

SUMMARY – WMM4A MONTHLY MEETING – MARCH 13, 2019

LOCAL UPDATES and EVENTS:

Report-back on DSA event (3/3/19) with keynote speaker Michael Lighty – Good event, 40-45 folks attending. Excellent presentation from Lighty about the national M4A campaign and connecting national and state efforts. Deborah Levenson opened the program talking about the effort in Mass. Lively Q&A. Here's the Facebook link to video:

<https://www.facebook.com/frances.boyes.7/videos/10161564320955441/>

Springfield hub – organizing a **Health Care Speakout on Saturday, March 23rd** at Springfield City Hall, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Link for more information and RSVP here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeco_uGNbDBM4lb0ZIQ6i5bTdtjTlhIvr7IMVifywQBk9ePQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1

Granby/South Hadley hub – actively organizing to pass a resolution at SH Town Meeting in May. Postcards and outreach to Town Meeting members, letter to the editor, and more. After May, they will focus attention on outreach and education in Granby. Contact:

strandfamily01075sh@gmail.com

Slideshow about M4A bills - Northampton and G/SH hubs discussed the slideshow at their meetings. Hilltown hub thinking about how to use it for public education. Deborah encouraged all hubs to discuss the slideshow at their meetings – important for everyone connected with WMM4A to be familiar with the legislation we are trying to advance. She also reported that the new M4A Legislative Caucus will be using the slideshow to raise awareness about the bill at their Caucus meetings on Beacon Hill.

Legislative Listening Session – March 15th at Jones Library in Amherst. UPDATE: Six speakers gave testimony. WMM4A's presentation overall was very well-received by the lawmakers: Sen. Comerford, and Reps. Blais, Domb, Carey, and Sabadosa. Jon Weissman's testimony has been posted to our WMM4A blog: <https://www.wmmedicareforall.org/blog/>

Demoratic Town Committees of Pelham, Shutesbury, and Leverett will host a forum with local legislators about Medicare for All on Monday, March 25th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. WMM4A will be tabling. Location: Pelham Elementary School, 43 Amherst Road in Pelham.

STATE AND NATIONAL UPDATES:

Mass-Care report – The new Go! Team (“grassroots organizing”) posted a survey to the MC list. About 25 people replied with an interest in becoming active in their local areas and we're following up with them. A couple of MC folks are specifically focusing on the Boston area. MC reps also participated on a conference call with the leadership of the new M4A Legislative

Caucus to help us all stay on the same page and support work inside and outside the statehouse. The plan is to make this a monthly call.

ORMA – Our Revolution Massachusetts – will be deciding their statewide priority issues soon. Nancy Stenberg reported that 13 affiliates voted to make M4A one of those priorities.

Nationally, the new Medicare for All Act of 2019 was introduced in the House on Feb. 27 by Rep. Pramila Jayapal with 106 cosponsors (of 435 reps total). Five of the 9 U.S. Reps from Mass. have signed on: McGovern, Pressley, Kennedy, Keating, and Clark. Those not yet signed on: Neal Trahan, Moulton, and Lynch. Several local canvasses and phone-banks were organized during the “barnstorms” last month to talk with people about M4A and ask them to lobby Rep. Neal to cosponsor the bill.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE

A point-by-point review of the Statement of Governance proposed by the Steering Committee. Discussion points: Regarding decision-making by the General Assembly at monthly meetings: the proposal asked for a 75% super-majority to pass an item. Some wanted to set the bar at 2/3 or 67%. Consensus was reached to set it at 70%. There was also discussion about WMM4A hubs that are sub-groups of another organization – such as DSA or N’ton Indivisible. We agreed on the wording that hubs can be “hosted” by organizations whose mission is compatible with WMM4A and that a hub will not require its members to join the host organization. Finally, there was consensus about the definition of a quorum, but we discussed the need to develop some way to keep track of who attends the monthly General Assembly, as first-time attendees will not be able to participate in decision-making. Here is the link to the final version of the Statement of Governance, adopted by the General Assembly on March 13th:

<https://www.wmmedicareforall.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Governance-FINAL-2.pdf>

NEXT MEETING: WED. APRIL 10th