

Sharing HCA's Rich History

Dear HCA Members and Supporters,

I am not one of the founding members of this organization, but I have been privileged to know some of them. They have inspired me and have been my mentors and friends.

My knowledge of, and support for, a single-payer healthcare system came by chance. I had no idea there was a movement anywhere in this country promoting such a system!

In 2006 I learned, quite by accident through a friend of a friend, about a fundraiser for a new San Fernando Valley chapter of HCA - CA. I was thrilled and went to the event, and of course the first person I encountered there was the infectiously vivacious and tireless advocate, John Glass. Needless to say, I was hooked!

John became a dear friend whose grace, expertise, and dedication still inspires me. Over the years, I've also had the good fortune to know and work with and learn from HCA founders Anita Horn, Lee Frank, Don Schroeder, and Sharon Stevens in the San Fernando Valley as well as Doris Nelson, Bill Taxerman, Irma Strantz, Terry DeWolfe and George Savage, among others, in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel chapters.

Second generation members such as Georgia Brewer, Jean Ottina, Susan Braig, Rhett Alexander, Bruce Hector, Michelle Klein-Hass, Al Saavedra, and myself have taken up their mantle over the years in the hope of seeing their vision realized.

After hearing of Irma's death a couple of years ago, I felt that we have an obligation to honor, and learn from our founders before we lose any more of them. They have much to teach us, and we need to know the legacy we are serving in our current efforts to achieve healthcare for everybody.

Having brought up the idea, I'm now "in charge" of organizing a *Founders' Tribute*. I can use all the help I can get, such as:

- Names and contact info, if available, for any and all of our founders or their families
- Stories/anecdotes about your interactions with them (accomplishments, frustrations good times and bad, serious or funny)
- Pictures, mementos, communications, etc. about chapter activities and events, and
- Last but not least, your participation on my "committee" to organize this material into a multimedia presentation to celebrate the people who have brought us to HCA - CA's 30th anniversary!

Please search your memories, files, journals, albums (print or digital), closets and drawers; talk to other members of your chapter and ask for any documentation they may have kept from earlier days. Send whatever you gather to me at sfv@healthcareforall.org.

Many thanks in advance,

Dessa Kaye
HCA - San Fernando Valley