

## SUMMARY – WMM4A GENERAL ASSEMBLY – SEPT. 11, 2019

The GA this month was held in two different locations (Springfield and Northampton) to accommodate participants from various legislative districts. This summary is a composite of the two meetings, which followed the same agenda.

The meetings began with remembrances of two powerful social justice leaders we recently lost: Michaelann Bewsee and Frances Crowe.

### Upcoming Events:

**Friday, Sept. 20, 4:15 p.m. - Climate Strike March** from Sheldon Field to rally at City Hall in Northampton. WMM4A is a co-sponsor of this event. Join us at Sheldon Field to march with the WMM4A banner. Contact Deborah: [info@wmMedicareforall.org](mailto:info@wmMedicareforall.org)

**Tuesday, Sept. 24, 7:00 p.m. - Springfield Area Hub meeting**, hosted by Our Revolution Chicopee. OR business meeting at 6:30, Hub meeting at 7:00. Location: Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee. Contact Jon: [jon@gogtt.net](mailto:jon@gogtt.net)

**Friday, Sept. 27, 1:30 p.m. - M4A Labor Roundtable** with Rep. Sabadosa and Sen. Eldridge. If you are a union member and interested in attending this event, please contact Deborah or Jon: [info@wmMedicareforall.org](mailto:info@wmMedicareforall.org)

**Tuesday, Oct. 1, Medicare for All Forum in Boston** hosted by the Mass. chapter of American Nurses Association. Location is the Statehouse; may be available by video in western Mass. Registration details at [anamass.org](http://anamass.org). Panel includes Boston-area experts and Christine Schrauf, an active member of our South Hadley/Granby Hub. Contact Rory: [rorryz@aol.com](mailto:rorryz@aol.com)

**Thursday, Oct. 3, 6:30 p.m. - Fix It showing** and discussion at Granby Public Library, 297 East State Street, Granby. Contact: [gshmedicare4all@gmail.com](mailto:gshmedicare4all@gmail.com)

**Thursday, Oct. 10, 6:30 p.m.- General Assembly of WMM4A. Location: TBA.** New folks welcome! **RSVP to [info@wmMedicareforall.org](mailto:info@wmMedicareforall.org)**

**Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7:00 p.m. - Training event** hosted by the Northampton Hub. Slideshow and discussion about the Mass. M4A bill with Stephanie Strand. Location: Pathways Cohousing, Mountain Laurel Path, Florence. All WMM4A folks are welcome. Contact Nancy: [ntalanian@gmail.com](mailto:ntalanian@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, Oct. 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m. - Public Outreach Event.** Short video and discussion about M4A, hosted by Northampton Hub. Location: Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street. Contact Jane: [nellajpt11@gmail.com](mailto:nellajpt11@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.- General Assembly of WMM4A. Location: TBA.** New folks welcome! **RSVP to [info@wmMedicareforall.org](mailto:info@wmMedicareforall.org)**

**Wednesday, Nov. 20th - Easthampton M4A Resolution:** rally at 5:30 p.m., City Council meeting and vote at 6:00 p.m. Mark the date - come out to show your support! Location: Easthampton City Hall, 50 Payson Ave. Contact Sara: [spw128@comcast.net](mailto:spw128@comcast.net)

### Other Local Updates:

**The Northampton hub** sent reps and brought literature to city candidate forums. They will also be tabling at a “We the People” event on Saturday, Sept. 21. Contact Nancy: [ntalanian@gmail.com](mailto:ntalanian@gmail.com)

**The Amherst hub** has decided to put its town resolution on hold to allow more time for community education and advocacy, which will continue. Contact Anita: [asarro05@gmail.com](mailto:asarro05@gmail.com)

**The Springfield hub** is planning a survey of candidates in the November municipal elections for Mayor and City Council seats in Springfield and Chicopee. The Holyoke hub will be working with others in Hampden County on upcoming initiatives. Contact Jon: [jon@gogtt.net](mailto:jon@gogtt.net)

**The Health Care Providers Group** is planning to hold small gatherings with other providers, with the emphasis on “engagement” along with education. Contact Anita: [asarro05@gmail.com](mailto:asarro05@gmail.com)

**Labor Roundtable** -- WMM4A Co-conveners are on the planning team for a dialogue between labor leaders and legislators on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. The purpose will be to discuss union perspectives on the bill in Mass. for Medicare for All. This dialogue with bill cosponsors Rep. Sabadosa and Sen. Eldridge is by invitation. If you are an active union member and would like to attend, please contact us: [info@wmMedicareforall.org](mailto:info@wmMedicareforall.org).

**The Mass. Nurses Association will provide training about M4A** in five of its state districts. They will be using a slideshow with a national focus, and we hope to see the content expand to include more information about the state movement in Mass.

### Global Climate Crisis Week – Sept. 20-27

**Discussed co-sponsorship and agreed unanimously to do so.** Planned for a WMM4A contingent to march with our banner at the Northampton event on Sept. 20 (see above). GA participants felt that it was a “no-brainer” for WMM4A to support these actions. We discussed that the climate crisis is also a major health crisis that calls for a response at the scale of Medicare for All.

## National Conference in Portland, OR – Oct. 18-20

WMM4A Co-convener, Jon Weissman, will be attending this conference along with Patty Healy and several other Western Mass. folks, including Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa. Jon will be a presenter at a workshop on “Base-building.” He’ll talk about the WMM4A hub model.

We also discussed questions we hoped to learn more about from the report-back:

- Information about other state movements.
- How can the national campaign raise up the state campaigns as the “proving grounds” for M4A that are building the organizing structures we’ll need to win?
- More on the plan for transitioning workers displaced by M4A
- Best ways to respond about the “public option”?
- What do we know about opposition media campaigns: Who is funding? What organizations are involved?

## New WMM4A Logo:

The GA agreed on a logo design at the July meeting, and it is now complete. While making the final tweaks, our designer created an interesting variation that we could use when the first design might not work as well. The GA agreed the variation was useful and should be included in our “toolbox.” We’ll begin using the new logo soon.

## Training Segment:

The GA in Springfield focused on several questions that came up during canvassing in Holyoke last fall: Will this raise my taxes? How will M4A solve the problems with current Medicare? What about jobs that will be lost?

The GA in N’ton mainly focused on the question: What if I like my current insurance? Here were some of the discussion points and suggested responses:

- What is it that you like about your current plan?
- People like the health care they get from their insurance, not the insurance itself.
- M4A would provide broader benefits, at a lower cost, with more consistency year-to-year, and you can’t lose it – it’s guaranteed from birth to death.
- Even if you like your current plan, you could lose it if you lose or leave your job, or if your employer changes plans, or the insurer changes the coverages.
- Have you ever been sick or in the hospital? Did you really know what your plan would cover? How much did you pay out of pocket?
- No “surprise billing” with M4A, no tiers and panels of providers.
- No co-pays, deductibles, or out-of-network billing with M4A.

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, OCT. 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 P.M. LOCATION TBA. Note that this meeting will be on a Thursday evening, rather than our usual Wednesday.**