

# Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc.

A better quality of life for seniors , their children and grand children

# The NSC FOGHORN™



Volume 1, Issue 8

September 12, 2002

*Special points of interest:*

- In 1998 and 2000 50 of the 52 winning candidates raised more campaign funds than their opponents.
- Bunker lost to Nolan although he outspent Nolan \$175K to \$85K
- In an Assembly race Forsythe, who spent \$159K lost to Allen, who spent \$21K.
- Some voters can't be bought.

## Foghorn Blaster

by Ken Mahal A.I.A. President NSC

NSC President Ken Mahal met with Congresswomen Shelly Berkley regarding NSC's prescription drug proposal and the following ensued:

NSC has followed what is not happening in Congress so far as a prescription drug program for we seniors who in the tens of millions have no program. I met with Congresswomen Shelley Berkley on Saturday September 7th to present our plan and ask for her support. She advised me she did not agree with our idea and that nothing could be done in the Congress because it was too late. She said she would present copies to both Senators Reid and Ensign the week of the 9th with the possibility that they might work some of it into the final bill. Not likely however since both parties seem to be more concerned about party politics rather than a joint effort to have real prescription drug reform for those of us who do not have it. We by and large are the ones who these some 20 years have not had a drug program because congress only provided a prescription drug program with HMO's and now Congresswomen Berkley is against them because some of them are for profit and no doubt some are bad eggs. We suggested the situation be reviewed and in a subsequent letter after our meeting I suggested to her we would be in favor of forming NON PROFIT GROUP PRACTICES OF MEDICINE as an alternative to the HMOs if she prefer and use the Mayo Clinic of Rochester Minnesota as a good example. Mayo's was formed by the Mayo brothers for just that purpose and has thrived for over 100 years and as a matter of fact my old A/E firm was formed to do the work for Mayo's and still does it to this day.

What is so great about the Mayo concept is that it is for doctors by doctors. The Mayo's educate many of their own doctors and besides the original Rochester location they have expanded into Jacksonville Florida and Scottsdale Arizona with their primary care clinics and hospitals. They have more recently extended into surrounding areas by adding community clinics that are the day-to-day group practice offices which could fit into any community such as Las Vegas. It was suggested to Shelley that if Mayo would work with the government health care planners at HHS they would help create a great master plan for health care in the United States. **(Continued on page 2)**

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It was also suggested to Congresswoman Berkley that for purchasing drugs at wholesale rates we should form, **Nonprofit Prescription Drug Purchasing Cooperatives**, to serve geographic regions similar to the Federal Reserve districts. This would mean 9 distinct cooperatives across large rather equal population areas to make for better purchasing power rather than say just one for Nevada where we have a relatively small population and small purchasing power.

At this time we would like reader support and thoughts on our suggestion concerning the prescription drug program described below. And if you have acquaintances in other states who could contact their Senator or Congressman to support this plan all the better in getting the right thing done for those of us without a prescription drug program and who are still willing to pay our way. It is our belief there will be no prescription drug program in this session of Congress so it is our plan that by next year we will have our national **SENIORSAMERICA** web page in all 50 states ready to work on this and many other issues.

Honorable Members of the United States Congress and President Bush:

**A U.S. PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM THAT WORKS FOR ALL (US-PDP).**

Seniors in Medicare have lived without a prescription drug plan 20+ years. It is time to change that with a simple comprehensive, self financing plan, covering everyone, with \$1,000 prescription drug increments including a catastrophic drug cap as shown below.

(The below examples are subject to actuarial refinement)

Plan A \$1,000 per year of prescription drugs at \$24 per month or \$288 per year.

Plan B \$2,000 -----\$45 ----- \$540-----.

Plan C \$3,000 -----\$60 ----- \$720-----.

Plan D \$4,000 -----\$72 ----- \$864-----.

Plan E \$5,000 -----\$75 ----- \$900-----.

Plan Administration is simple. Use a "Medicare Prescription Drug Smart Card". A senior opts for A, B, C, D, or E in \$1,000 increments, paying premiums accordingly. The Smart Card automatically deducts, tracks purchases, pays and forwards that information to the central tracking system by computer thus eliminating all paperwork. Pay plan by monthly or 12 month lump sum contract, with renewal & plan change in the 11<sup>th</sup> month annually.

The above unit prices per year would include a policy for catastrophic illness requiring a very high prescription drug cost. We suggest a cap, triggering in at a \$10,000 drug cost. With the self financing plan as suggested we anticipate adequate cash flow to be able to consider a low interest rate gap financing plan for those who may require a loan to pay the gap cost between the plan selected and the catastrophic \$10,000 amount.

For many in the very low income, the best plan very likely it to continue encouraging good HMOs to stay in business and be covered similar to the present system with a review making changes if needed. WE ARE AGAINST MEANS TESTING. Each plan should stand on its own and plans A, B, C, D and E participants should not be expected to subsidize the HMO type policies. Let's keep the plan fair for those who pay their way.

With tens of millions of seniors this plan we would have a tremendous purchasing power and would reduce drug costs substantially. We presented a similar plan to HHS in 2000 and are told the Smart Card idea is now being accepted by HHS in new welfare plans.

Seniors who pay their way are SUFFERING UNFAIRLY. It is time for action by the President and Congress on this innovative U.S. PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM.

Sincerely,

L. Kenneth Mahal A.I.A.  
President Nevada Seniors Coalition

“Please Don’t Quote Me”

I believe we should all pay our tax bill with a smile. I tried – but they wanted cash

Taxes on wealth is capital punishment

Taxation without representation is tyranny – except in Nevada where it is normal – unless you’re a lobbyist

What is the difference between a taxidermist and a tax collector? The taxidermist only takes your skin. Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)



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Suggested Nevada Tax Form. What was your income last year? Send it to: Governor Do Nothing Carson City, NV 00000 Vern Perry

A taxpayer is someone who doesn’t have to take a civil service examination to work for the government. Krueger’s Law

Used with permission of John Pritchett, the artist.

The more you make the less you keep And now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to take, If the tax collector hasn’t got it before I wake. Ogden Nash (1902 – 1971)

The only thing worse than having to pay an \$ income tax is having no income to tax.

Except as noted all quotes on this page are anonymous

The Eiffel Tower is the Empire State Building \$ after taxes

## **NSC Suggests Revising Nevada Campaign Law**

It is requested by NSC President Ken Mahal that you read this unique campaign finance law reform proposal for Nevada and provide us with your comments. We are doing this after watching, for years, how this government of the people, by the people and for the people has all but lost its meaning given the horrendous amounts of money given to candidates for office by special interests; even if the candidates have no competence. And the very worst part is that the ordinary hard working, tax paying, citizen has little or no chance to compete for office because of our present State campaign finance statute.

September 9, 2002

NSC REVISED NEVADA CAMPAIGN LAW PROPOSAL.

Only A NATURAL PERSON WHO IS REGISTERED TO VOTE may make campaign contributions to political candidates in Nevada.

(NOTE: To anyone who knows any of the persons below. Your support in getting a commitment will make this work and especially if you let us know from whom you gained support.)

To All members of the Nevada State Legislature and the Governor:

For quite some time we have felt there was something wrong with who can make campaign contributions in Nevada. After reading the State statute excerpt below we see what the problem is. The definition of a "person" is certainly not what one expects unless one is a lawyer and uses the stretched definition in law (Legal law says: in law, any individual or incorporated group having certain legal rights and responsibilities) to include the items #2 thru #4 below. This will surprise most people. Look at item #4 which allows government agencies to be "a person" under law. Only in Nevada would government be considered human and we know that is not true.

We would like your support in changing the statute to mean only "A natural person" and as in Alaska's law, put a definite "prohibited" after all other possibilities. To further narrow it to citizen persons we suggest the following:

Only NATURAL PERSONS WHO ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE may make campaign contributions. Adding registered to vote to a natural person pretty well illuminates for sure the wiggle room to include unwanted special interests including foreign interests.

Webster's definition of NATURAL is: by birth pertaining to nature.

Webster's definition of PERSON is: an individual human being, especially as distinguished from a thing or lower animal; and individual man, woman or child.

On limits of campaign contributions by a NATURAL PERSON we suggest something in the amount of \$500 per person for the primary and \$500 for the general election.

For campaign laws in the 50 states see web site: <http://www/fec.gov/pages/chart2A.htm>.

NSC would appreciate your response on the pros and cons of our proposal.

Excerpts below are from State Statute NRS 294, CHAPTER 294A.

See web site: (<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-294A.html>)

CAMPAIGN PRACTICES, GENERAL PROVISIONS. NRS 294A.009

"Person" defined. "Person" means:

- \*1. A natural person;
- \*2. Any form of business or social organization;
- \*3. Any nongovernmental legal entity, including, without limitation, a corporation, partnership, association, trust, unincorporated organization, labor union, committee for political action, political party and committee sponsored by a political party; or
- \*4. A government, governmental agency or political subdivision of a government.

**Ken Mahal A.I.A. President NSC**

**WHY THE SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY should not be allowed to buy NEVADA POWER AND WHY THE SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY SHOULD BE SOLD AND BE MADE A PEOPLES COOPERATIVE.**

By Ken Mahal A.I.A. President NSC

Nevada Seniors' Coalition (NSC) President Ken Mahal, and Larry Paulson, NSC's scientific consultant have worked on the \$3 billion boondoggle by the politicians heading the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and the director Pat Mulroy and her minions since 1996. That was when Ken looked at the project by the SNWA which proposed a \$1,500,000,000 new water intake facility at Lake Meade and saw an engineering mistake of horrendous proportions in the making. He called Larry about the fact that the SNWA was proposing, for SAFETY ENGINEERING' s SAKE that this new second water intake and pumping station be built right next to the existing one and right across the lake from an extinct volcano on the Arizona side. Not only that but it would be located as the existing facility is, in the middle of Las Vegas Bay where the Las Vegas Wash empties the surface runoff from some 1,000 square miles of surface water runoff full of every kind of waste matter pollution one can think of. Then to make matters even worse the 150,000,000 gallons of daily treated sewage waste also enters the Las Vegas Bay via the same Las Vegas Wash as the surface drainage only compounding the health and engineering problem. On top of that we now have more damning inside information which can be viewed on the link below. This is the result of thousands of hours of research and tying together the pieces to show how bad the problem is at the SNWA. We have it on good authority the SNWA is at least a half billion over on it's budget. The SNWA has more than used up it's entitlement of water in the Colorado River and has bought water rights and storage in the hundreds of millions with questionable deals that may never be able to come to fruition. Only by studying the link below of the hundreds upon hundreds of pieces can the story be put together. What has confirmed our suspicions is that we now have an insider mole who has provided the facts needed.

Now another horrendous engineering mistake is in the making to the tune of another \$1,000,000,000 WPA project. Guess what; they don't want to admit the mistake of the sewage flow into both water intakes so now they want an OK to build a pipe line many miles from the sewage treatment plants down Las Vegas Wash and by land to maybe even the other side of Hoover dam to discharge their sewage waste so that it would no longer be dumped into our water intakes area. How much more proof do we need that the politicians from Clark County, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City as well as the entire upper level of management at the SNWA should be held liable for this mistake. By the way this billion does not address the billions of gallons of contaminated surface water run-off which will still go down the wash to the water intake area. DOESN'T ANYONE GIVE A DAMN ABOUT OUR HEALTH????

This link is to Doctor Paulson's site and is for your interest.  
<http://home.lv.rmci.net/lars45/2002-08-25VegasTaboo.htm>

**EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT IS THE QUESTION OF HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF NEW HOMES, ETC ARE OVERPERMITTED FOR AVAILABLE WATER AT SNWA AND WHY DO THEY REFUSE TO DO A TALLY OF WATER VERSUS PERMITS?**

## Free Computer Classes Offered

Starting September 16, 2002 the following free computer classes will be available to anyone. Space is limited.

**Basic Computer Skills** (Monday & Wednesday 9 to 10 am). This class emphasizes the basic skills required to get on the internet, send e-mails and photos; use any computer basic word processing. Class is 6 weeks in length. Word and Excel Skills (Tuesday & Thursday 11 am to noon) This class emphasizes the basic skills required to use both of these Microsoft programs. No prior experience necessary.

**Microsoft Word Skills** ( Monday & Tuesday 6:30 pm to 8: 00 pm.) Conducted the first second weeks of each month this class is for anyone wanting to improve their Word skills. One-on-one instruction will be targeted to the needs of each student. Classes will be repeated as desired.

**Microsoft Excel Skills** ( Monday & Tuesday 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm) Conducted the third and fourth weeks of each month this class is for anyone wanting to improve their Excel skills. One-on-one instruction will be targeted to the needs of each student. Classes will be repeated as desired.

**QuickBooks™ Basics** (Wednesday 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.) This class is for anyone who wants to learn the basics of using QuickBooks™ the top selling accounting program in the country. No prior experience is required. The class will meet for 6 weeks.

The classes will be held at UUMC Family Resource Center, 4412 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas 89119.

To register for any class call Doreen at 733-1378. Monday-Thursday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm; Friday 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

## From the Editor

### Fool Zones



I tried to find out who is responsible for establishing school speed zones by searching the Nevada Legislature, Clark County and Clark County School District websites. The search facilities on these sites were evidently designed by idiots. The search results had nothing to do with what I asked for.

Now on with the real reason for the editorial. Do any of you get as enraged as I do by the number of different school speed zones there are in Clark County? The sign above is near where I live. Anyone who does not live there would have to stop in order to find out if they were violating the law and would only know if they had an operating time-piece.

How come they can't standardize these zones with one speed and use "When Children Are Present" as a requirement?

*Vernon W. Perry*

## Next Meeting

Thursday October 10, 2002  
10:00 a.m. at the >>>>>>



After the meeting why don't you eat and play, and stay all day.



The last hurrah for the candidates before the November elections.  
Sierra Power considering sponsor this meeting – further information later.

Join the **Nevada Seniors Coalition** ( **no age limit**) and become active in your community.

There is strength in numbers.

Dues are \$6.00 for each individual membership.

Fill out this application and mail it with a check or money order for the proper amount to:

**Jeanie Tabeek**  
**4125 East Yakima Avenue**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89121-6160**  
**Telephone: 451- 9483**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Street City Zip**

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

Bring your concerns to our attention and we will consider them for action by the Nevada Seniors Coalition. Talk to any director listed on the back page. Ours is an all-volunteer organization. . Your help is welcomed.

Tell us something about yourself — your background — your expertise — that can be used to introduce you at our next meeting.

**WE CAN ACCOMPLISH MORE IF YOU VOLUNTEER — TELL US YOUR INTERESTS BELOW**

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**Thank you: Jeanie Tabeek, Membership Director**

**NEVADA SENIORS COALITION, INC.**

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Richard Thomas	Membership
Vernon Perry	Issues
Ken Mahal	Liaison
Dr. Larry Paulson	Scientific Consultant



The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of age, race, sex, religion or national origin.

**The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.**

The organizations' goals and objectives are:

- Improvement of political and governmental institutions and processes on local, state and federal levels.
- Identify legislative trends at all levels and set NSC priorities.
- Support domestic policies responsive to the needs and will of the Nevada senior population.
- Work to involve more seniors in government. to assure government is open, responsive and accountable.
- Keep members and the general public informed on current issues affecting them. Encourage them to make their voices heard at all government levels.
- Work with other organizations in a common endeavor when their issues and programs coincide with those of NSC.

***TODAY IN HISTORY***

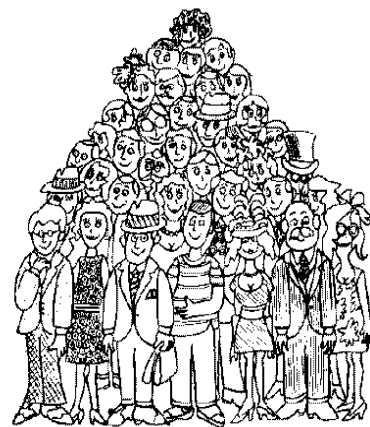
On **September 12, 1918**, the American Expeditionary Forces under commander in chief General John J. Pershing launched their first major offensive in Europe as an independent army. In planning the assault, the United States military had a new weapon, the armored tank. General Pershing created the U.S. Tank Corps, committed for use in support of the Infantry, under the command of the brilliant and aggressive young lieutenant, George S. Patton. Patton had been training the tank brigades throughout the summer of 1918. In the St. Mihiel offensive, the American Expeditionary Forces utilized with resounding success the armored fighting tank brigades as a substitute for the cavalry.



**U.S. Army Tank 1918**



***We're on the WEB***  
[www.nevadaseniors.com](http://www.nevadaseniors.com)



**Let's Stick Together  
and Stick It To Them**