



The ORMD Monthly

2nd Edition

April 2019

We are happy to bring you the second edition of ORMD Monthly. Our mission is to report both the previous month's activities of Our Revolution Maryland and our various chapters around the state and what's coming up. Please email items relating to ORMD activities to ourevmaryland@gmail.com subject "Newsletter". For up to the minute information, please browse to www.ourrevolutionmd.com. If you're not yet a member please join by by completing this [form](#).

Statewide News

Proposed Permanent Bylaws Ratified

ORMD's Executive Board, consisting of Chapter Chairs and other leaders, spent months hammering out proposed permanent bylaws to govern operations going forward. The goals included: grassroots control, simplicity, transparency, minimizing disruption to ongoing activities, and a sustainable revenue model.

The proposed Bylaws were finalized March 26 and shared with members for approval that day. They were approved by a 9 to 1 margin and are posted on our website [here](#).

Our Revolution Maryland Bylaws
Revised 3/25/2019 v5



Our Revolution Maryland (ORMD) Bylaws

Article I. Organization

Section 1. Name. The name of the organization is Our Revolution Maryland, hereinafter referred to as "ORMD" or the "Organization."

Section 2. Mission. ORMD is an independent organization affiliated with Our Revolution National. ORMD engages in issue advocacy that is consistent with Our Revolution's platform, which includes confronting the neo-liberal austerity agenda, the domination of politics by corporate and elite interests and the fight for economic equality. Our agenda includes: the fight for good unionized jobs and fair livable wages, permanent affordable housing, fair taxes, resisting the heavy hand of the military industrial complex and its international war machine, environmental justice and legislation to create a livable planet, racial justice and criminal justice reform, universal single-payer health care for all, tuition-free public colleges, and getting big money out of politics. ORMD will advocate for these issues and others at the National, State, and local level. ORMD shall strive to be a diverse organization that reflects the diversity of our State. ORMD shall work in solidarity with other grassroots movements and organizations across the world that advocate for similar positions.

Section 3. Membership.

- A. Everyone who meets the standards for membership as set forth in the attached MOU between Our Revolution and ORMD, is a member of ORMD. Our Revolution (OR) qualifies a member as any person who has:
 1. Donated any amount to Our Revolution, ORMD, or ORMD Chapter, or
 2. Signed up for membership at an event hosted by an Our Revolution Chapter or the Our Revolution State Organizing Committee (referred to hereafter as the SOC).
- B. Voting members: Any member satisfying the membership requirement as defined in the MOU between Our Revolution and ORMD is a voting member.
- C. Membership dues and voting rights:
 1. Beginning with the ratification of these Bylaws, ORMD members shall sign an ORMD Membership Card and agree to either: 1) pay \$5 per month membership dues, 2) pay some other amount for membership dues (\$27 annually is encouraged), or 3) request a waiver of dues. Paying any dues amount or

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ORMD Endorses Bernie for President!



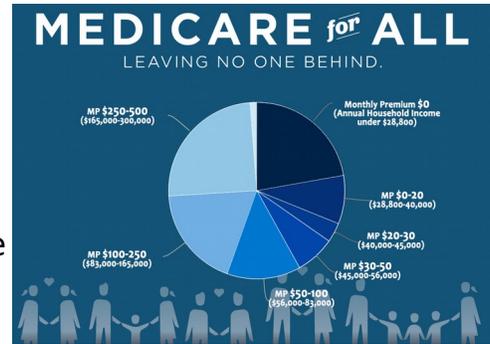
ORMD is a wholly independent politically-involved organization. But we do have a special connection to Bernie Sanders. Our Revolution's founders came directly from the Bernie Sanders campaign and ORMD's organizers supported Bernie in 2016.

Over the past few weeks ORMD Chapters polled members and the results were overwhelmingly in favor of endorsing Bernie with over 65% of respondents saying they support his candidacy. ORMD will be leading Maryland for Sanders both in the Free State and in nearby states. To join us, please sign up right [here](#).

Legislative News

Medicare-for-All

Democrats in Congress and the Maryland General Assembly have introduced great legislation to reform the American healthcare system which produces mediocre outcomes at by far the greatest cost *per capita* on the planet. In the House of Representatives, Seattle-based Pramila Jayapal and Michiganander Debbie Dingell are sponsoring a true single-payer healthcare plan.



Over 100 representatives have signed on including Jamie Raskin, John Sarbanes, and Anthony Brown. If any of these gentlemen represent you, please call their office to thank them. If you live in another Maryland house district, we hope you'll let your representative know that you expect him (all eight MD representatives are men) to stand up for us. In particular, we are targeting Elijah Cummings who has sponsored Medicare-for-All in past years but pulled himself off the list hours before the bill was first presented on the House floor.

In the MD General Assembly, Senator Paul Pinsky and Delegate Erik Barron sponsored the Healthy Maryland Project. It would create a state-run Medicare-for-All system. Because Maryland's All-Payer system relies on a government panel to set hospital prices and overall compensation, adopting Healthy Maryland would not be particularly disruptive.

If you would like to work with us on healthcare issues, please email ourrevmaryland@gmail.com subject: Healthcare. You may also be interested in the Letters from France p. 4 of this newsletter.

Environmental Legislation

ORMD has partnered with other progressive groups to form the **Maryland Leads on Climate Coalition**. Monday April 1, the Coalition delivered a letter of support to key members of the Maryland General Assembly's House of Delegates to move the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) to the floor of the House.

After passing the State Senate, the biggest hurdle now appears to be getting through the **House Economic Matters Committee**.

ORMD is also pushing a bill in the MD Senate to pass a statewide ban on

Chlorpyrifos, a pesticide that has been scientifically linked to cancer and autism.

Another important environmental bill would erect some roadblocks to Governor Hogan's plan to widen I-495 and I-270. District 18 Delegate **Jared Solomon's bill HB 1091** will be heard Wednesday 4/3 in front of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee at 1pm. Persuading Chair, Nancy King (D39) and Craig Zucker (D14), either in person or by contacting their offices will be crucial.

If you would like to work with us on environmental issues, please email ourrevmaryland@gmail.com subject: Environment.

Chapter News

Howard County



ORHoCo has been incredibly productive holding two or three events every week in March and many more to come in April (see pcoming Events p.4 for what's on tap:

2 Mar - "Lefty Lunch" at Grotto Pizza in Columbia - "Getting to Medicare for All" - strategizing for the NNU-led campaign.

5 Mar - Phone-banking for Medicare for All, meeting at 9457 Greco Garth, Columbia, MD. Thanks to Megan and Patrick! (see pasted photo below).

11 Mar - "March for our Schools" participation in major march in Annapolis!

13 Mar - Monthly Membership meeting - including plans for activities and nomination of new officers.

15 Mar - "Pints for the People" - social in the evening at Hysteria Brewing Company in Columbia. Fun times!

18 Mar - Major Annapolis victory, with the bill allowing our County Council to charge a fee on plastic bags at the point of sale passing in the House of Delegates (99-38). Kudos, especially to Pat and Alisa! (The funds collected would be spent on environmental initiatives, administrative costs, or go to support efforts to gain access to reusable bags.) This effort is now in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, pending a hearing. Here's the story from **"The Baltimore Sun."**

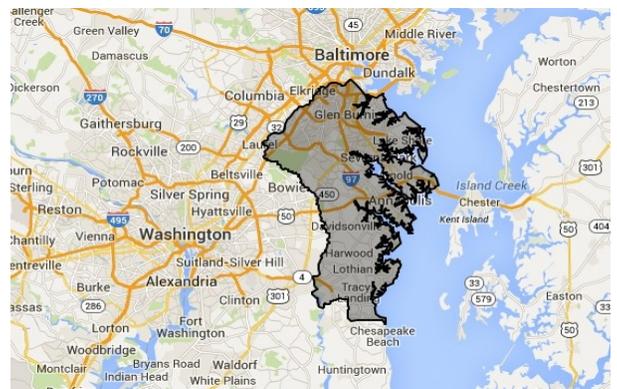
25 Mar - Showing of the movie, Romero, on the anniversary of Archbishop Óscar Romero's assassination in 1980 in El Salvador. Event co-hosted by: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbia Social Justice Committee, Friends of Latin America, IndivisibleHoCoMD Immigration Action Team, and Our Revolution Howard County (attached image)

26 Mar - Phone-banking for Medicare for All, 5215 Patriot Lane, Columbia MD. Thanks to Amy for hosting!

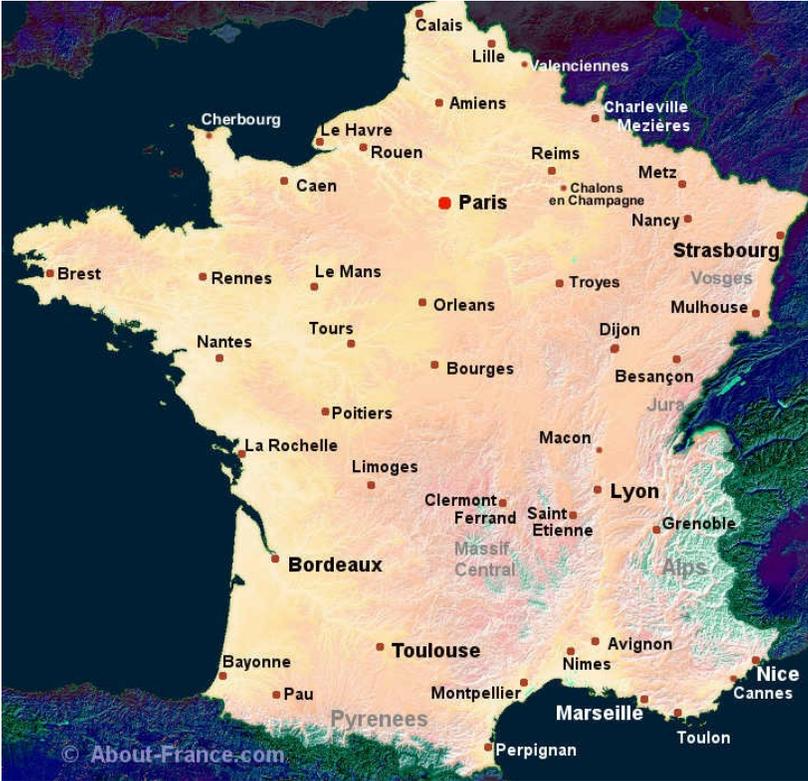
30 Mar - Canvassing for Medicare for All, 5612 Gulfstream Row, Columbia MD. Thanks to Roxana for hosting!

Anne Arundel County

Anne Arundel County is the largest County in Maryland without a permanent OR Chapter. That should change soon though. We are working with great activists from **Arnold**, **Pasadena**, and **Severna Park**. We'll keep you posted. See upcoming events, p.4, for information about our first organizing meeting. If you're interested in joining the Anne Arundel Chapter, email ourrevmaryland@gmail.com.



Letter from France



The argument that Medicare-for-All is too expensive crashes and burns on the shores of nearly every other country on the planet. Courtesy of ORHoCo, here is a letter from a French resident telling the real story of "socialized" medicine compared to American-style.

After taking my grandson to the doctor in Irvine, California, amidst a bevy secretaries and lavish furnishings, I returned to my home in France and to my own medical appointment.

Culture shock! I had taken my French health care for granted. The office furnishings are in basic get-the-job-done style. Not a single medical secretary! After my exam, my doctor simply swiped my medical card, and payment was complete. I say "my" doctor because I chose him.

Like my grandson's doctor, mine has a private practice and is not a government employee. The role of the state is simply to administer. No army of secretaries for billing. No middlemen with sparkling high-rise buildings on Wilshire Boulevard. No wonder my medical rendez-vous cost 10 times less than my grandson's appointment in the USA.

Back in the States, our trip to the pharmacy added insult to injury. Here in France, the cost of my medications is a fraction of what it would be in the USA. No protest from French pharmaceutical companies about regulated prices, and they still have ample resources for state-of-the-art research.

P.S. - If you ever have a hearing on health care, call me! I'll testify. – Mark C. (Mark Cramer), Clichy, France

Additional contact information:
tbredbiking.mc@gmail.com

We'll have another healthcare report from France next month.

April Events

Wednesday 4/3 - **Anne Arundel County Organizing Meeting, Life Pho Restaurant**, 484 Ritchie Hwy, Severna Park 7:30 - 9pm.

Thursday 4/4 - **Lower Shore Progressive Caucus Chapter Meeting, Wicomico Public Libraries - Downtown Branch**, 122 S Division St, Salisbury, 6 - 7:30pm.

Friday 4/5 - **OR HoCo Gorman Overpass Vigil, "Where are the Children"** - protesting the Trump Administration's cruel immigration policies, Gorman Road Bridge across I95, Laurel, 4:30 - 6:30pm.

Wednesday 4/10 - **OR HoCo Chapter Meeting**, 7:30 - 9pm.

Saturday 4/13 - **ORMoCo Chapter Meeting**, Kensington Park Library, Knowles Avenue, Kensington, 11 - 1pm.

Monday 4/20 - **OR Baltimore Chapter Meeting**, SE Anchor Library, 3601 Eastern Ave, Baltimore, 12:30 - 2:30pm.

For more details on these great events and others, browse to <http://ourrevolutionmd.com/events/>.