

The **NSC FOGHORN** TM



Volume 5, issue 9

September 14, 2006

Special points of interest:

The Top 10 Most Influential Documents in American History as Selected by *The Peoples Vote*. Selected from 100 milestone documents mainly from holdings in the **National Archives** by persons of all ages and educational backgrounds.

1. Declaration of Independence (1776)
2. Constitution of the U.S. (1787)
3. Bill of Rights (1791)
4. Louisiana Purchase Treaty (1803)
5. Emancipation Proclamation (1863)
6. 19th Amendment: Women's Right to Vote (1920)
7. 13th Amendment: Abolition of Slavery (1865)
8. Gettysburg Address (1863)
9. Civil Rights Act (1964)
10. Social Security Act (1935)

From www.ourdocuments.gov

Inside This Issue

Please Don't Quote Me	3
Illegal Immigration Article	4
Nevada Report Card	5
How Important Is One Vote?	6
Guest Article	7
At the August Meeting	8
Members	8
Question 11	9
From the Editor	9
Next Meeting Information	9
Today in History	10
About NSC	10

The Supremes, Drugs, Means, Checks & Oil

By Ken Mahal, AIA, President Nevada Seniors' Coalition, Inc.

NEVADA SUPREME COURT KILLS TASC AND SAVES PISTOL SORTA.

How nice of our illustrious Supreme Court (SC) to kill TASC, the initiative that would have allowed us to have financial control over the spending by our politicians. This was a good initiative that would, if passed, have required a vote of the tax-payers to increase spending by the politicians but the SC has outright said we have no right under their law to control spending just as we did not have the right to stop the last super tax bite that created so much revenue that the governor had to outright come up with some way to give us back \$75 per vehicle if you owned such. This same bunch of Supreme Court politicians did us more damage. Even with allowing PISTOL, the tax-payers rights under Eminent Domain to be voted on, our illustrious Supreme Court has in effect given us a stink bomb by the parts they have eliminated. **Voting them out of office** would be the best thing we could do and there is still time for some of them to go.

PART D PRESCRIPTION DRUGS CAN BE EXPENSIVE.

I learn more each time we buy prescription drugs under plan D. Besides all of the deductibles in the plan there is another one that is very expensive. That is the cost of drugs that are not covered such as a non generic drug. What are we supposed to do when the doctor thinks we should try one that is a newer drug that could help? What you do is pay for it with plenty out of your pocket. It seems that this plan is written by people who either have very little experience in how the real costs are going to pile up or they don't care because the plan is really written for the so called poor or as I have said before it is a great plan for the HMOs. When I get seven or eight dollars off on a seventy dollar prescription it becomes hardly worth the cost. Some day I will publish what we suggested about half a dozen years ago for a prescription drug plan; it is very simple and has no deductibles. I don't know if you remember but a dozen or more years ago congress passed a bill upping the cost of our medical expenses before you could deduct them on your income tax. So as far as I know there may be little or no possible deduction when you get to the end of the year and tax time. These people in congress need to either hire us as their consultants or we need to elect old timers to office who have lived with the laws they have passed and know what needs to be thrown out.

MEDICARE COSTS GO UP AGAIN AND INCLUDE MEANS TESTING.

Our monthly Medicare costs are going up again including means testing. This was as they say slipped through after dark when no one was looking. Can you believe this was done in 2003 and we are just now finding out about it. Is this OUR government or some south of the border operation? (Go to Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1) Means testing our Medicare Part B starts at eighty grand a year for individuals and while most of us will not qualify give it a couple years and it will drop down to your level. That is how NSC started and we helped kill that means testing law about 15 years ago but I doubt if there is the will to do anything about it now.

THE QUESTION IS SHOULD WE BE DOING BUSINESS WITH CHECKS?

On March 22, 2006 I paid for our medical supplemental policy by check. It was in plenty of time to not miss the deadline so no problem right? Well it turned out there was a problem. Several months after they had the check the insurance company began to turn down the payments for their share of the bills because they said we had not paid our premiums. To make a long story short the insurance company people lost the check in their business but blamed me for not sending them a check. I managed to get the insurance company and my bank on the line in a conference call. It was agreed that I had paid by check but it was lost some place in the system. So the insurance company started to pay the bills again and then they called me and said they had received my check but it was sent to a different bank than they would normally send it so everything is OK now. Well not true because a couple of weeks later the insurance company called again and said do you know that your bank had taken your money out of our bank on a fraud charge. What a mess and yes the bank is in the process of doing just that and after a dozen calls I may be close to finding out what my bank is actually doing about my money that belongs to the insurance company. My point is that the fewer checks you use the better off you are. I try to pay everything either by credit card or by direct Internet payment where there is an immediate confirmation. At my age who needs all of this kind of grief? I think there is so much of this going on that people can easily just give up in trying solving the problems. My bank must have a hundred thousand people and I must have talked to half of them. So at least with my experience I would recommend the fewer checks the better. I think the help is lacking so much today that it will only get worse.

OPEC GETS WORRIED THAT THEIR OIL ISN'T SO PRECIOUS.

OPEC pumps 280,000,000 barrels of oil a day and worries when the price drops \$10.00. The reasoning is that it could go much lower which of course we would like and they wouldn't. Summer is over and things are not as bad in the oil business as everyone was predicting. As recent as 1997 oil was \$10.00 a barrel and OPEC is now crying that it is getting too low at \$65.00 a barrel. They operate on a quota that most of them only cheat a little on. At present they are already producing 500,000 barrels per day (b/d) less than their quota and expect it to go lower by their next meeting on December 11th. Can you even begin to imagine how much 280 m/b/d of oil that is? There must be one big hole in the ground in that Arab peninsula and at almost 2 billion dollars per day there must be a big vault full of gold some place. How can one even they spend that much a day? If they do we should do our best to be their suppliers of goods and services. But not much luck these days I suspect.

I was in the Arab peninsula on April 1, 1974. Our US Council was busy playing jokes on each other when I wanted to find a way to do more business with the Arabs. That was the real joke. It is also where we as a country do not do what we should in making business deals with the people in the Arab Peninsula. The Europeans were the chosen ones and now I suppose the Chinese are going to do better in the way of getting business than we or the Europeans are. We never were very smart about those things except when it comes to aerospace equipment where at least Boeing does pretty well. Back to Las Vegas; when will we see a dollar drop in our gasoline at the filling station?

A first grade teacher presented each child the first half of a well known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb.

1. Don't change horses.....until they stop running.
2. Strike while the.....bug is close.
3. It's always darkest before.....Daylight Saving Time.
4. A miss is as good as a..... Mr.
5. You can't teach an old dog new math.
6. The pen is mightier than the pigs.
7. Where there's smoke there's pollution.
8. A penny saved isnot much.
9. Two's company, three's the Musketeers.
10. Don't put off till tomorrow what you put on to go to bed.
11. Children should be seen and notspanked or grounded.
12. You get out of something only what you see in the picture on the box.
13. When the blind lead the blind get out of the way.

And the WINNER...

14. Better late than.....pregnant.



“Please Don’t Quote Me”

Leader of the Chorus. By God, I never knew that before!
Pisthetaerus. That`s because you are ignorant and heedless
and have never read your Aesop”

Aristophanes *Birds*

We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office.

A doubtful friend is worse than a certain enemy. Let a man be one thing or the other, and we then know how to meet him.

A liar will not be believed, even when he speaks the truth.

Affairs are easier of entrance than of exit; and it is but common prudence to see our way out before we venture in.

After all is said and done, more is said than done.

Any excuse will serve a tyrant.

Appearances are often deceiving.

Be content with your lot; one cannot be first in everything.

Better be wise by the misfortunes of others than by your own.

He that always gives way to others will end in having no principles of his own.

If you allow men to use you for your own purposes, they will use you for theirs.

It is easy to be brave from a safe distance.

It is in vain to expect our prayers to be heard, if we do not strive as well as pray.

It is not only fine feathers that make fine birds.

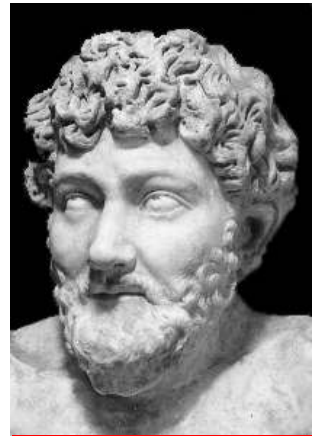
No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Outside show is a poor substitute for inner worth.

The gods help them that help themselves.

United we stand, divided we fall.

We would often be sorry if our wishes were gratified.



Aesop

Aesop

Strictest immigration laws put to the test

Sweeping new immigration laws in Colorado and Georgia may be the toughest state actions yet, but more than a dozen local governments are taking an even harder line that in some towns is leading landlords to start evicting illegal immigrants.

Since the Pennsylvania city of Hazleton became the first to go after not only employers but also landlords of illegal immigrants on July 13, dozens of other local governments are debating similar ordinances seeking to deter illegal immigrants from settling in their communities.

Courts are now considering legal challenges against Hazleton and the town of Riverside, NJ, which copied the Pennsylvania town's ordinance to fine landlords \$1,000 per day for renting to illegal immigrants and to strip business licenses from employers who hire undocumented workers. Opponents say the measures violate federal law by creating new immigration controls, which only Congress has the authority to do.

Four other communities already have passed measures based on Hazleton's, including Valley Park, Mo, where landlords started evicting dozens of tenants who are not legal residents earlier this month. At least 17 more cities are considering similar measures, according to the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, which filed the lawsuit against Hazleton's ordinance August 15.

The outcome of the legal challenges will help determine how far state and local governments can go in their attempt to deter illegal immigration, advocates on both sides of the issue said.

"Going after (undocumented immigrants') housing has the potential to be more far-reaching than anything we've seen if the courts decide these measures aren't pre-empted by federal law," said Muzaffar Chishti, director of the Migration Policy Institute at New York University School of Law.

Frustrated by what's seen as a failure by the federal government to enforce the nation's immigration laws, state and local governments have started experimenting with new -- and potentially unconstitutional -- ways to deter illegal immigrants by making it harder for them to get jobs, driver's licenses or housing.

States and local lawmakers have limited authority when it comes to immigration, which is solely a federal responsibility. A major federal immigration law passed in 1986 pre-empted most existing state immigration policies and forbids states from enacting tougher criminal or civil penalties for illegal immigration than those set by Congress.

This year, state legislatures considered a record 550 pieces of immigration-related legislation and passed at least 77 new laws in 27 states, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Georgia passed a sweeping immigration reform package in May that set the strictest sanctions on employers and access to public services by any state. Colorado lawmakers passed nearly identical requirements during a politically heated special legislative session in July called by Republican Governor Bill Owens.

The employer sanctions in both states will be phased in starting in 2007. The laws require employers to verify the immigration status of workers and penalize those caught hiring illegal aliens. Additional restrictions require that all adults applying for government benefits, licenses or other services with the state show documentation proving they are in the country legally. Colorado began enforcing the restrictions August 1 and Georgia's will go into effect January 1, 2007.

"Only the federal government can remove illegal aliens from the country, but state and local jurisdictions can and are taking action to deter new settlement, to encourage illegal aliens to leave and pressure federal authorities to enforce existing laws," said Mike Hethmon, an attorney for the Federation for American Immigration Reform, an organization that supports stricter immigration enforcement.

State lawmakers have been trying to avoid measures that fall afoul of federal law, such as California's Proposition 187, which would have denied even public schooling, emergency hospital care and other social services to illegal aliens. The measure was approved by state voters in 1994, but courts later threw it out as unconstitutional.

Arizona reignited the debate over illegal immigration in 2004 when voters approved a similar, but less strict, ballot measure barring social services for illegal aliens. This year, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano (D) (Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4) outraged lawmakers in the Republican-controlled Legislature by vetoing several immigration bills that she considered unconstitutional, including a measure to let local law enforcers arrest illegal aliens for "trespassing."

Local governments, however, are pushing the envelope, civil rights advocates say.

Opponents of the Hazleton, PA, measure, passed by the City Council July 13, filed a lawsuit in federal court last week arguing that the city is violating the Supremacy Clause of the US Constitution by attempting to regulate immigration, which is a federal matter.

Hazleton Mayor Louis J. Barletta, who attracted national attention by championing the new ordinances, said he has received more than 8,000 e-mails from around the country voicing support for his stance. He said the city is prepared to take the fight to the US Supreme Court and has set up a legal defense fund to defray legal costs.

Called the Illegal Immigration Relief Act, the measure imposes a fine of \$1,000 a day on any landlord renting property to an illegal immigrant, suspends the license of any business that employs illegal immigrants and makes English the official language for city business. When the measure goes into effect September 11, people wishing to rent apartments in Hazleton first will have to obtain a city residency license, which will be granted only to those with proof of citizenship or legal US residency.

"This mean-spirited law is wrong for many reasons, but the most obvious is that the city does not have the power to make its own immigration laws," said Omar Jadwat, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, which jointly filed the lawsuit with the Puerto Rican legal defense group.

The city council in Escondido, California, a suburb of San Diego with a population of 134,000, voted 3-2 in favor of drafting a similar ordinance the day after Hazleton's law was challenged in court. The city council would have to vote again to adopt a measure.

More than 200 residents filled the Escondido city hall to capacity and dozens waited outside during two hours of heated debate August 16. Council Member Ron Newman, who voted against the measure, said residents were split on racial lines, with white residents in favor of the ordinance sitting on one side of the room and mostly Latinos who were against it sitting on the other side.

A supporter, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Gallo, said local government officials must address immigration because they are responsible for the health and safety of their communities.

"People are finally waking up to the fact that we're being invaded. And I hope these measures spread around the country because communities have to do whatever they can to protect themselves," Gallo said.

Source: Kavan Peterson, Stateline.org (<http://www.stateline.org>).

Report Cards for the Nevada delegation to the U.S. Congress

Data from Americans for Better Immigration (ABI) a non-profit non-partisan organization which lobbies Congress for reduction in immigration numbers. 'Better' immigration is lower immigration.

NAME	DISTRICT	SCORE	A+ Virtually always supports lower immigration and lower U.S. population growth. C Half the time has acted lower immigration and half the time acted for higher numbers. F- Virtually always acts to force higher immigration and U.S. population growth.
John Ensign	Senator	B	
Harry Reid	Senator	D	
Shelley Berkley	1	D -	Nevada Senators C+ U.S. Senate C- Nevada Representatives C U.S. House C Entire Nevada Delegation C+ Congress C
Jim Gibbons	2	C+	
Jon Porter	3	C+	http://www.betterimmigration.com Data updated August 06, 2006

How Important is One Vote?

The enormous power of just one single vote has often been demonstrated throughout history. The course of nations has been changed because one important vote was cast or not cast. You may think that your vote, cast among millions in a state or federal election, cannot possibly count but it does. Your one vote may swing your entire precinct into your candidate's column. It is at the precinct level that elections are won or lost. Your vote is your direct voice in your country's affairs. Every time you do not exercise your right to go to the polls, you strengthen the voice of the opposition. So let's use the power of the ballot. Let's all get out and vote for the candidates of our choice on this and every vital Election Day.

In 1776, prior to the onset of the American Revolution. The newly formed United States considered severing all ties with the mother country by changing our language from English to German. A proposal for this was presented to Congress, but the vote ended in a tie. The deadlock was finally broken when the son of a German immigrant cast his vote in favor of English.

In 1800, the presidential election between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr was tied in the Electoral College, 73 to 73. Therefore the election was tossed into the House of Representatives for decision; but after ballots were cast 36 times by the House, the vote was still tied. Then, one Federalist changed his vote. Others followed, and Jefferson was elected President on the 37th ballot.

In 1820, President James Monroe ran for a second term. He was so popular that he won all but one single vote in the Electoral College. Former senator William Plumer of New Hampshire cast his electoral vote for John Quincy Adams rather than James Monroe, to whom he was pledged. Accounts vary about Plumer's motivation; he is reported to have said he felt that only George Washington 'deserved a unanimous election' but biographers also report that he wanted to draw attention to his friend Adams as a potential president and to 'protest against the wasteful extravagance of the Monroe Administration'

In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union. Freed from Mexico in 1836 the Republic of Texas was immediately formed and recognized as a new nation by the United States. In 1845, the Republic of Texas requested annexation to the Union, however, many Americans felt that another southern state would bring trouble. When the Senate voted a deadlock occurred. Then one Senator changed his vote and by this one single vote Texas became the 28th State.

In 1846, the Mexican army invaded Texas and President James Polk asked for a Declaration of War. The Senate was not anxious for war and the declaration was passed by the margin of only one vote. That one vote for the Mexican War brought us not only victory, but the territory of five great states, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and California.

In 1868, impeachment proceedings were brought against President Andrew Johnson on the grounds that he had abused his executive powers. The Senate, which sits in judgment on such cases, found Johnson innocent by a margin of one single vote. This one vote not only saved our highest office from dishonor, but also prevented a miscarriage of justice because we now know that Johnson was a victim of politics.

In 1875, French Deputies met in convention to decide the future of France, Monarchy or Republic. During the voting, one of the deputies became violently ill and had to be taken home before he could vote. He wanted a Monarchy, but because he did not vote, France became a Republic by that one single vote.

In 1876, Samuel Tilden won the presidential election by more than a half million in the popular vote over Rutherford B. Hayes. However, some states had issued confused returns and the Electoral College found itself deadlocked. So a special commission was formed to make the final decision. The commission decided that Hayes, although losing the popular vote, had won the Electoral vote by just one vote - 185 to 184.

In 1941, one vote saved Selective Service weeks before Pearl Harbor.

How Important is **ONE** Vote? Your Vote? A wise man once said, Liberty means responsibility...this is why most men dread it. Do you dread it or do you consider Liberty your responsibility...to be preserved where it counts the most, in the ballot box? Is one vote important?

You bet your FREE life it is!

PRIMARY ELECTION PORTENDS BIGGER GOVERNMENT AND HIGHER TAXES

by NSC Member Armin Ruud

In this year's Nevada Primary, voters continued to support the big spending, status quo, well funded, special interest candidates. The winning candidates continue to promise more of everything. They are like "Gumby" – what ever the special interests want. In contrast; one candidate for Federal office said he would balance the Federal budget – **He lost!** One candidate for Governor said he wanted to slow the growth of State government, reduce the Automobile tax by one-half, eliminate the Nevada tax on gasoline and is widely known for his opposition to taxes – **He lost!** Are voters afraid of change and asserting control over their Government?

Take special note; remember in 2003 when our Nevada legislature passed the largest, unnecessary tax increase in our history? Voters of Nevada had previously amended our Constitution to require a 2/3's, super-majority legislative approval to raise our taxes, which this increase did not have. Well, the Nevada Supreme Court ruled against the people's wishes and allowed this tax increase without the 2/3's legislative approval requirement. In spite of the outrage, this Supreme Court has **still** never been held accountable for ignoring the people's wishes. In fact, Vice-Chief Justice of the Court, Nancy Becker was even re-elected (Not yet; She still has to beat Nancy M. Saitta in the General Election - Editor) . Why do we keep re-electing incumbents?

Nevada voters have been liberal in voting increases. Several years ago voters approved a ¼ percent sales tax increase for a second water main from Lake Meade to Las Vegas. Last year voters approved another ¼ percent sales tax increase for more police. Have we gotten more or cheaper water, more police or less crime?

Finally, in this November's General Election we voters have one more chance...that is to put the "Tax and Spending Control" (TASC) Amendment in the State Constitution (The Nevada Supreme Court has disallowed TASC on the November ballot – Editor). If we don't **shame on us!**

N.B. From time to time NSC will publish member's opinions on current events. These comments will not necessarily reflect the opinions of NSC or the editorial staff. Articles to be published will be at the discretion of the staff and the NSC Board of Directors

IDA PAULINE MCKILLOP GOLDMANN

(April 27, 1921 – August 20, 2006)

A longtime member of the Nevada Seniors' Coalition has passed away.

Pauline volunteered for The Clark County Senior Advocate program, dedicated to providing a central point of referral, outreach, partnerships and advocacy for all senior citizens of Clark County. Pauline was chosen as the Paradise Democratic Club's Outstanding Democratic Grassroots Woman of the Decade in 2002 and participated and supported the Senior Housing Forum, the Nevada Council of Senior Citizens, the Paradise Democratic Club, The UAW Retirees Council, the Silver-Haired Forum, etc. hoping to help improve the lives of fellow Nevadans. Pauline was known as an organizer and for her keen business acumen. She will be missed by many people.

At the August Meeting



Candidates for various offices who spoke at the August meeting.

Membership

New Members:

Beverly Schultz

Welcome New Members

Renewing Members:

Lee Wayne Haynes

Frank Pelteson

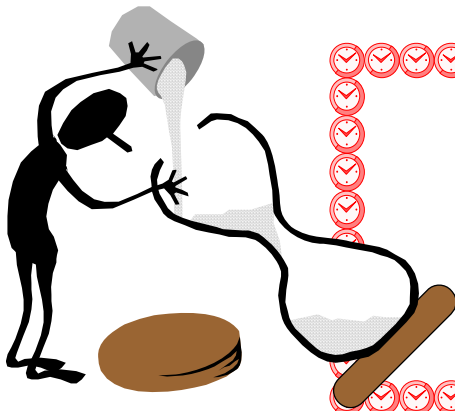
Mark & Malony Schofield

Thank You For Your Continued Support

Please help increase our membership. Tell your friends about our meetings and bring them with you.

Recruit new members.

HELP **NSC** GROW!!!



You are given 90 days after your membership expires to renew before your name is removed from the membership list. Your membership anniversary date is on the *Foghorn* mailing label. If the date is in red please renew, either by mail or at the next meeting.

Remember the dues are only \$8.00

NEVADA SENIORS COALITION, INC.

4754 East Flamingo Road, Suite 416
Las Vegas, NV 89121-4709

Ken Mahal President

Phone: 702.737.1377

Fax: 702 .446.5534

e-mail: info@nevadaseniors.com

Vernon Perry Vice President

Directors:

Belle Chohanin Finance

Florence Petris Records

Knight Allen Legislation

Richard Thomas Communications

Vernon Perry Issues

Ken Mahal Liaison

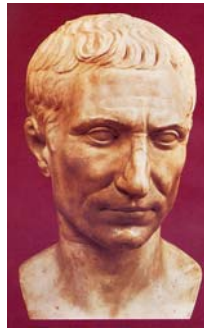
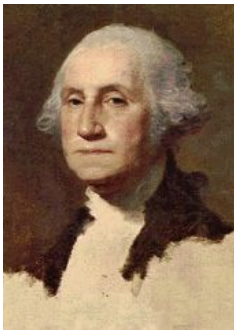
Vernon Perry Membership

Ed Moreira

Today In History September 14, 1752

In September 1752 the Julian calendar was replaced with the Gregorian calendar in Great Britain and its American colonies. The Julian calendar was 11 days behind the Gregorian calendar, so **14 September** got to follow 2 September on the day of the change. The result was that between 3 and 13 September, absolutely nothing happened!

The calendar switch also influenced the way George Washington's birthday is celebrated. He was born on 11 February 1731, but the anniversary of his birth is on 22 February because of the 11 days eliminated from the calendar switch. At the same time, New Year's Day was changed from 25 March to 1 January, thus according to the new calendar, Washington was born in 1732.



The first Roman Calendar (introduced in 535BC) had 10 months, with 304 days in a year that began in March. January and February were added only later. In 46BC, Julius Caesar created "The Year of Confusion" by adding 80 days to the year making it 445 days long to bring the calendar back in step with the seasons. The solar year - with the value of 365 days and 6 hours - was made the basis of the calendar. To take care of the 6 hours, every 4th year was made a 366-day year. It was then that Caesar decreed that the year begins with the 1st of January.

The **Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC)** is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of 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.

SecureHorizons®
from **PacifiCare®**

Caring is good. Doing something is better.™

Bonnie R. Alvarez
Sales Representative

1-702-269-2597, TDHI 1-800-387-1074

Secure Horizons Medicare Advantage Plans are offered by PacifiCare®, which contracts with the federal government.

040520E-PHS 5/04

SH-405-75725

NSC is on the World Wide Web at
www.nevadaseniors.com
Check it out !!