

What's to come now that Election Day is behind us?

By Sandy Eaton, RN

This past November I had the honor of attending the strategy meetings of the "Leadership Conference for Guaranteed Healthcare" and "Healthcare-Now" in Philadelphia. While attending, I heard many people thank Massachusetts for the ballot campaigns it ran on Nov. 2 in 14 of its communities. Each of those questions passed by a significant margin, which proves that single payer is still the people's choice.

But I also heard numerous post-election reports from all over the country about the status of single payer in the existing environment. From these reports, I can see that our path ahead is both complex and flexible. We need a two-pronged strategy: one that is defensive and forward moving.

Our defensive strategy starts with combating the federal deficit commission's proposals to attack Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. On Sept. 30, the Capitol switchboard was swamped by callers demanding, "Hands off Social Security, hands off Medicare." We must continue to be aggressive about these efforts. Word is that, at the national level, John Conyers' H.R.676 and Bernie Sanders' S.703 will be re-filed in the coming session.

In terms of being forward moving, I believe that the pendulum has swung back to the states. What a tremendous boost it will be when the first state passes and enacts single payer! Which will be first? Vermont? California? Or maybe Hawaii?

My money is on Vermont—and the good news is that we are close enough to help! ■



"Uh-oh, your coverage doesn't seem to include illness."

© The New Yorker Collection from cartoonbank.com. All Rights Reserved.

MNA membership dues deductibility in 2010

This shows the percentage of MNA dues paid in 2010 that may **not** be deducted from federal income taxes. Federal law disallows the portion of membership dues used for lobbying expenses.

Region	Percent
All Regions	5.0%

the Massachusetts **nurse**

ISSN 0163-0784; USPS 326-050

President: Donna Kelly-Williams, '09-'11
Vice President: Karen Coughlin, '10-'12
Secretary: Rosemary O'Brien, '09-'11
Treasurer: Ann Marie McDonagh, '10-'12

Regional Directors, Labor:

Region 1: Ann Lewin, '09-'11; Sandra Hottin, '10-'12
Region 2: Patricia Mayo, '09-'11; Ellen Smith, '10-'12
Region 3: Karen Gavigan, '09-'11; Donna Dudik, '10-'12
Region 4: Patricia Rogers Sullivan, '09-'11; Tiffany Diaz Bercy, '10-'12
Region 5: Dan Rec, '09-'11; Barbara Tiller, '10-'12

Directors (At-Large/Labor):

Beth Amsler, '10-'12; Colette Kopke, '09-'11; Kathie Logan, '09-'11; Kathy Metzger, '09-'11; Diane Michael, '10-'12; Marie Ritacco, '10-'12; Colleen Wolfe, '09-'11

Directors (At-Large/General):

Fabiano Bueno, '10-'12; Gary Kellenberger, '10-'12; Katie Murphy, '10-'12; Ginny Ryan, '10-'12; Paula Ryan, '09-'11; Nora Watts, '09-'11

Labor Program Member:

Gloria Bardsley, '09-'11

Executive Director: Julie Pinkham

Managing Editor: David Schildmeier

Editor: Jen Johnson

Production Manager: Erin M. Servaes

Photographers: Amy Francis, Charles Rasmussen

Mission Statement: The Massachusetts Nurse will inform, educate and meet member needs by providing timely information on nursing and health care issues facing the nurse in the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Through the editorial voice of the newsletter, MNA seeks to recognize the diversity of its membership and celebrate the contributions that members make to the nursing profession on the state, local and national levels.

Published 10 times annually, in January, February, March, April, May, June, July/August, September, October and November/December by the Massachusetts Nurses Association, 340 Turnpike Street, Canton, MA 02021.

Subscription price: \$25 per year. Foreign: \$30 per year
 Single copy: \$3.00

Periodical postage paid at Canton, MA and additional mailing offices.

Deadline: Copy submitted for publication consideration must be received at MNA headquarters by the first day of the month prior to the month of publication. All submissions are subject to editing and none will be returned.

Postmaster: Send address corrections to Massachusetts Nurse, Massachusetts Nurses Association, 340 Turnpike Street, Canton, MA 02021.

Contact MNAinfo@mna.org with comments or questions.

www.massnurses.org

MNA^{BM}
 MASSACHUSETTS NURSES ASSOCIATION