

Patricia (Pat) Snyder (1937 – 2023)

Pat Snyder, long term HCA leader whose considerable wisdom was shared among many generations of HCA members, passed away from complications of a severe strep throat infection on August 10th.

During her lifetime, Pat was a leader in many coalitions and was known for her skills of bringing people together. In her later years she was a leader in the formation of the evolving single-payer coalition, Healthy California Now (HCN). She served as an HCA representative to HCN, until 2022.

Born in Pittsburgh, PA., she received a Ph.D. in nursing administration from George Mason University in Virginia. In one of her earlier career experiences, Pat was a director of support services, including nursing, at an orthopedic hospital in Baltimore. There, her various functions in managing different aspects of health administration led her to contribute to policy making, a role which she very successfully performed in a variety of settings.

After moving to California, Pat served for many years as a League of Women Voters (LWV) legislative analyst. She was responsible for making recommendations to LWV leadership regarding proposed new healthcare legislation. Pat also represented the League in several statewide single-payer coalitions.

In addition to her familiarity with nursing administrative issues, Pat had a strong commitment to social justice, which she often would integrate into her recommended reforms. For example, she worked with a multi-faith Contra Costa County social justice organization regarding proposed healthcare legislation. Additionally, when debate occurred regarding the wisdom of reforming Prop 13, Snyder made sure, through many local discussions, that people understood what they were voting for and why the reforms were proposed.

Pat was among a group that proposed the establishment of a new HCA chapter in Contra Costa County. Once it was established, she became its director. Pat was a highly regarded speaker for chapter meetings throughout California. Snyder's personal integrity and analytical mind both were very evident in the ways she carefully explained messy healthcare issues.

Pat was married to husband Don for more than 62 years, was the mother of four children including an adopted child. She leaves a rich legacy comprising a history of compassion, concern for others, and economic justice within a valuable framework of analytical thinking applied to healthcare issues. She mentored many of us, and will be greatly missed.

Dan Braunstein
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