

## **Connecting with the Community Tabling for Single Payer**



### **Sacramento Labor Day Picnic**

Single-payer healthcare was a significant part of the 2023 Sacramento CLC, AFL-CIO Labor Day Picnic conversations. With a table just at the entrance next to the SEIU table, we had opportunities to connect to everyone as they entered and left the event. And connect we did!

Many union members (mostly SEIU and AFL-CIO unions) stopped by and checked to see if their locals were members of the Healthy California Now coalition. Writers from *Labor Notes* took a picture of our table for their next paper.

Several candidates and elected officials from the region stopped by and offered their support; a few expressed interest in being part of a health care panel to raise awareness of the issues created by our current health care options and to explore the benefits of a single-payer financed health care system (particularly mental and behavioral health).

Lots of people from the community stop by for buttons, bumper stickers and informational materials, including leaders from *People First* and the *MLK Freedom Center*. All around, the sense seemed to be that the time for single payer was yesterday!

HCA Sacramento Area and Yolo chapters



### **Marin County Senior Fair**

This all-day annual event in the civic center exhibition hall features rows of decorated booths staffed by non-profit providers and commercial purveyors of goods and services of interest to seniors. It attracts a crowd from throughout the county—friends making a date of it browsing arm-in-arm, hundreds arriving by bus from senior centers and adult living facilities, family members, caregivers, elected officials, and the general public.

We shared a booth with the team from CARA (California Alliance for Retired Americans). After hanging our Health Care for All banner and laying out brochures, sign-up sheets, bumper stickers, films, and boxes of raisins, we spent the day in conversation. At the end, HCA volunteers reported the same thing: a marked increase in support for publicly financed universal health care.

According to longtime member Ruth Carter, “There were probably ten times more people who knew about it (than in past years). Many were enthusiastic and wanted to know how they could get involved. We also made connections with other exhibiting organizations.”

A veteran who spoke with volunteer Debbie Spanier told her he received better care than others who were not part of the VA system. “He said, ‘If a single-payer system was ever implemented, we would all be on equal footing.’ And it was nice to hear people say, ‘Thank you for doing this,’ and, ‘Keep up the good work!’”

HCA - Marin County



### North Country Fair 🎶

The annual North Country Fair in Humboldt County! Hundreds enjoyed our local artists, food trucks and political action groups. We had the chance to engage fairgoers in hard-hitting conversations that sparked interest in our Stop Privatization Campaign as well as general information educating the public on the basics of a single-payer healthcare system.

We were able to double our previous donation intake by offering a “prize-based donation pool.” We had some 30 gifts displayed in photos and people made financial donations in exchange for tickets to win one or more items. The photos piqued curiosity, which we turned into teaching moments about single payer and protecting Medicare. This was our third year for this activity, and we had many returning, satisfied customers!

HCA-PNHP - Humboldt County