HCA- Santa Clara County   -  August 2011 Newsletter

August was again a very active month for our chapter members who were involved in many activities promoting  SB 810, The  California Universal Health Care Act. Joan Simon, Lynn Huidekoper, Sandy Perry and Greg Miller tabled at the “National Night Out- Say  No to Drugs and Gangs” event held at the Cry Out Christian Church on August 2nd. Lynne Penek-Holden, Joan Simon and her sister Laura (visiting from Reno), Lynn Huidekoper and Martha Beattie tabled and registered voters at the Campbell Farmers Market on Aug. 7th and will table there again on Aug.  21st. Carol Dalrymple,  Joan Simon, Lynn Huidekoper, Sandy Perry, Greg Miller, Berget Jelane, Joan Goddard  and (others I may have missed) will be handing out leaflets at the Gay Pride event in San Jose on both Aug. 20th and 21st. The SB 810 flyer  they will be distributing will be in English on one side and Spanish on the other, thanks to the translation done by Pablo Ghenis. (Thanks, Pablo!).

The quarterly statewide meeting of HCA Directors was held on August 13th and attended by Lynn Huidekoper and Lynne Penek-Holden (directors of the Santa Clara County Chapter) and Gerry Hunt, state treasurer of HCA.  Joan Simon, a very active member also joined us. Statewide meetings are always open to all members, so please think of attending one in the future. It’s very informative and fun meeting members of other chapters who you have only heard of in emails. It’s a whole new level of involvement in our statewide organization.

We are continuing to get more organizational endorsements for SB 810, with the latest to join being the Dean Democratic Club of Sunnyvale. One thing we learned at the state meeting was that the emphasis should be on organizational and business endorsements. As they come in they are added to the list of endorsements on Senator Leno’s site. So please approach any organization you belong to or any small business you have contact with, who have not yet endorsed this bill or need further education about this bill. Please let us know if you need assistance. (Lpenek@yahoo.com).

Lynne Penek-Holden has joined the statewide Translation Committee headed by Paulina Conn from the Santa Barbara chapter. The 5 members speak some Spanish but none is a truly native speaker. The final product is then given to several native speakers for their approval.  Our focus is to start with Spanish translations already available, update them with current information and also assure they use common terminology (ie an example is that “single payer” will be translated into the same words in every paper). This concept of a universal glossary of terms is essential as has been explained to us by Pablo Ghenis , who is establishing  a progressive translator service. Pablo will be speaking at one of our meetings in the early fall to tell us more about this project.  Working with this committee will be a great way to sharpen my Spanish language skills with the comfort of knowing the final product will be read and corrected by several native speakers from a variety of Spanish speaking countries.

At our July meeting Felix Alvarez, Director of the School OutreachProgram for Santa Clara Family Health Foundation spoke about the history and challenges of the Healthy Kids, Healthy Families and MediCal programs  in SCCO. Current changes to the programs included closing of the Family Resource center, a resource center for low income and immigrant families who seek health insurance and health education. This change was modified after receiving ~ 1000 signatures from community supporters. We appreciated the information Felix provided and have great respect for the many years of dedicated work he has given to provide health insurance to the children of SCCO.

Our chapter continues to grow with 47 current members. There is no such thing as “too big” so please encourage your friends and contacts to join us in our work to achieve a single payer funded universal health care for all Californians.  See the agenda for the information on the August 23rd dinner meeting.