

MISSION

To educate and mobilize League members to work toward legislation and other reforms that enact the goals of our LWVUS health care position, with a strong focus on [expanded and improved Medicare for All \(a single-payer system\)](#).

December Meeting Topics

Exploring Action-oriented Advocacy

Hank Abrons (CA), gratified by wide circulation of his [Letter to the Editor](#) in the San Francisco Chronicle, feels that our local groups (and coalitions) don't have the capacity to follow up with "street theatre," or Rapid Response teams. We didn't capitalize on the outpouring of rage against the health care establishment that was generated independently of our HCR4US efforts. "Our local organizations need to think proactively about getting ready for the outrages to come." We also need to go beyond analysis to SOLUTIONS.

Betty Keller (VT) referred to VTs Rapid Response Team that mobilizes to write letters to the editor for urgent issues.

Margie Villani (NC) suggests sponsoring events where people can sign petitions showing SP support; even more important, talk directly to legislators.

Barbara Pearson (MA) suggested we use the public outcry about the abuses of health insurance companies to get our state Leagues motivation to adopt the Vermont Concurrence which in turn may encourage the national League to adopt it as a national policy at the 2026 convention.

Linda Johnson (KS) illustrated from her own experience the dilemma of opposing Medicare Advantage. That is, her plan fully covered her cancer treatment without hassle and was much less expensive than Traditional Medicare would have been for her. This

common response is the basis for "[Leveling the Playing Field](#)" campaign by PSARA which talks not so much against Medicare Advantage, but which advocates **for** improving Medicare to remove Medicare Advantage's unfair competitive advantage (see *PSARA Materials with the October 2024 Minutes*).

Substack Recommendations

Mo Brinck-Lund (WA) again recommended [Substack](#) as a source for information, inspiration, and possibly for public communications. Look for

- [Michael Moore](#) (*2007 Sicko is now streaming*)
- Jessica Craven's [Chop Wood Carry Water](#)
- Wendell Potter's [HEALTH CARE un-covered](#)
- Alan Unell's [Healthcare Advocacy](#)
- Matt Stoller's "[BIG](#)" (*great info on monopolies, including healthcare*)

Others include Robert B Hubbell, Heather Cox Richardson, Joyce Vance, but these are not just focused on health care.

Revisiting the Mission Statement

Join a taskforce to decide HCR4US' direction. Should we

- focus more narrowly on getting single-payer legislation and getting LWVUS to act? OR
- act as an amplifier for all health care efforts in local Leagues as a route to encouraging more local and state efforts?

Can we do both?

HCR Spotlight

Thank you, **Harriette Seiler** (KY), for reminding us of a possibly forgotten tool available to us: Public Media.

"Grassroots community radio stations empower new voices to create vital programming heard nowhere else."

Check out the [Single Payer](#) series on WFMP-FM.

What programs could you do locally with your community media?

(See also WFHB Bloomington Indiana's "[Prescription for Healthcare](#)" in our Nov. 2023 newsletter.)



Attendees

AK – Carolyn V. Brown
 AK – Joan Soutar
 CA – Hank Abrons
 CA – Barbara Cummins
 CA – Jon Li
 CO – Elaine Branjord

CO – Linda Mahan
 CO – Kathy Maher
 GA – Sharon Hill
 KS – Linda Johnson
 KY – Harriette Seiler
 MA – Barbara Pearson

MI – Maria Woloson
 NC – Margaret Villani
 NY – Alberta Roman
 OR – Christa Danielson
 VA – Stephanie Lowenhaupt
 VT – Jean Hopkins

VT – Betty Keller
 VT – Eduardo Siquera
 WA – Maureen Brinck-Lund
 WA – Lynne Courtney
 WI – Dorothy Skye

In Case You Missed It

Dec. 7 LWV Alachua County Health Care Committee hosted PNHP's Dr. Ed Weisbart "[Demystifying Medicare Advantage](#)" Contact Candy Birch if you would like to set up a program with your League to show the video with a panel afterward.

Dec. 10 Dr. Glaucomflecken "[My Thoughts On The United Healthcare CEO Murder](#)"

Dec. 29 HCR4US meeting [video](#) and [audio](#) and [minutes](#) with Action Links

Upcoming

Jan 14 8:00 p.m. ET US CommunityHealthcare.net meeting via Zoom "Historical Precedent for Single-Payer Administrative Structure" Register [here](#).

Websites

HCR4US Toolkit:

<https://lwvhealthcarereform.org>

HCR4US Youtube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/c/
LWVHealthCareReform](https://www.youtube.com/c/LWVHealthCareReform)

HCR4US Mtg Minutes:

<https://tinyurl.com/HCR4US-Minutes-etc>

HCR4US Web-Contact Form:

tinyurl.com/Contact-LWV-HCR-4US

Password protected directory

Networking

One Payer States

<https://www.onepayerstates.org/>

National Single Payer

<https://nationalsinglepayer.com/>

Healthcare Advocacy on Substack

[Here's the link.](#)

Physicians for a National Health Program

<https://pnhp.org/>

Students for a Nat'l Health Program (SNaHP)

<https://www.facebook.com/snhp1/>

Center for Medicare Advocacy

<https://www.MedicareAvocacy.org>

National Nurses United

<https://www.nationalnursesunited.org>

Medicare for All Resolutions

<https://www.medicare4allresolutions.org>

Poor Peoples Campaign

<https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org>

ADD YOUR GROUP [HERE](#)

State Reports

California: Jon Li announced the Jan 14 meeting of [US Community Healthcare.Net](#) focusing on local public health departments.

California: Barbara Commins advised that [SHIP](#) counselors in every state can help clients move out of Medicare Advantage in January, February, and March.

Kentucky: Harriett Seiler reports that her League presents webinars on local public radio. (See page 1 for info on [Forward Radio](#).)

Michigan: Maria Woloson announced that their ACLU program on reproductive rights was motivating for attendees. (See [slides](#) in *Supplementary Materials*).

New York: Alberta Roman announced that her League is preparing to campaign for the NY Health Act for Single Payer which will be re-introduced in the New York Legislature this session.

North Carolina: Margie Villani recommends that we individually accumulate the names of those who are in favor of Medicare for All as we attend events and build a big database that will assure politicians that there is broad support. (See her Facebook Group: [Medicare for All Project—Guilford County](#))

Oregon: Christa Danielson suggested that we direct attention to Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), keeping private equity out of health care and other measures within the state.

Did we leave out your report? Let us know in our [contact form](#).

Take Action!

- Check for other health justice groups in your region—for "piggybacking" programs together. We may need to supplement LWV activism with groups like [Healthcare-NOW](#) or [One Payer States](#) which are more nimble but have less "gravitas" than LWV.
- Watch for new injustices through Medicaid cutbacks in your state. Find out where that information is available for you. Here's a [start](#).
- Find out what it would take to move your state League to concur with the Vermont proposal on privatization which allows members to speak against Private Equity and Medicare DisAdvantage.
- Look up your state's State Health Insurance (Assistance) ([SHIP](#)) counselor program. NOTE: In states like MA and FL, the program is called Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders ([SHINE](#)).
- Find [public media](#) (like Radio Forward in Louisville KY and WFHB in Bloomington IN) in your area. What would it take to do a health care presentation or a series of programs?

"Advocate for policy — not politics."

Article Archive

Recent Articles of Interest Related to Healthcare Reform

Hold down the CTRL key and click on the hyperlinks to access the articles.
Please send us articles (citation and/or pdf) through the [Google Group](#).

Dec. 30, 2024 [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (for no paywall, check [here](#))

“How the Trump administration Can Protect Public Health”

By Walter Tsou

The cost of being unprepared to face another public health emergency is unacceptable

Dec. 31, 2024 [The Guardian](#)

“US Lawmakers Eye Health Insurance Reform as Frustrations Mount”

By Melody Schreiber

Nearly one in four doctors say the practice of prior authorization has led to serious issues for patients.

Jan. 1, 2025 [Common Dreams](#)

“Americans Are Angry About Their Health Insurance—With Good Reason”

By Claudia Fegan, M.D., national coordinator of Physicians for a National Health Plan

As a physician, I have seen patients suffer and die in order to pad the bottom lines of corporate health insurers—and in recent years I have seen this problem getting much worse.

(Health Justice Monitor estimates that 200,000 deaths occur yearly as a result of insurance problems.)

Jan. 1, 2025 [Slate](#) (Medical Examiner section)

“There’s One Weird Trick to Being Healthy — Spoiler: It’s Money!”

By Gideon Meyerowitz-Katz

A stunning finding in this article points to a difference of a decade in life expectancy for a teenager associated with family income: Below the poverty line (\$20,440) versus three times the poverty threshold, or a gap of about \$40,000/year.

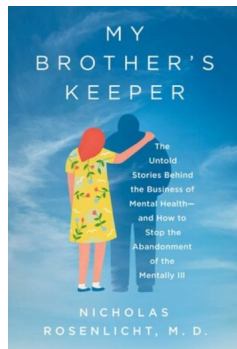
Jan. 2, 2025 [The Wall Street Journal](#) (for no paywall, check [here](#))

“How Health Insurers Racked Up Billions in Extra Payments from Medicare Advantage”

By Christopher Weaver

The Wall Street Journal’s yearlong investigation into Medicare’s private insurers relied on exclusive access to billions of records of Medicare services

Book Recommendation



[My Brother's Keeper: The Untold Story Behind the Business of Mental Health—and How to Stop the Abandonment of the Mentally Ill](#)

2024 Pegasus Books (and Kindle) (recommended by Mo Brinck-Lund WA)

Dr. Nichols Rosenlicht, a leading psychiatrist, reveals how and why we arrived at its current state of dysfunction in mental health services. He details the disastrous outcomes of the for-profit mental health care model which has stripped away the human element of treatment and incentivized shifty ethical and legal practices.

Then he shows a way forward with an effective and compassionate new framework for healing.

NOTE: Dr. Rosenlicht is a close colleague of our colleague Hank Abrons (CA).

HCR4US is considering inviting Dr. Rosenlicht to a meeting or organizing a program with him.