



**INAUGURAL MEETING
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
MAY 16, 2010
Minutes**

Twenty-six physicians, members, and guests congregated at Paul Friedman's home in La Jolla Sunday afternoon for the first formal meeting of the San Diego Chapter. Honored guests Drs. Matt Hendrickson and Don McCanne presented their views of PNHP's mission and how PNHP-CA and the San Diego chapter can further that mission.

In reevaluation of its strategies after the debate over national healthcare reform never seriously considered a single payer plan, PNHP concluded that healthcare reform never became a movement in the sense that prohibition, women's rights, and civil rights became political movements. There was a disconnect between elitist leaders and the general population. The solution is to generate grass root support for a single payer plan by organizing at the local level.

The chapter's mission is to educate, advocate, grow in numbers, and form coalitions (especially with groups with skills doctors' organizations don't have).

To ensure that members and chapters have "one message, one brand" at national, state, and local chapter levels, there will be a monthly report by telephone conference call wherein leaders at the three levels review their "activities". Matt summarized the latest national and state activities.

National

- Filed letters of protest over the firing of physicians at St. John Medical Center, Cleveland, because they were not bringing in "enough" Medicare patients to the hospital.
- Publicized the finding that the Healthcare Insurance Industry has invested \$ 6.85 billion in fast food industry stocks.
- Released data showing that uninsured patients (Medicaid population) with migraines are not being adequately treated and have a 40% greater chance of dying.
- Objected to Frontline's total omission of the single payer aspect of Margaret Flower's recent interview on healthcare reform.



- Publication on PNHP’s website of its review of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P-PACA) [PNHP.org]. Go to Articles of Interest link and choose Health Reform Timelines for detailed summaries by the Commonwealth Fund. The timelines are grouped into three categories—insurance reform, public subsidies, and delivery reform. We need this information for informed discussions with our colleagues.

California

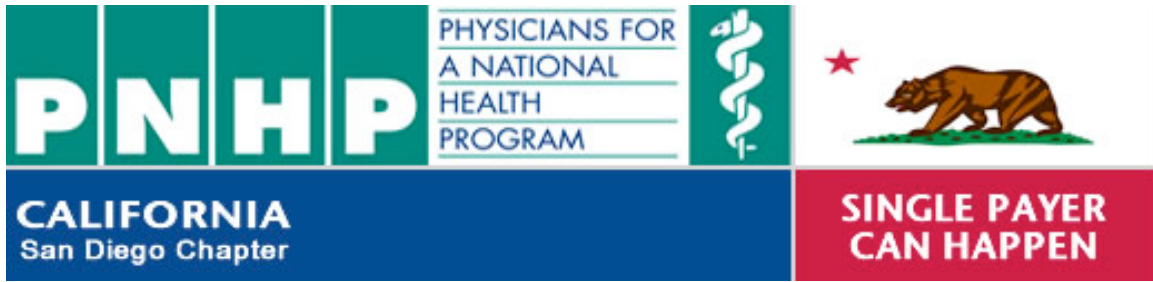
- We now have a new name (PNHP-California), executive director, Dr. Bill Skeen, and six chapters.
- PNHP-California will have an all day summer conference at the UCLA Faculty Club on Saturday, July 17th. All members are encouraged to attend.
- PNHP-California is forming six chapters to begin grass root development
- PNHP-California has a new website: pnhpcalifornia.org
- PNHP-California’s strategic plan for 2011 establishes five committees for leadership development, chapter development (membership enhancement), fundraising, education and advocacy (lobbying legislators and executives). Please volunteer to join one of these committees. Contact Matt Hendrickson to join other PNHP members from around the state.

Don McCanne

The second hour of the meeting was a Q&A type discussion with Don McCanne about making single payer healthcare a viable and ultimately, successful movement. He established that the P-PACA would surely fail because by being structured upon a private insurance base, it will not reduce healthcare costs. Although many progressives (deliberately not capitalized) think they must help “tweak” the Act to make it better, the finances will have to be drastically changed. His advice is to inform the public why the Act will not work

Don previewed his Monday Quote-of-the-Day, wherein he discussed Newt Gingrich’s op-ed piece in today’s *Washington Post*. Gingrich accused President Obama of deliberately crafting a bill that would not only allow the disabling cost of care to rise, but destroy our employer based healthcare insurance system, paving the road to a single payer, government-run system, paving the road toward socialism.

Don stressed the importance of building coalitions with groups active in grass root activities. PNHP’s role is to provide the tools—education materials, written material,



speakers—so these groups can convince others of the soundness of a single payer system.

Announcement of next meeting

The next meeting of PNHP-San Diego will be on Saturday June 19th, at 10 a.m. at Paul Friedman's home, 5644 Soledad Road, La Jolla. (858-454-4473)

Submitted by Zoltan Lucas, MD