

DEMCCO General Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2017

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Bill Fowler at 10:12 a.m.

Approval of Agenda: It was moved/seconded (Spencer/Standerfer) to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Recognition of Guests, Visitors and New Members: A new member was recognized.

50/50: Barbara Mead reminded members to see the flyer about the Tom Steyer presentation on September 7. She encouraged members to carpool by signing up to be a driver or a rider. 50/50 tickets are for sale. A winner will be selected at the end of the meeting. The winner will receive half of the money collected.

“Electeds” Report: Chuck Lowery, Acting Mayor Oceanside, announced that he will be co-hosting a fundraiser for Dave Myers, candidate for San Diego County Sheriff on Monday at 6:30 p.m. Medical marijuana dispensaries will stop illegal marijuana sales by allowing the city to regulate them. City Council Members Kern and Lowery support prevention of storage of nuclear waste at SONGS. You are encouraged to contact the other council members to get the third vote for a resolution.

California Single Payer Healthcare (Kathy Rallings):

Kathy Rallings is a health benefits specialist with the California Teachers Association (CTA), a major political player in California. She has devoted 20 years to healthcare issues. She serves as a school board member for the Carlsbad Unified School District. She is also active in the Community Choice Energy issue.

Major historical developments in healthcare:

- 1926: national health insurance was seen as socialized medicine and was opposed by the American Medical Association
- 1942: health insurance became a benefit of employment
- 1949: health insurance was first bargained for in union contracts
- 1954: the IRS exempted the cost of health insurance benefits from income taxes
- 1968: sharp increases in healthcare spending began
- 1994: the Clinton plan for universal health insurance failed to pass, Blue Cross became a for-profit company

Health insurance premiums are based on what the market will bear, not the cost of services.

Healthcare trends:

- workers staying on the job until they reach Medicare eligibility
- employees paying for services in the beginning, e.g. deductibles
- people living longer

50% of Californians receive their health insurance through their employment. 30% of Californians receive Medi-Cal and/or Medicare. 2 million Californians receive their health insurance on the individual market. They were seeing prices going up dramatically year after year. Many of these plans were “junk” plans. 7 million Californians were uninsured.

After implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), there are no lifetime or annual spending limits and insurers cannot refuse to pay for services for pre-existing conditions. Medi-Cal was expanded with the federal government paying 100% of the additional cost, then 90% of the additional cost by 2020. A drop in the number of uninsured Californians to 2.7 million occurred. Since California made parts of the ACA into law, it's difficult to repeal. However, the ACA did not control the cost of healthcare. For example, the cost of hip replacement surgery varies from \$15,000 to \$115,000 throughout California.

NOW IS THE TIME! Single payer health insurance is the only way to insure efficient, affordable health care. Costs to individuals and employers will be reduced. 70% of healthcare is already publicly funded. Single payer would reduce administration costs of health insurance compared to what it costs with private insurance today.

Consideration of Amendment to the DEMCCO Bylaws:

Suggested changes to the DEMCCO Bylaws, Article III, Section 3; Article V, Section 5; Article IV, Section 2; and Article VI, Section 1, by Vince Loughney. The Bylaws are currently being reviewed and revised by an Ad Hoc Bylaws Revision Committee. After consideration, the Executive Board recommended a no vote so that these suggested changes could be reviewed by the Ad Hoc Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee is expected to finalize their recommendations and refer them to the Executive Board soon.

A vote of voting members was conducted. The result was 5 ayes, 20 noes and 1 abstention. The amendment failed.

Announcement:

DEMCCO will be selecting 14 delegates to represent our club at the Region 18 Pre-Endorsement Conference. If you are interested, please complete an application provided by President Fowler.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. until September 23, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Slater, Secretary

Approved 9/23/17