

Michael Jacoby Brown
training & coaching

*Helping organizations achieve their goals
through recruiting and motivating others*

Organizer's Edge ▶

Greetings! I thought this would interest you. Michael

Suzanne Gordon organizing report--



Open ended U.S. military conflicts abroad have left nine million Americans dependent on the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) for medical care. Their wounds of war are treated by our largest and most heavily unionized public hospital system, which the Trump Administration is now trying to dismantle through out-sourcing of veterans' care to private contractors.

As a health care reform advocate and author of a new book about veterans healthcare, I've been working a lot lately with veterans, their care-givers, and federal employee unions on a grassroots campaign against privatization of the VHA.

Right-wing Republicans, backed by the Koch Brothers, are pursuing this goal because they are against "socialized medicine" in any form, for anyone. They hope to discredit proposals for "Medicare for All" by keeping VA hospitals under-funded, understaffed and unable to provide the high quality care that veterans have enjoyed, as a result of their own ,past struggles for expanded coverage of service-related injuries and illnesses.

Veterans organizations—from Veterans for Peace to the American Legion— are united in their opposition to replacing the VHA with a system that will provide inferior care, at higher cost, while enriching for-profit hospital chains, fee-for-service medical practices, price gouging drug companies, and medical equipment suppliers.

For more info on how all Americans benefit from the VHA's work—and the importance of defending it-- see-

-<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/10/opinion/sunday/veterans-department-health-hospitals.html> and Democracy Now at-
-https://www.democracynow.org/2018/11/12/on_veterans_day_advocates_warn_against

Suzanne Gordon is a California-based journalist and author. She has

written for The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, The Nation, The American Prospect, The Washington Monthly, and many other publications. She is the co-editor of The Culture and Politics of Health Care Work series at Cornell University Press and a founder of the Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute

She is the author, co-author or editor of 19 books including *Life Support: Three Nurses on the Front Lines* and *Beyond the Checklist*. Her latest book, *Wounds of War: How The VA Delivers Health, Healing, and Hope to the Nation's Veterans* was published by Cornell in October, 2018. For her continuing coverage of veterans' affairs, the Disabled American Veterans gave Gordon a Special Recognition Award last year. She can be reached at atsg@suzannegordon.com.

Feedback Welcome

We want to hear from you, your reactions, ideas, what is at the edge YOUR "envelope." Just go to...

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Who else you will hear from.....

We are just starting, but so far you can expect to hear what the following people are thinking:

Jessica Tang: Boston Teachers Union, AFT
George Luse of the Mass Teachers Assn,
Scott Reed with the PICO Network, ,
Cathy Howell, in Oregon and El Salvador, formerly with the AFL-CIO,
Caesar McDowell of the Interaction Institute for Social Justice,
Diana Bell of Community and Labor United,
David Hernandez of the California Education Assn,
Attica Scott, State Rep Louisville, Kentucky

Bob Van Meter with the Local Initiative Support Corporation in Boston,
Walter Davis, of the Tennessee, Health Care Coalition.
Debra Askenase, of Community Organizing 2.0,
Deb Fastino, of the Coalition for Social Justice in New Bedford, MA,
Rebecca Gutman, with SEIU-1199,
Tim Dean, of SEIU-1199,
Mary Ochs, long time organizer in Los Angeles
and others, hopefully, including YOU

Other Useful Links

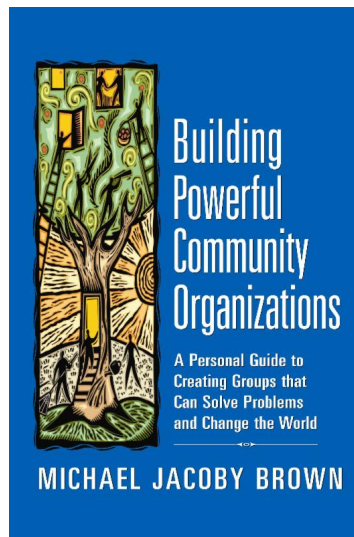
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