

The

# NSC FOGHORN

TM



Volume 6, issue 1

January 8, 2006

## Special points of interest:

## Nevada Politics, Past and Present

See If You Can Figure Out What These Words Have In Common.....

- ? Banana
- ? Dresser
- ? Grammar
- ? Potato
- ? Revive
- ? Uneven
- ? Voodoo
- ? Assess

Answer: On Page 5

By Knight Allen, NSC Board Member

Aggie and Ken Mahal went to Florida for the holidays and he asked me to do a "guest" column so, here goes.

The election has come and gone. Is there anyone who didn't breathe a sigh of relief? NSC is a non-partisan group so there will be no comments about who won, who lost or the right or wrong about the outcome of any race. It is now up to those we have elevated to elected office to do their best which, believe it or not, is what the vast majority of them will try to do. There is however one individual who should receive special recognition and that is Assemblywoman Barbara Buckley who has become the first woman Speaker of the Assembly. This is a wonderful accomplishment on all kinds of levels and we offer her congratulations and best wishes for a successful tenure.

Looking forward: While the Eminent Domain Initiative (Question 2) easily won its first time out (one more to go), make no mistake, the political/economic establishment has declared war on it and plans to do whatever it can to convince us to walk away from it in 2008. There are already Bill Draft Requests (BDR's) in the hopper regarding eminent domain and I can guarantee you none of them will give us the level of protection we just voted for.

Elsewhere on the legislative front, beside the over one thousand BDR's already in the works, there are a couple of things worth watching. First is something called the Article 6 Commission which is yet another example of the Nevada Establishment's penchant for creating panels made up of the "usual suspects" to hold hearings and public meetings which when concluded come to the exact "findings" the Establishment wanted before the Commission was announced. In this case it's another run at the Nevada/Missouri Plan to select judges. I wish the old lion, Mike

*(Continued on page 2)*

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O'Callaghan, was still around. He had a great way of exposing the intellectual dishonesty, the arrogance, the half truths and manipulations of the elites pushing this nonsense that is sorely missed. At the core of the Nv/Mo Plan is one of the most corrupt political principles in history: "Give me the power to nominate and you can have all the free elections you want."

Another example of the "We know best" mentality is an already done deal set for the '07 session. It's a constitutional amendment to go on the '08 ballot which will make it more difficult to qualify petitions and initiatives. You won't be hearing much about it this year. It's just better to operate under the radar as much as possible on these things, you know? Just remember its purpose is to substantially weaken the important check on government the petition process gives us.

Our political system really is a thing of beauty but it is being badly undermined by an elitism that should not have as much influence as it does. It is a big problem that needs to be taken seriously but also needs to be kept in perspective. The only way the elites can get what they want is if we walk into the voting booth and hand the government over to them and I have an abiding faith we are not going to do that. Are we?

Finally, there's the stuff that just gives you an outright laugh. In a classic and hysterical example of, "I love my legislator but I hate the Legislature," almost every incumbent won re-election by a more than comfortable margin but Question 11, the proposed pay raise for legislators LOST 70% to 30%! How can you not love it?

On behalf of the Board of Directors I offer you all Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

### **These are the unavoidable laws of the natural universe...**

1. Law of Mechanical Repair: After your hands become coated with grease your nose will begin to itch or you'll have to pee.
2. Law of the Workshop: Any tool, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.
3. Law of probability: The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.
4. Law of the Telephone: When you dial a wrong number, you never get a busy signal.
5. Law of the Alibi: If you tell the boss you were late for work because you had a flat tire, the very next morning you will have a flat tire.
6. Variation Law: If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will start to move faster than the one you are in now.
7. Bath Theorem: When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.
8. Law of Close Encounters: The probability of meeting someone you know increases when you are with someone you don't want to be seen with.
9. Law of the Result: When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.
10. Law of Biomechanics: The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.
11. Theater Rule: At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.
12. Murphy's Law of Lockers: If there are only two people in a locker room, they will have adjacent lockers.
13. Law of Dirty Rugs/Carpets: The chances of an open-faced jelly sandwich of landing face down on a floor covering are directly correlated to the newness, color and cost of the carpet/rug.
14. Law of Location: No matter where you go, there you are.
15. Law of Logical Argument: Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.
16. Wilson's Law: As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

## *Please Don't Quote Me*

"To every thing there is a season, and time to every purpose under the heaven:  
 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace." — **The Bible, Ecclesiastes 3:1- 8**

"It is not our affluence, or our plumbing, or our clogged freeways that grip the imagination of others. Rather, it is the values upon which our system is built. These values imply our adherence not only to liberty and individual freedom, but also to international peace, law and order, and constructive social purpose. When we depart from these values, we do so at our peril."  
**James William Fulbright (1905-1995)**  
 U.S. Senator 1945-1975

"If one man can be allowed to determine for himself what is law, every man can. That means first chaos, then tyranny. Legal process is an essential part of the democratic process."  
**Felix Frankfurter (1882-1965)**  
 Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the U.S. (1939-1962)

"If the Government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy. To declare that in the administration of the criminal law the end justifies the means - to declare that the Government may commit crimes in order to secure the conviction of a private criminal - would bring terrible retribution."  
**Louis Dembitz Brandeis (1856-1941)**  
 Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the U.S. (1916-1939)

## Editorial: A year in the debate over immigration

Sunday, December 31, 2006 - Updated: 12:45 AM EST

Aside from the war in Iraq, no political issue dominated 2006 more than immigration. But the year's hottest button didn't play out like many expected.

America was bitter and torn over illegal immigration, at least if you listened to some of the loudest voices in the room. On talk radio and cable TV, angry people spoke of an invasion of lawbreakers. In letters to the editor and in town political debates, people demanded walls on the border and crackdowns here at home.

In Milford, Town Meeting adopted new rules to go after housing allegedly overcrowded with immigrants. In Framingham, a war of words raged between those who celebrate the town's diversity and those who resent it.

On CNN, Lou Dobbs crusaded nightly against "amnesty." On Beacon Hill, legislators heard the howls and balked at a proposal to offer in-state tuition at state colleges to undocumented graduates of Massachusetts high schools.

Congress reached a stalemate on immigration. The Senate - and President Bush - favored comprehensive reform, combining a guest worker program and a path to citizenship with increased enforcement, while the House backed an enforcement-only approach. House Republican leaders refused to compromise, choosing instead to hold hearings around the country over the summer to make political hay from anti-immigrant sentiment.

But when the votes were counted, the hardliners came up short. State Rep. Marie Parente, D-Milford, drew cheers from the talk-radio set at a State House rally, but went down to defeat in the Democratic primary. Jim Rizoli, the loudest of Framingham's anti-immigrant voices, lost badly in races for selectman in the spring and state representative in the fall.

Immigration played into the governor's race as well. First in the primary, then in the general election, Deval Patrick was hit hard by his opponents over his support of the in-state tuition bill. Patrick stood his ground - and won by wide margins.

The immigration gambit didn't pay off for House Republicans either. They lost their majority, including two races in Arizona featuring GOP anti-immigration firebrands.

It remains to be seen how the election results will change the immigration debate. The seal-the-borders crowd sounds as zealous as ever. But Democratic leaders in Congress are reportedly considering at a less punitive version of the compromise reform package the Senate approved last year, and maybe this time it will get a fair hearing in the House. Meanwhile, the Pentagon is considering offering some illegal immigrants a new path to citizenship - one that leads through Baghdad.

Here in MetroWest, the work of finding a balance between enforcement of immigration laws and adjustment to recent immigrants goes on. A recent Daily News series examining the wave of Brazilian immigration, including significant reporting from Brazil, drew a predictably mixed reaction. It brought praise from those who appreciated a view of immigration from the other side, but scorn from those who are more bitter than curious.

Immigration, whether legal or illegal, is neither all good nor all bad. Our wish for 2007 is that the next round of the immigration debate will move to the center, where practical solutions can be found to serve the interests of citizens, immigrants, employers and communities.

From the MetroWest Daily News, Framingham, MA USA



**The 2007 Clark County Commissioners**  
Rory Reid (Chair), Chip Maxfield (Vice Chair), Susan Brager,  
Chris Giunchigliani,  
Yvonne Atkinson Gates, Bruce Woodbury, Tom Collins

I attended the January 2, 2007 public swearing-in ceremony of the new Clark County Commissioners (Susan Brager and Chris G.) before which I pushed my way in with the official and media photographers to get this picture for you.

Answer to What Do These Words Have In Common?

In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word.

# At the December Meeting

# Membership



**SNWA Andy Balanger and NSC President Ken Mahal**

The December speaker gave the members very much information on the SNWA and answered lots of questions about the future of our water supply.

Local water providers and wastewater agents formed the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) in 1991 to address the area's unique water needs on a regional basis. The Water Authority's responsibilities include managing our current water resources and ensuring Southern Nevada has enough water for the future.

SNWA also maintains regional water treatment and delivery systems. The agency monitors regional water quality to ensure that area water meets or exceeds the standards of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In addition, SNWA oversees a conservation plan focused on teaching the public how to use water efficiently. Water District customers are eligible for numerous water-saving rebates and services through SNWA.

## Renewing Members:

- ♥Ken Evans♥
- ♥Joan Kamm♥
- ♥Vivienne Kerns♥
- ♥Ed Moreira, Jr.♥
- ♥Lou Janice Perry♥
- ♥Margaret A. Schneeman♥

**Thank You For Your Continued Support**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
 ★ Thanks Ted Mendalski ★  
 ★ for your contribution at ★  
 ★ the last meeting. ★  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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.**

**The dues are only \$8.00/year**



**CRIME STOPPERS TURN IN A TAGGER PROGRAM**

Statistics as of 12/20/2006

**TIPS RECEIVED: 61**  
**ARRESTS: 52**  
**DAMAGE AMOUNT: \$134,500**

“Tips” include information reported directly to Crime Stoppers or reports made to law enforcement as a direct result of advertising for the Crimes Stoppers Turn in a Tagger program.

“Arrests” include each individual subject criminally charged with a graffiti related offense by law enforcement as a direct result of information gained through the Crime Stoppers Turn in a Tagger Program. Each “arrest” listed is one subject (if a subject is charged with multiple counts it reflects as a single arrest).

“Damage Amount” is the total amount of damage loss to property owned by reporting victims as a result of graffiti vandalism in which an arrest has been made. This is the official amount as provided through damage estimates resulting from the arrests made as a result of the Crime Stoppers Turn in a Tagger Program.

Data from Detective Scott Black



**From the Editor**

I have been a member of the Southern Nevada Graffiti Coalition for about seven years. Convincing the D.A. and judges that graffiti is a serious problem that points to other serious crimes has taken about five of those years. There are now programs in place that are addressing the problems and showing results. The Turn In a Tagger Program is a only few months old and is getting results. (Perhaps you read about the 18 year old that was arrested in December and had bail set at \$200,000.) Time has been purchased on [www.myspace.com](http://www.myspace.com) and [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) to show videos specially produced by Clark County Channel 4 to get to the people who are responsible for the graffiti or know who does it. These web sites attract all kinds of young people including gang members and graffiti vandals. Call the GRAFFITI HOTLINE 455-4509 to get paint supplies and information on how to help us.

*Vern Perry*



**Next Meeting**

Thursday, **February 8, 2007**  
 10:00 am at >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>



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

*Scheduled Speaker For February 8, 2007:*

***Allan Stahl, MD, FACC, FACP***  
*Specialties: Cardiology and Internal Medicine*

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<b>Knight Allen</b>	Legislation
<b>Richard Thomas</b>	Communications
<b>Vernon Perry</b>	Issues
<b>Ken Mahal</b>	Liaison
<b>Vernon Perry</b>	Membership

**Ed Moreira**

## Today In History January 8, 1790

On this day in 1790, President George Washington delivers the first State of the Union address to the assembled Congress in New York City.

Washington began by "congratulating you on the present favourable [sic] prospects of our public affairs," most notable of which was North Carolina's recent decision to join the federal republic. North Carolina had rejected the Constitution in July 1788 because it lacked a bill of rights. Under the terms of the Constitution, the new government acceded to power after only 11 of the 13 states accepted the document. By the time North Carolina ratified in November 1789, the first Congress had met, written the Bill of Rights and dispatched them for review by the states. When Washington spoke in January, it seemed likely the people of the United States would stand behind Washington's government and enjoy the "concord, peace, and plenty" he saw as symbols of the nation's good fortune.

Washington's address gave a brief, but excellent, outline of his administration's policies as designed by Alexander Hamilton. The former commander in chief of the Continental Army argued in favor of securing "the common defence [sic]," as he believed preparedness for war to be "one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." Washington's guarded language allowed him to hint at his support for the controversial idea of creating a standing army without making an overt request. The most basic functions of day-to-day governing had yet to be organized, and Washington charged Congress with creating "a competent fund designated for defraying the expenses incident to the conduct of our foreign affairs," "a uniform rule of naturalization," and "Uniformity in the Currency, Weights and Measures of the United States."

After covering the clearly federal issues of national defense and foreign affairs, Washington urged federal influence over domestic issues as well. The strongly Hamilton-influenced administration desired money for and some measure of control over "Agriculture, Commerce and Manufactures" as well as "Science and Literature." These national goals required a Federal "Post-Office and Post-Roads" and a means of public education, which the president justified as a means to secure the Constitution, by educating future public servants in the republican principles of representative government.

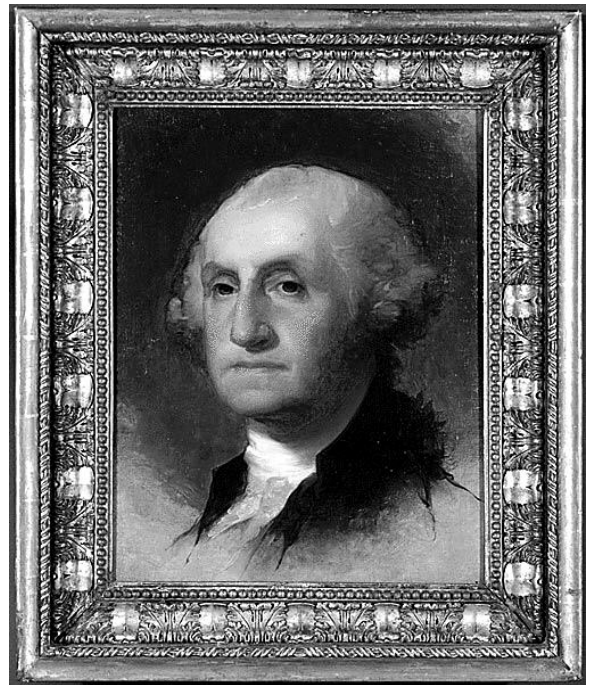
Adapted from <http://www.historychannel.com>

The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 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.



NSC is on the World Wide Web at  
<http://www.nevadaseniors.com>  
Check it out !!