

The

NSC FOGHORN

TM



Volume 7, issue 2

Our Web Site is at <http://www.nevadaseniors.com>

February 14, 2008

Special points of interest:

The Drunkest U.S. Cities.

Based on death rates due to alcoholic liver disease, most people drinking five or more drinks in one sitting, drunk driving arrests, percentage of fatal accidents involving DUI and MADD report card of state efforts to cut down on excessive drinking.

Most Dangerously Drunk

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Denver, CO | F |
| 2. Anchorage ,AK | F |
| 3. Colorado Springs, CO | F |
| 4. Omaha, NE | F |
| 5. Fargo, ND | F |
| 54. Las Vegas, NV | C |

Least Dangerously Drunk

- | | |
|-----------------|----|
| 96. Yonkers, NY | A- |
| 97. Jackson, MS | A |
| 98. Buffalo, NY | A |
| 99. Miami, FL | A |
| 100. Durham, NC | A+ |

From "Men's Health" Magazine

Passt the Presentdent

By Ken Mahal, NSC President

VOTE VOTE. WHAT FOR? IN NEVADA THE CAUCUS FOR PRESIDENT.

So much noise over our caucus but as far as I could see it went just fine at our caucus. I will admit when we entered the gymnasium there was some confusion at first but with the help of two or three people we were given our direction on which classroom to go to. When we got there a person came in and gave us our instructions. We followed them and in about thirty minutes we were through. In fact when ask for interested delegates there were just enough hands up so there was no need for questioning anyone. We voted on secret ballots, counted the votes and went home. Our precincts voted the most votes for Mitt Romney. You can see how smart we were.

ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A WRITE IN BALLOT FOR PRESIDENT?

With the choices we have so far I wonder who one can possibly want to vote for. I cannot remember a time in my life when I am as frustrated as I am for this election. With 66 years of voting under my belt this is by far the most difficult one I can remember. Maybe we could just not have a president for a couple of years until someone who would bring the country back together showed up. I do believe we are on the verge of a political disaster unless the good Lord is going to give us a miracle. I think he has done this for us before and this is surely a time when we need one again. I have always felt this was the greatest country in the world meaning we the people and what we have done for ourselves and how we have bailed out the European countries twice in a life time and Japan for good measure. In just a few short years it seems this country is heading down the road to disaster unless that miracle does come along. Our age group, the WWII people, are on the way out and most of us today are wondering what has happened to this great country in such a short few years. I know in our case we worry about our grown up children in their fifties and sixties along with our grandchildren many whom are getting out of college or have been out for some time and what is there for them? So much seems to have gotten worse in a short 25 or 30 years. Even when we moved to Las Vegas this was one of the greatest, most fun places to live where anyone who wanted a job could have one and those of us who moved here to retire loved it. Our little city as it was then could not have been better. Then we had an explosion of growth on the strip and life has not been the same since. Even the US as a whole has changed so much in a short 30 years that one wonders what forces have taken over this country and changed it so much.

Maybe it wouldn't be such a bad idea to coast along for a few months without a

(Continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue

Please Don't Quote Me	3
Immigration Article	4
Presidents Day & Saint Patrick's Day	5
Members Page	6
Daniel Hawley	7
Meeting Information	7
Today in History	8
About NSC	8

(Continued from page 1)

president until we find one that could do the job of saving our nation. Nutty idea isn't it, but how bad could it be to not have any new laws passed for the better part of a year?

IS THE EDUCATION SYSTEM THE CULPRIT OF UNHOLY CHANGE?

Actually things were bound to change when I think back to what happened to our education system over the last fifty years. Our family, for one, made the decision to put our two sons through parochial education because at that time we already saw the public school system changing; and unfortunately not for the good of our community. And today I believe you could say the results we see from public education are that the more billions we thrust at them the worse the results are. Why is that? Maybe we older folks are to blame if we gave up on the system. I know from my own personal experience I did all I could without results. These were people of our age serving on the school board who were educated, well meaning and screwed up the school district. Our city of Bloomington, Minnesota was a new city formed after WWII so it was a perfect example of how well meaning people can screw things up in no time at all. In fact it was so bad that several of the new schools never were used because the baby boom came to a stop over night. We were left with a couple hundred million in debt and had to sell off a number of the schools for 50 cents on the dollar.

My greatest experience in education was when our A&E firm provided the professional services for a great university for twenty five years where I saw great things happen. It was the University of Notre Dame during the Reverend Theodore Hesburgh's Presidency. He believed in excellence in education and meant it. I never lost interest in giving them our best because it was such fun to see a leader who put his money where his mouth was. And knowing they had to stretch every dollar to its maximum made it all the more exciting. We did things that had not been done before and kept their budgets in line. You could say the Padre was a progressive thinking person who let us do it right.

Now jump forward a dozen years to mid eighties when we arrived in Las Vegas. This is when we voted on our first big school bond issue for a school district that had not built a school in a dozen years. Three of us citizens who were interested in good education got together as a team that had experience in programming, budgeting and design and construction. What better help could they get as volunteers? We reviewed their program, budgeting, school site selections and offered to help the Clark County School Trustees and Superintendent Brian Cram. We found a lot of problems in their programs, site selections and budgets. We offered help in all the areas they needed but they showed no interest in our offer. Well they went so far over budget they were about 70 schools short and had to buy hundreds of portable buildings. To this day they are using concrete block for building walls which for their needs are ridiculous. In fact one of the suggestions I made was to go to a pre-built wall system that could be built in a covered area on an assembly line concept 24 hours a day if need be. In fact the same idea was used by Target who built their panels in Minnesota and trucked them out here because they were so simple, well insulated and light weight that it was cost effective over even concrete block.

This idea is so cost effective that they would have saved at least 25% of their construction costs and the buildings would be so well insulated that they would have been as good as any of this green construction they talk about today in the housing industry. You might remember this when the new request for billions in construction come up again at the Clark County School District which is over half of our state budget every year. Isn't that something to think about when they brag about the great job they have been doing with our tax dollars?

IS LIBERALISM IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM THE DUMBING DOWN OF AMERICA? YES YES YES.

Ted was drinking in a bar when the guy sitting beside him fell off his stool.
 Ted helped him back up, but soon he fell off again.
 "How about if I take you home, buddy?" The drunk agreed.
 On the way to the car, he fell twice more.
 When Ted got him home, the poor man fell again just walking up the sidewalk.
 Ted rang the bell and a woman answered the door. Ted said, "Ma'am, your husband was too drunk to come home on his own, so I drove him."

She looked puzzled. "Where's his wheelchair?"



“Please Don’t Quote Me”

Allow the president to invade a neighboring nation, whenever he shall deem it necessary to repel an invasion, and you allow him to do so whenever he may choose to say he deems it necessary for such a purpose - and you allow him to make war at pleasure.

Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?

America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.

Any people anywhere, being inclined and having the power, have the right to rise up, and shake off the existing government, and form a new one that suits them better. This is a most valuable - a most sacred right - a right, which we hope and believe, is to liberate the world.

And in the end it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.

Laws made by common consent must not be trampled on by individuals.

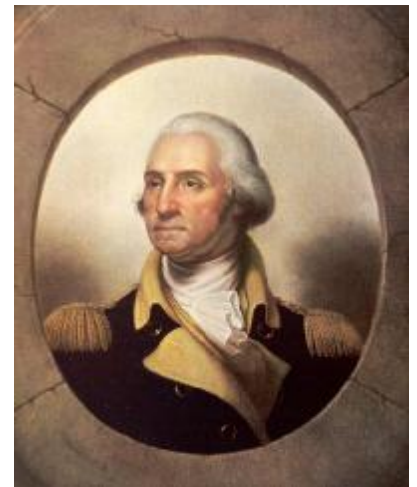
My first wish is to see this plague of mankind, war, banished from the earth.

The constitution vests the power of declaring war in Congress; therefore no offensive expedition of importance can be undertaken until after they shall have deliberated upon the subject and authorized such a measure.

It may be laid down as a primary position, and the basis of our system, that every Citizen who enjoys the protection of a Free Government, owes not only a proportion of his property, but even of his personal services to the defense of it.



President Abraham Lincoln
Born February 12, 1809
Died April 15, 1865
In office 1861-1865



President George Washington
Born February 22, 1732
Died December 14, 1799
In office 1789-1797

Hispanics in the 2008 Election

The Hispanics in the 2008 Election fact sheets contain data on the size and social and economic characteristics of the Hispanic and non-Hispanic eligible voter populations. These fact sheets are based on the Center's tabulations of the Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey. The fact sheets include the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York and Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Arizona

Arizona's Hispanic population is the sixth-largest in the nation. Nearly 1.8 million Hispanics reside in Arizona, 4% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 673,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Arizona, 4% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.

California

California's Hispanic population is the largest of any state in the nation. More than 13 million Hispanics reside in California, 30% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are over 5 million eligible Hispanic voters in California, 28% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.

Colorado

Colorado's Hispanic population is eighth-largest in the nation. More than 927,000 Hispanics reside in Colorado, 2% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are over 404,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Colorado, 2% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.

District of Columbia

The District of Columbia's Hispanic population is the 42nd largest in the nation. More than 47,000 Hispanics reside in the district, less than 0.1% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 16,000 eligible Hispanic voters in the district, less than 0.1% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.

Illinois

Illinois's Hispanic population is the fifth-largest in the nation. Nearly 1.9 million Hispanics reside in Illinois, 4% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are over 708,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Illinois, 4% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.

Maryland

Maryland's Hispanic population is the 20th largest in the nation. More than 341,000 Hispanics reside in Maryland, 1% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 112,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Maryland, less than 1% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts's Hispanic population is the fifteenth-largest in the nation. More than 509,000 Hispanics reside in Massachusetts, 1% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 246,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Massachusetts, 1% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.

New Jersey

New Jersey's Hispanic population is the seventh-largest in the nation. More than 1.4 million Hispanics reside in New Jersey, 3% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 588,000 eligible Hispanic voters in New Jersey, 3% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.

New Mexico

New Mexico's Hispanic population is the ninth-largest in the nation. More than 874,000 Hispanics reside in New Mexico, 2% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 501,000 eligible Hispanic voters in New Mexico, 3% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.

New York

New York's Hispanic population is the fourth-largest in the nation. More than 3 million Hispanics reside in New York, 7% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 1.5 million eligible Hispanic voters in New York, 8% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.

Virginia

Virginia's Hispanic population is the 16th largest in the nation. More than 466,000 Hispanics reside in Virginia, 1% of all Hispanics in the United States. There are 149,000 eligible Hispanic voters in Virginia, less than 1% of all U.S. Hispanic eligible voters.

Presidents' Day & Saint Patrick's Day

The original version of the holiday was in commemoration of George Washington's birthday in 1796 (the last full year of his presidency). Washington, according to the calendar that has been used since at least the mid-18th century, was born on February 22, 1732. According to the old style calendar in use back then, however, he was born on February 11. At least in 1796, many Americans celebrated his birthday on the 22nd while others marked the occasion on the 11th instead.

By the early 19th century, Washington's Birthday had taken firm root in the American experience as a bona fide national holiday. Its traditions included Birthnight Balls in various regions, speeches and receptions given by prominent public figures, and a lot of revelry in taverns throughout the land. Then along came Abraham Lincoln, another revered president and fellow February baby (born on the 12th of the month). The first formal observance of his birthday took place in 1865, the year after his assassination, when both houses of Congress gathered for a memorial address. While Lincoln's Birthday did not become a federal holiday like George Washington's, it did become a legal holiday in several states.

In 1968, legislation (HR 15951) was enacted that affected several federal holidays. One of these was Washington's Birthday, the observation of which was shifted to the third Monday in February each year whether or not it fell on the 22nd. This act, which took effect in 1971, was designed to simplify the yearly calendar of holidays and give federal employees some standard three-day weekends in the process.

Apparently, while the holiday in February is still officially known as Washington's Birthday (at least according to the Office of Personnel Management), it has become popularly (and, perhaps in some cases at the state level, legally) known as "President's Day." This has made the third Monday in February a day for honoring both Washington and Lincoln, as well as all the other men who have served as president.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, his religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for thousands of years.

On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink, and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers to reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

Over the next thirty-five years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies, like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernian Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes (which actually first became popular in the Scottish and British armies) and drums.

No Irish Need Apply

Up until the mid-nineteenth century, most Irish immigrants in America were members of the Protestant middle class. When the Great Potato Famine hit Ireland in 1845, close to a million poor, uneducated, Catholic Irish began to pour into America to escape starvation. Despised for their religious beliefs and funny accents by the American Protestant majority, the immigrants had trouble finding even menial jobs. When Irish Americans in the country's cities took to the streets on St. Patrick's Day to celebrate their heritage, newspapers portrayed them in cartoons as drunk, violent monkeys.

However, the Irish soon began to realize that their great numbers endowed them with a political power that had yet to be exploited. They started to organize, and their voting block, known as the "green machine," became an important swing vote for political hopefuls. Suddenly, annual St. Patrick's Day parades became a show of strength for Irish Americans, as well as a must-attend event for a slew of political candidates. In 1948, President Truman attended New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade, a proud moment for the many Irish whose ancestors had to fight stereotypes and racial prejudice to find acceptance in America.



At the January Meeting



January speaker Las Vegas Review Journal Editor Thomas Mitchell with NSC President Ken Mahal. Good job Mr. Mitchell!

Membership

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

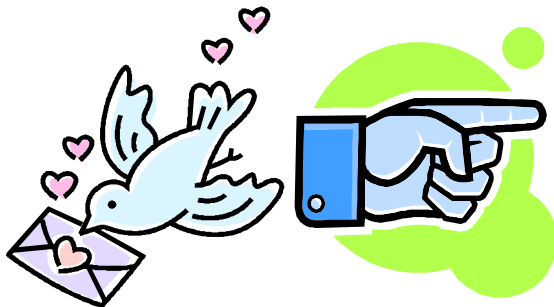
Recruit new members.

HELP NSC GROW!!!



Thanks to all of you who contributed to NSC last month. We really appreciate it... .

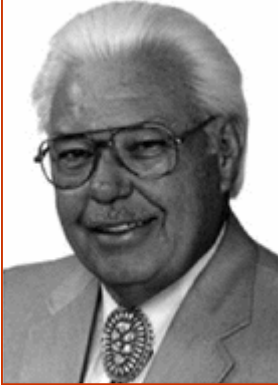
NSC is an all volunteer group and we always need help. The same people have been doing all the work for years. Please contact any NSC officer or director to volunteer.



Your membership anniversary date is on the Foghorn Mailing label. If the label is **RED**, please renew your membership, either by mail or at the next meeting you attend. Your name is removed from the membership list 90 days after expiration.

Membership dues are \$8.00 per person.

Daniel Hawley



DANIEL HAWLEY "Captain Dan" Daniel Lewis Hawley, of Las Vegas, passed away Jan. 8, 2008. Dan was 83 years old. He was born in Chicago, and had been a resident of Las Vegas for 24 years. Dan was a member of the Allied Pilots Association, the Greater Las Vegas Orchid Society, and had been an original member of the Citizens Review Board LVMP. He was a graduate of the Citizens Police Academy. In 1988-89, Dan led the fight with senior citizens from every state, to repeal the Medicare Catastrophic Act; he lobbied Congress and testified before the Senate Finance Committee and appeared on the McNeil Lehr show. After 19 months of work, the act was repealed by Congress; the first and only time that a Grassroots Organization had prevailed.

(The following was contributed by Florence Petris)

Talked to an old, old member that told me Dan Holley had campaigned in several cities against the Medicare Catastrophic Act of 1989. He was a Pan Am pilot who invested \$30,000 of his own money setting up groups in different cities. They were called Seniors United Against the Catastrophic Act" He decided to register the groups with the various states so he chose the name Nevada Senior Coalition for the one here. Also the person I was talking to thinks Dan may have named the groups the Ohio Senior Coalition, the Indiana Senior Coalition, etc. He had such a large following that FDR's son, Eliot Roosevelt heard about it and he jumped in and raised the money to get Congress to rescind the passed bill, something that was kept pretty much low key in the newspapers since the Congress was not in the habit of changing their minds.

From the Editor

I attended the 2008 Governor's Points of Light Awards held at Sam's Town on January 31, 2008. The Governor and First Lady Dawn honored Nevada volunteers and organizations from throughout the State. The seven finalists were chosen from an impressive group of nominees. The winners were:

1. Individual North— Ralph Toddre, President and COO of Sunbelt Communications for founding and directing The Autism Coalition of Nevada (ACON)
2. Individual South—Troy Martinez pastor of the, East Vegas Christian Center, who founded 10,000 kids, a non-profit that improves the lives of a minimum of 10,000 kids annually with gang intervention and crystal meth education in Southern Nevada. (I know him from working with him on the Southern Nevada Graffiti Coalition).
3. Individual Rural—Jack Smith, a resident of Ely, Nevada, the major contributor to the restoration of historic downtown Ely.
4. Non-Profit Service Organization— Children's Miracle Network of Southern Nevada (CMN) whose sole mission is to improve the lives of children by sponsoring children's hospitals and pediatric units across America.
5. Corporate/Business— Pardee Homes for the complete renovation of the St Jude's Ranch for Children Campus, which had an estimated value in excess of \$1 million.
6. Nevada Youth Award— Lanie Patten, a Wooster High School Student, was instrumental in developing a Key Club in Reno which became the largest one in the city. (Key Club is an international organization that focuses on community service and charity work.)
7. Nevada Senior Award— Jean Peyton, a legally blind person who has made a marked improvement in the blind community through volunteering.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be
March 13, 2008 at



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

Featured March speaker will be:

Announced Later

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This Day In History, February 14, 1943

Battle of the Kasserine Pass

On this day, German General Erwin Rommel and his Afrika Korps launch an offensive against an Allied defensive line in Tunisia, North Africa resulting in the United States' first major battle defeat of the war.

General Erwin Rommel was dispatched to North Africa in February 1942, along with the new Afrika Korps, to help his Italian Axis partner and prevent the losing of its territorial gains in the region to the British. Until this point Rommel had been unable to do much more than manage his own forces' retreats, but the "Desert Fox's" strategic genius would finally be displayed the Battle of Kasserine Pass.

In August 1942, in the Battle of El Alamein, British General Bernard Montgomery had pushed Rommel out of Egypt and into Tunisia, behind the Mareth Line, a defensive fortification built by Vichy French forces. After taking several months to regroup, Rommel decided on a bold move. Rommel decided to capture Tunis, Tunisia's capital and a key strategic goal for both Allied and Axis forces. The weakest point in the Allied defensive line was at the Kasserine Pass, a 2-mile-wide gap in Tunisia's Dorsal Mountains, which was defended by American troops and this was where Rommel attacked. His first strike was repulsed, but after getting tank reinforcements, Rommel broke through on February 20, inflicting devastating casualties on the U.S. forces. The Americans withdrew from their position, leaving behind most of their equipment, more than 1,000 American soldiers killed, and hundreds of American prisoner. The United States had finally tasted defeat in battle.



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.



Field Marshall Erwin Rommel
15 November 1891-14 October, 1944