petitions, leafleting, speaking out at hearings, lobbying public officials and boards of organizations, speaking to congregations, giving radio and TV interviews on community, public, and network broadcasting stations, writing op-eds, letters to the editor, and articles for membership organizations--something satisfying for each of us to do, while always keeping our goal in mind.

Always ask--"What do we get from this activity?" "How do we use this activity to achieve our goal?"